

**Regulations Governing the Secondary School Transcripts [8 VAC 20-160]
Town Hall Action/Stage: 5348 / 8959**

Response to Economic Impact Analysis

August 16, 2021

The agency would like to provide clarification to the Estimated Costs and Benefits related to item 6 (Grade Distribution) of the Economic Impact Analysis. Clarification and additional context on the stakeholder group's decision for removal of grade distribution to the secondary school transcript is provided below.

Justification of Removal of Grade Distribution from Secondary School Transcript

Many on the stakeholder group, particularly those at the secondary level felt that the grade distribution is a potentially misleading data point. Concern was expressed about how broadly a grade distribution might be interpreted, meaning a lot of students on the higher end could be interpreted as grade inflation, but it could diminish the efforts of a school where there were a significant number of high achieving students.

The group agreed that the grade distribution could certainly provide some context as to where a specific student fell within a class, but questioned whether those are really the predictors of success in college. In addition, it is not evident whether the grades in the distribution actually reflect students in college prep coursework.

Some IHE's did express that the grade distribution is helpful, especially as it relates to understanding the context of the senior class. Keeping the grade distribution was also supported for schools who don't add class rank to transcripts.

It is important to note that with removal of the grade distribution from the transcript regulations, school divisions can still choose to add grade distribution to the secondary school transcript. School divisions will be advised to make decisions that are in the best interests of their students and the postsecondary institutions that they serve.