

# Grading the Future

*The Illinois State Board of Education's 2014 Student Advisory Council*

Co-Chairs:

Danielle Segerstrom & Austin M. Hansen



# Presentation Overview

- ◆ Thesis:

- ◆ The ISBE SAC will explore the effects of grading scales from a sample of Illinois School Districts

- ◆ Committees

- ◆ Standardize Test Scores vs Grades
- ◆ Standards Based Grading
- ◆ College Admissions
- ◆ Other States



# Comparing Current Grading Methods with Standardized Tests

Brandy Brown, Richard Cunningham, Miles Healy, Colleen Madden



# Grades vs. Standardized Test Scores

The percentage of students on honor roll, measured using traditional grading methods, does not correlate with the percentage of students meeting and exceeding on the PSAE.

# Methods and Results

- ◆ Contacted 200+ public high schools in the state and requested junior class student enrollment and number of juniors on honor roll for the 2012-13 school year. . Compared the percent of juniors on honor roll to the percent of students at each school that met or exceeded state PSAE standards for the same year.
- ◆ Received data from 175 public schools from across the state and utilized cohesive results in order to draw conclusions.
- ◆ **Found that 70% of obliging schools had a variance of 8% or more between Honor Roll and PSAE percentages**

# Comparing Honor Roll and Test Scores

Randomly Selected High Schools

% of Juniors on HR	% Meet & Exceed on PSAE
44	62
51	60
47	61
49	58

# Standards Based Grading

Tyler Cozad, Kayla VonBurg, Destiny Alicea, Shelby Ireland



# Standards Based Grading

- ◆ Traditional Grading Scales:

- ◆ 100-90= A 89-80=B 79-70=C 69-60=D 59-Below=F

- ◆ 100-93=A 92-85=B 84-77=C 76-70=D 69-Below=F

- ◆ 5=A 4=B 3=C 2=D 1=F

- ◆ Standards-based grading involves measuring students' proficiency on well-defined course objectives. (Tomlinson & McTighe, 2006)



# Comparison Traditional vs Standards Based Grading

## Traditional Grading Scales

- Academic
- Attendance
- Participation
- Effort
- Behavior

## Standards Based Grading Scale

- Do I know it?
- Can I do it?

# Traditional Grading vs Standards Based Grading

## Traditional Grade Book

Name	Homework Average	Quiz 1	Chapter 1 Test
John	90	65	70
Bill	50	75	78
Susan	110	50	62
Felicia	10	90	85
Amanda	95	100	90

## Standards-Based Grade Book

Name	Objective 1: Write an alternate ending for a story	Objective 2: Identify the elements of a story	Objective 3: Compare and contrast two stories
John	Partially proficient	Proficient	Partially proficient
Bill	Proficient	Proficient	Partially proficient
Susan	Partially proficient	Partially proficient	Partially proficient
Felicia	Advanced	Proficient	Proficient
Amanda	Partially proficient	Advanced	Proficient

# Pros and Cons of Standards Based Grading

## Pros

- ◆ “Level playing field”
- ◆ Objective grading throughout different classrooms
- ◆ Clearly determining if knowledge is understood and mastered

## Cons

- ◆ Local control
- ◆ Mandates without funding

# Changing the Grading System: Effects on College Admissions

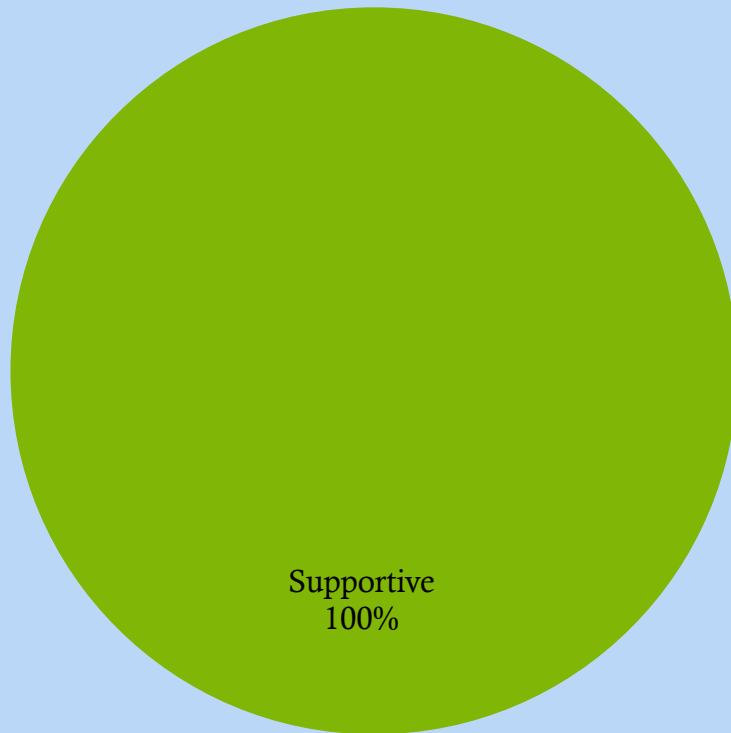
Ernesto Alvarez, Mary Casino, Sabrina Flohr, Khushi Suri



# Our Findings

## Universities Supportive of Standards Based Grading

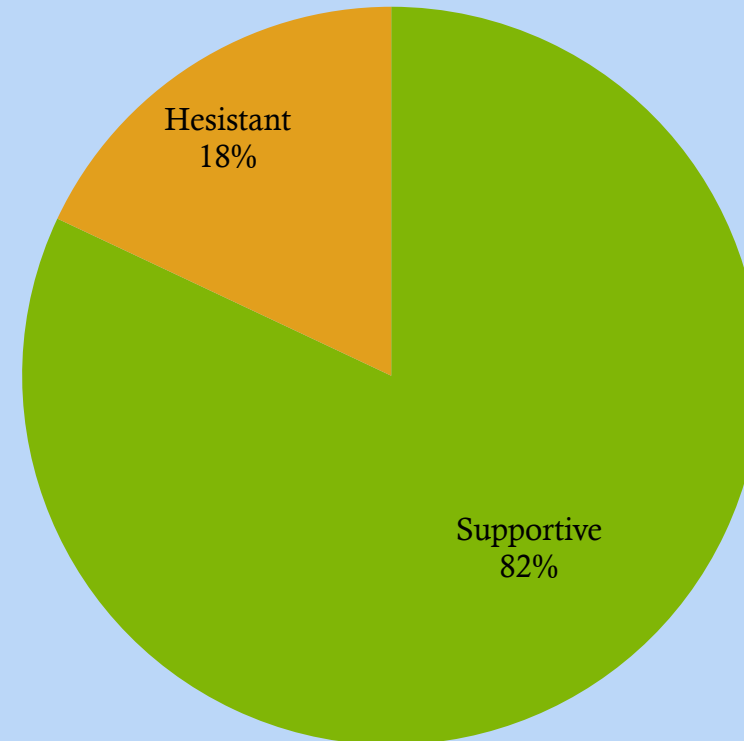
### Illinois Public Universities\*



\* Based on input from all 12 Illinois public institutions

### Illinois Private Universities\*\*

Obliging Universities



\*\* Based off of data collected from 63 responses out of 132 not for profit and for profit private institutions contacted

# Results – Effects on College Admissions

The Illinois State Board of Education Student Advisory Council College Committee has concluded through extensive research and data analyzing all public colleges and universities in Illinois are accommodating of standards-based grading while private schools in Illinois are hesitant. We have inferred that this may be due to lack of information or change in traditional methods.

*“I am truly all for a standard grading scale, so all students can be treated as fairly. A push for a uniform grading scale should be necessary to not only help college admissions, but the teachers preparing students for college life.”*

*—Todd Burrell, Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville*

# Uniform Grading Scales in Other States

Hannah Auten, Thomas Rice, Morgan Rich, and Rhett Warner



# Louisiana



## Louisiana Grading Scale

A: 100-93 ; B: 92-85 ; C: 84-75 ; D: 73-67 ; F: 66-0

- 68% of school districts in 2008 elicited composite ACT results within a range of 3 points
  - The apparent proximity of these scores suggests a widespread connection between districts as a result of the state-wide grading scale.
  - East Jefferson High School Counselor Gordon Stackle said, “The consistency throughout the state gives students a sense of stability and structure.”



# Tennessee



## Tennessee Grading Scale

A: 100-93 ; B: 92-85 ; C: 84-75 ; D: 73-67 ; F: 66-0

- When applying for lottery scholarships students' grade point averages are converted to one grading scale.
- This puts all students on an equal playing field for receiving scholarships.
- After implementing the new scale, 30% of districts reported having more students qualifying for scholarships.

# Presentation Review

- 💧 Inconsistencies
- 💧 Standards Based Grading is the Solution
- 💧 Colleges are on Board
- 💧 Uniform Scale



# The Illinois State Board of Education's 2014 Student Advisory Council's Recommendation

The Illinois State Board of Education's Student Advisory Council recommends that the State of Illinois should gradually adopt a statewide standards based grading scale.

# Sources

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