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GOOSE CREEK
CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Goose Creek CISD adjust grading policy

For the new school year, Goose Creek CISD is doing away with a policy that had set a limit to the lowest grade a teacher can give a student.

Passed by the Texas Legislature and signed into law in 2009, Senate Bill 2033 amends the Education Code to require a school district to adopt a grading policy that requires a teacher to assign a grade that reflects the student's mastery of an assignment.

The bill's author, state Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, said teachers should be trusted as professionals and "given the authority to fail a child who fails to master the content."

Previously, Goose Creek CISD policy allowed teachers to give students a minimum grade of 50 — even if the student scored lower — on report cards at the elementary level and for the first and fourth grading periods at the secondary level.

That policy was in place, essentially to prevent some students from losing a sense of hope in the classroom.

The district's former minimum-grading policy was part of a strategy to prevent dropouts by giving students a mathematical shot at passing a course — if they earn high enough marks in other grading periods.

For example, a student who received a 30 grade for the first six weeks but passed the next five grading periods with 75s, still would fail the course, with a 68.

But if the school gave the student a 50, instead of a 30, the cumulative grade would be passing.

While minimum grades are no longer allowed, Goose Creek CISD will allow a student a reasonable opportunity to make up or redo a class assignment or examination for which the student received a failing grade.

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