

Why a **Grading Floor** for Middle School Students?

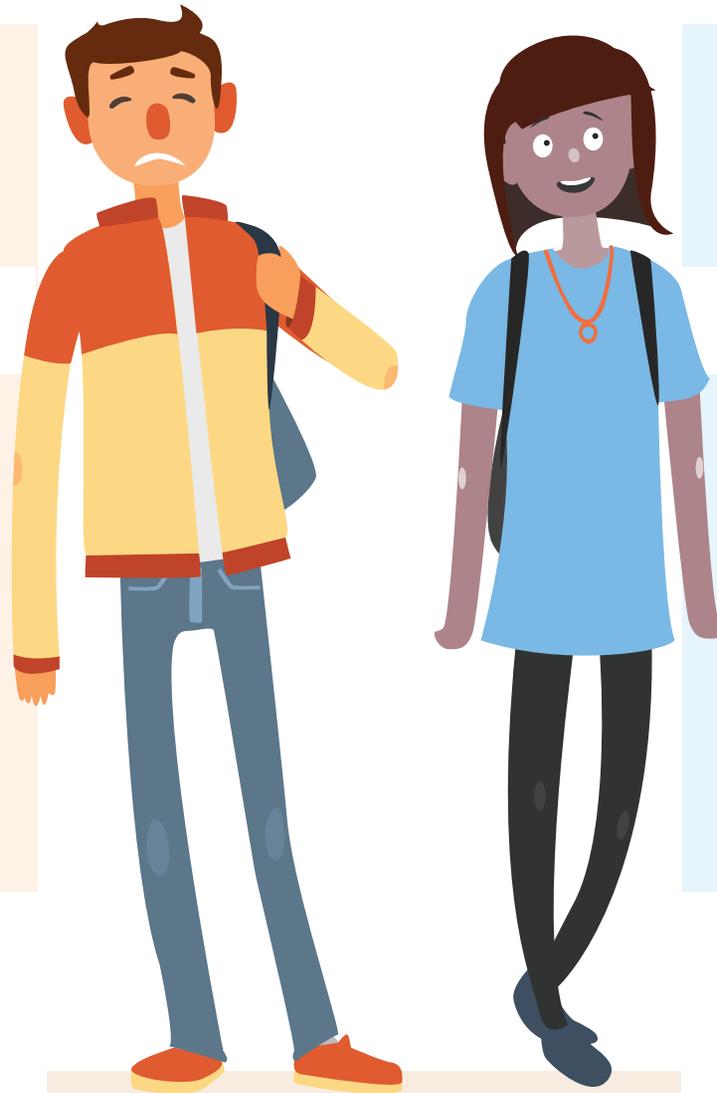
Sam's Grade Report (With No Grading Floor)

Assignment 1	25
Assignment 2 (NHI*)	0
Assignment 3	90
Assignment 4	86
Assignment 5	100
Assignment 6	90
Assignment 7	82

Grade Average 68

*NHI=Not Handed In

FAIL



Sasha's Grade Report (With a Grading Floor of 50)

Assignment 1	50
Assignment 2 (NHI*)	50
Assignment 3	90
Assignment 4	86
Assignment 5	100
Assignment 6	90
Assignment 7	82

Grade Average 78

*NHI=Not Handed In

PASS

Giving Zeros Distorts a Student's Grades

Sam and Sasha have the same grades. Sam made good grades on all assignments except for the first two. Unfortunately for Sam, his excellent grades for the rest of the semester could not overcome the two failing grades. Sam fails the class.

The grading floor gives students **who put forth effort** a chance to bring up their grades.

It **does not allow** students **who do little or nothing** to pass a course.

Grading Floor Provides Fair Standard

Sasha also did very well on most assignments but failed assignment 1 and did not hand in assignment 2. Her two failing grades were floored at 50, and she was encouraged to make up the work. Her average was not ruined by a zero and a 25. Her grades more accurately reflect her overall knowledge. She passes the class!

Responses to Frequent Questions about the Middle School **Grading Floor**

Greenville County Schools



The grading floor allows students who make an effort to do their work to pull up their grades. Students who make little or no effort to do their work are addressed through interventions by each school, which include lunch time work makeup sessions, after-school study hall, parent conferences, and in-school suspension.

More students are completing their assignments because they are held accountable to do their work. For work not completed, students receive a temporary grade of 50 (Coded Not Handed In) until they complete the assignment. Schools provide opportunities before, during and after school for students to make up work.

Holding middle school students to a high standard to complete work versus giving zeros teaches them self-direction, perseverance, and a strong work ethic. This helps prepare them for the demands of high school, college and the workforce.

Use of the grading floor will provide consistency in how all middle schools grade students. There will be further discussions regarding related grading practices such as dropping the lowest grade and curving grades as the middle schools transition to a consistent grading floor for 2016-17.

Students will be better prepared for high school because their middle school teachers will have a greater understanding of what their students know so they can more effectively address their individual needs.



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**Motivating
Student Success!**