

Franklyn G. Bass, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Roxanne S. Wilson, CAGS
Assistant Superintendent

Frances H. DeCinto, SPHR
Human Resources Director

School Administrative Unit 28

19 Haverhill Road • PO Box 510
Windham, NH 03087

(603) 425-1976 • FAX (603) 425-1719

Kathleen Sargent
Pelham Business Administrator

Toby Eaton, MBA
SAU/Windham Business Administrator

Tina H. McCoy
Director of Special Services

Pelham School District

Windham School District

May 28, 2008

Dear Pelham High School Parents:

The Pelham School District has chosen to reinstate the "D" in the grading system at Pelham High School, effective the first day of school, August 27, 2008. A passing grade for all courses at PHS will now be 65 and above; any grade of 64 or below will be considered failing, and thus, receive a grade of F. The newly adopted D grade will include any score from 65-69, and there will be no plus or minus designation attached. The grades of A, B and C are unaffected by this change and will remain exactly as they have been, inclusive of plus/minus designations.

We hope the reinstatement of the D will serve as a better system of warning to both students and parents just how perilously close the student has come to "failure." It is both our goal and our hope that this "warning" will provide a triggering mechanism for the extra support and interventions that will bring these students to a position where they not only avoid failure, but may even progress to a C or better. We also recognize that despite our best efforts and those of you, our parents, some students may still remain within the D range, and although that falls short of our goals and objectives, the student would nevertheless pass the course, a "safe harbor" if you will.

These changes adopted by the Pelham School Board will be reflected in the student handbooks that will go out to every student on the first day of school as well as being posted on our website. Please bear in mind that these changes which go into effect for the 2008-09 academic year are not retroactive, and therefore, will not affect current class standing or class rank.

We hope that you will embrace this change as an opportunity to provide timely support, intervention and remediation such that no child is placed in a position where failure becomes the only option.

Sincerely yours,



Frank G. Bass, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools