Report Card & GPA Calculation Policies

Because the Carson Scholars Fund works with students and schools across the country, we use a standardized method to calculate GPAs to ensure fairness and consistency. **All students applying for the Carson Scholars Program must have a GPA of 3.75 or higher based on this calculation.**

The Carson Scholars Fund only considers grades from the following courses:

- English/Reading/Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Foreign Language

A report card from the **current school year** must be uploaded to the application. If a report card is not available by the application deadline, a progress report or a screenshot of current grades from an online grading portal is acceptable. Please ensure the student's name and school are visible on the document.

Please do not submit a transcript as they often do not include current year grades.

Because the Carson Scholars Fund works with schools across the country, the following chart is used to convert and calculate applicants' GPAs.

Letter Grades		Numerical Scores
A = 4.0	E (Excellent) = 4.0	90 - 100 = 4.0
B = 3.0	G (Good) = 3.0	80 - 89 = 3.0
C = 2.0	S (Satisfactory) = 2.0	70 - 79 = 2.0
D = 1.0	P (Poor) = 1.0	60 - 69 = 1.0
F = 0	U (Unsatisfactory) = 0	Below 60 = 0

How to Calculate GPA

First convert individual grades using the table above **then** calculate the GPA by finding the average.

Grades from Report Card:	Conversion:	Final Calculation:
English: 95	English = 95 = 4.0	4.0
Math: 89	Math = 89 = 3.0	3.0
Biology: 93	Biology = 93 = 4.0	4.0
History: 90	History = 90 = 4.0	+ 4.0
Music: 99	Music = not included	15

15 ÷ 4 = 3.75

Report Card & GPA Calculation Policies

Policy for Weighting Courses – High School Students

The Carson Scholars Fund assigns additional weight to the following courses for high school students:

One additional point	Half point
Advanced Placement (AP)	Gifted and Talented
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Honors
Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)	Pre-IB
College dual-enrollment courses	

To determine the correct conversion for a weighted class, see the **Weight Conversion Table** below.

High School Weight Conversion Table

AP, IB, AICE or Dual Enrollment	Gifted and Talented, Honors or Pre-IB
4.0 = 5.0	4.0 = 4.5
3.0 = 4.0	3.0 = 3.5
2.0 = 3.0	2.0 = 2.5
1.0 = 2.0	1.0 = 1.5
0 = 1.0	0 = .5

In order to receive additional weight on a grade, the course must be clearly labeled as one of these categories on the submitted grade report(s).

Dual-enrollment grades may be submitted using a transcript from the college (if course grades are included on the report) or a screenshot of grades from the grade portal. The name of the college must be clearly shown on the report to receive additional points.

Sample calculation with weighted courses:

Grades from Report Card:	Conversion:
AP English: 83	AP English: 3.0 + 1 = 4.0
Math: 89	Math: 3.0
Honors Biology: 93	Honors Biology: 4.0 + 0.5 = 4.5
Pre-AP History: 90	Pre-AP** History: 4.0
Pre-IB Spanish: 92	Pre-IB* Spanish: 4.0 + 0.5 = 4.5

Final Calculation:

4.0
3.0
4.5
4.0
\+ 4.5
20

20 ÷ 5 = 4.0

** Pre-AP classes are not weighted | * Pre-IB is weighted as High School Honors

Report Card & GPA Calculation Policies

Policy for Weighting Courses – Elementary & Middle School Students

The Carson Scholars Fund assigns additional weight to the following courses for elementary and middle school students:

Half point
Honors
Advanced
Gifted and Talented

To determine the correct conversion for a weighted class, see the **Weight Conversion Table** below.

Elementary/Middle School Weight Conversion Table

Honors, Advanced or Gifted and Talented
4.0 = 4.5
3.0 = 3.5
2.0 = 2.5
1.0 = 1.5
0 = .5

In order to receive additional weight on a grade, the course must be clearly labeled as one of these categories on the submitted grade report.

Sample calculation with weighted courses:

Grades from Report Card:	Conversion:	Final Calculation:
Advanced English: 83	Adv. English: 3.0 + 0.5 = 3.5	3.5
Math: 89	Math: 3.0	3.0
Honors Biology: 93	Honors Biology: 4.0 + 0.5 = 4.5	4.5
Gifted and Talented History: 90	GT History: 4.0 + 0.5 = 4.5	+ 4.5
		15.5

15.5 ÷ 4 = 3.87

Elementary School English/Reading/Language Arts Policy:

If a school assigns grades for English, Reading and Language Arts separately, the Carson Scholars Fund will average these grades to use one averaged grade when calculating the GPA.

Elementary School Standards-Based Reporting Policy:

If a student is "proficient" or "meeting the standards" in more than half of the academic standards evaluated by the Carson Scholars Fund on their report card, they would be eligible for the scholarship program.

GPA Frequently Asked Questions

I only have grades for the first quarter of this school year. What report card should I submit?
You should submit your first quarter grades. We calculate GPA based on what is available at the time of our application deadline. Since this varies from school to school, please submit the most recent grades you have from the current school year. Do NOT submit a prior-year report card or a transcript.

My school doesn't issue report cards until after your application deadline. What should I do?
If you do not yet have a report card or progress report for the current school year, a school official (teacher, counselor or administrator) may provide you with a list of your current courses and grades to be uploaded to the application. Alternatively, you may submit a screenshot of an online grading portal showing your name, school, date and current courses with grades.

My school uses an alternative grading system or does not calculate GPAs. What do I do?
Applicants must have at least an estimated GPA in order to submit an application. If your school uses an alternative grading system, or does not calculate GPAs, a school official (teacher, counselor, or administrator) must estimate your GPA on a 4.0 scale based on your performance this school year up to the time of our application deadline. **For schools using standards-based grading, the "Standards-Based Grading to 4.0 Scale (General Guide)" chart below provides suggested grade conversions to assist with this estimate.** This estimate should be submitted with the rest of the application packet, written on school letterhead, and signed by the school official.

Standards-Based Grading to 4.0 Scale (General Guide)

SBG Level	Description	Traditional Grade	4.0 Scale Equivalent
4 - Exceeds Standard	Demonstrates advanced understanding	A+	4.0
3 - Meets Standard	Proficient understanding	A / B	3.0 - 3.7
2 - Approaching	Partial understanding	C	2.0 - 2.7
1 - Below Standard	Minimal understanding	D / F	0.0 - 1.0
0 - No Evidence	No demonstration of understanding	F	0.0

GPA Frequently Asked Questions

My school categorizes courses in a way that is not covered by your Weight Conversion Chart. Is my GPA still weighted?

No. In order to be fair to applicants across the country, we need to follow standardized language in determining which courses can be weighted. Due to the volume of applications we receive, we cannot accept alternative classifications of course levels.

How do I know which of my elective courses count toward my GPA?

In general, assume that your elective courses do not count. Exceptions are made when elective courses in a subject area take the place of a more traditional course in a student's schedule, i.e. when a student is taking a "British Literature" course and does not have a standard "English" course. Elective courses that never count include religion, art, music, and physical education.

If you are unsure if your elective course would count and it could make a difference in whether or not you meet the 3.75 minimum GPA, please email scholarship@carsonscholars.org. In addition to explaining the course in question, also include a list of all of your course names as they appear on your report card and their corresponding grades.

I still have a question.

We're always happy to help. Please call us at 410-828-1005 during our office hours (8:00am – 4:00 pm ET, Monday through Friday) or email us at scholarship@carsonscholars.org and we'll reply as quickly as possible.