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## Hopatcong School Board Approves New High School Passing Grade of 65

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*Hopatcong, NJ:* The Hopatcong Board of Education met July 25, 2011, and approved a change to the grading structure at the high school that now raises the minimum grade requirements for an “F” to a numerical equivalent of 65. The School Board unanimously approved the restructuring of the passing grades in an attempt to raise the bar academically. The foundation for this change was begun several years earlier in 2007 when a grade of F was equal to a numerical equivalent of 50. For the past several years that standard has been a 60 for Hopatcong Students. Effective September 1, the bar has been raised to a 65.

High Schools in the region vary in their minimum grade requirements with Kittatinny at 60; Sparta 60; High Point 60; Lenape Valley 65; wallkill 65; Newton 70; Pope John 70, to name a few. “Hopatcong is intent on raising its definition for student success,” said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Charles Maranzano, Jr. “We recognize that in a globally competitive society our students need to be challenged more in order to meet the demands that will confront them in future years.”

The School Board was enthusiastic in endorsing the recommendation of the high school principal, Mr. Emil Binotto, to raise the standard for passing a course. The compression of the grading scale provides an opportunity for students to attain academic success that is commensurate with their efforts. A new grading scale will be posted on the district website for citizens, parents, and students to view and assess. “Public education has entered a vigorous period of accountability,” said Maranzano, “and our expectations for student performance is directly linked to student outcomes.”

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