**Proposal:** Adopting and NC at ACLC

Grades represent the degree of mastery of the prescribed curriculum of a given content area or course at a given point in time in a student’s educational development. Measurement of a student’s performance provides a means for educators to communicate with students and parents. *Grades indicate academic achievement of a student, not necessarily one’s ability.* Parameters include authentic assessments, tests, class work, homework, and class participation.

I would like to start a conversation amongst the board about how we can successfully transition to no D school. You wouldn’t pay for “D” quality plumbing, fly with a “D” rated pilot or dine at a “D” restaurant. **I’m proposing that Learners will only get grades of “A,” “B,” “C” or “N/C” (no credit) starting next fall in high school courses.**

**GRADES IN GPA**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **% Range** | **Grade** |  |
| 100-90 | A | Full Credit |
| 89-80 | B | Full Credit |
| 70-70 | C | Full Credit |
| 69-0 | N/C | **No Credit** |

**Rational:**

ACLC has real world expectations expectation:

* “D” grades are simply not useful in society or on our student path to college. It’s a throwaway grade. No one wants to hire a D-anything, so why would we have D learners and give them credit for it?

All kids can learn!

* We must believe that all learners can learn. This core belief is critical in our work. Adopting this policy allows us to hold learners and ourselves to that expectation.
* The D sets educators up for an effort-versus-knowledge grading dilemma.
* For generations, it was believed that some kids just can’t learn. Educators sometimes pass along students because they have tried hard. The result is that we set them up to fail in life.
* If a learner receives D’s in CP courses, they are not eligible for 4 year college acceptance. In effect, giving D’s disenfranchises learners from opportunity.

The importance of mastery

* Learners who get D’s have not learned 40% of core concepts. The D is de-facto social promotion.
* We live in a competitive world. We place our learners at a competitive disadvantage in life if we allow them to advance and graduate.

ACLC College Path

* Colleges do not accept D’s. Learners get D’s and are off track to go to a 4 year college. All of our Learner’s who get a D in 9th grade English are off track.
* Many districts and charters have already moved to this policy.
* The message behind A-B-C-N/C grading is that every student will succeed.
* We have an A-G course requirement. However, if we accept D’s, it isn’t a true statement.
* We have a 2.0 GPA graduation requirement. If learners receive an abundance of D’s, they are ineligible to walk the stage.

Why N/C?

* N/C gives facilitators the opportunity to continue to work with learners to revise their work to mastery.
* The NC does not count as an F on college transcript.