



# ABC HANDBOOK

## Academic Guidelines

A Better Chance is a college preparatory program. Our objectives are to provide a quality secondary school education for students and to help develop their talents so they may attend competitive four-year colleges. Ultimately, we hope the students will assume positions of leadership in American society.

ABC scholars are expected to strive for academic excellence. Scholars will enroll only in college preparatory classes, at levels 1,2, or AP. Andover ABC provides support to help the scholars maintain their grades. Tutors are available, and students should seek their help whenever necessary. Students also may stay after school and request help from their subject area teachers. (Failure to take advantage of after-school help is considered a serious lack of interest on the student's part.)

The RD and Academic Committee review students' academic progress at the end of each quarter. They report their findings to the students' families and guardians, the Board of Directors, and Host Families. The RD and Academic Committee calculate grade point averages (GPA) and inform each student of her academic status as soon as possible after term report cards are issued. ABC uses Andover High School's (AHS) weighted rank-in-class grading system for determining academic honors and probation. (A table listing the value of each grade is at the end of this section.)

### Academic Honors

ABC honors are different from AHS honors because the school uses a simple GPA, while ABC uses a weighted GPA. Scholars who achieve a weighted average of at least 3.5 in all major subjects, with all effort grades at acceptable levels, and no grade less than a "C," receive ABC Honors. Scholars who achieve a weighted average of at least 3.7 in all major subjects, with all effort grades at acceptable levels, and no grade less than a "C," receive ABC High Honors.

Scholars who achieve ABC Honors for any one term will receive the following:

- A letter of commendation from the RD and Academic Committee, with a copy going to the student's parents or guardians and host parents.
- The privilege of a 10:15 PM curfew on host family Wednesdays and on the Sunday of host family weekends.

Juniors or seniors who achieve ABC Honors for two consecutive terms will receive:

- A letter of commendation from the RD and Academic Committee, with a copy going to the student's parents or guardians and host parents.
- The privilege of a 10:15 PM curfew on host family Wednesdays and on the Sunday of host family weekends.
- The student may have mandatory study hall waived, at the discretion of the RD and Academic Committee.

*Academic Minimum Standards*

The Andover ABC expects the following minimum weighted GPAs for major subjects:

- Freshman students – 2.5
- Sophomore students – 2.8
- Junior and senior students – 3.1

*Academic Probation*

A student may be placed on academic probation for two reasons: low achievement or academic misconduct. Low achievement is defined as a GPA below the academic minimum standards stated above, or a single term grade below a C-. Academic misconduct includes: excessive tardiness, cutting classes, poor effort, plagiarism, cheating, or any action that the Academic Committee judges to be inconsistent with Andover ABC.

Students placed on probation will be notified within three days after report cards are issued. In addition, ABC will notify the student's parents or guardians, host parents, the Executive Committee, National ABC, and the student's AHS academic advisor.

Students on probation will enter into a written contract that states the conditions and academic performance necessary to continue with Andover ABC. At a minimum the student will observe three hours per week of supervised study time, in addition to regular study hours. The RD and tutors will determine when the additional hours will take place. Other conditions may be included in the contract. The Academic Committee will monitor the student's progress.

*Academic Termination*

The Academic Committee will recommend termination of a student if she has been on probation for two terms in a year, unless there are extenuating circumstances. The termination may occur during or after the end of the academic year. Freshmen will not be dismissed for solely academic reasons before the end of the first academic year. The President of Andover ABC makes the final decision on termination, after consulting with the Board and other appropriate people.

*Weighted Grade Point Average*

When determining a weighted GPA, the following values are assigned to grades:

	<b>AP</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2 &amp; 3</b>
A = 94-100	5.0	4.5	4.0
A- = 90-93	4.7	4.2	3.7
B+ = 87-89	4.3	3.8	3.3
B = 83-86	4.0	3.5	3.0
B- = 80-82	3.7	3.2	2.7
C+ = 77-79	3.3	2.8	2.3
C = 73-76	3.0	2.5	2.0
C- = 70-72	2.7	2.2	1.7
D+ = 67-69	2.3	1.8	1.3
D = 63-66	2.0	1.5	1.0
D- = 60-62	1.7	1.2	0.7