

# Effects of No-Zero Grading Policies

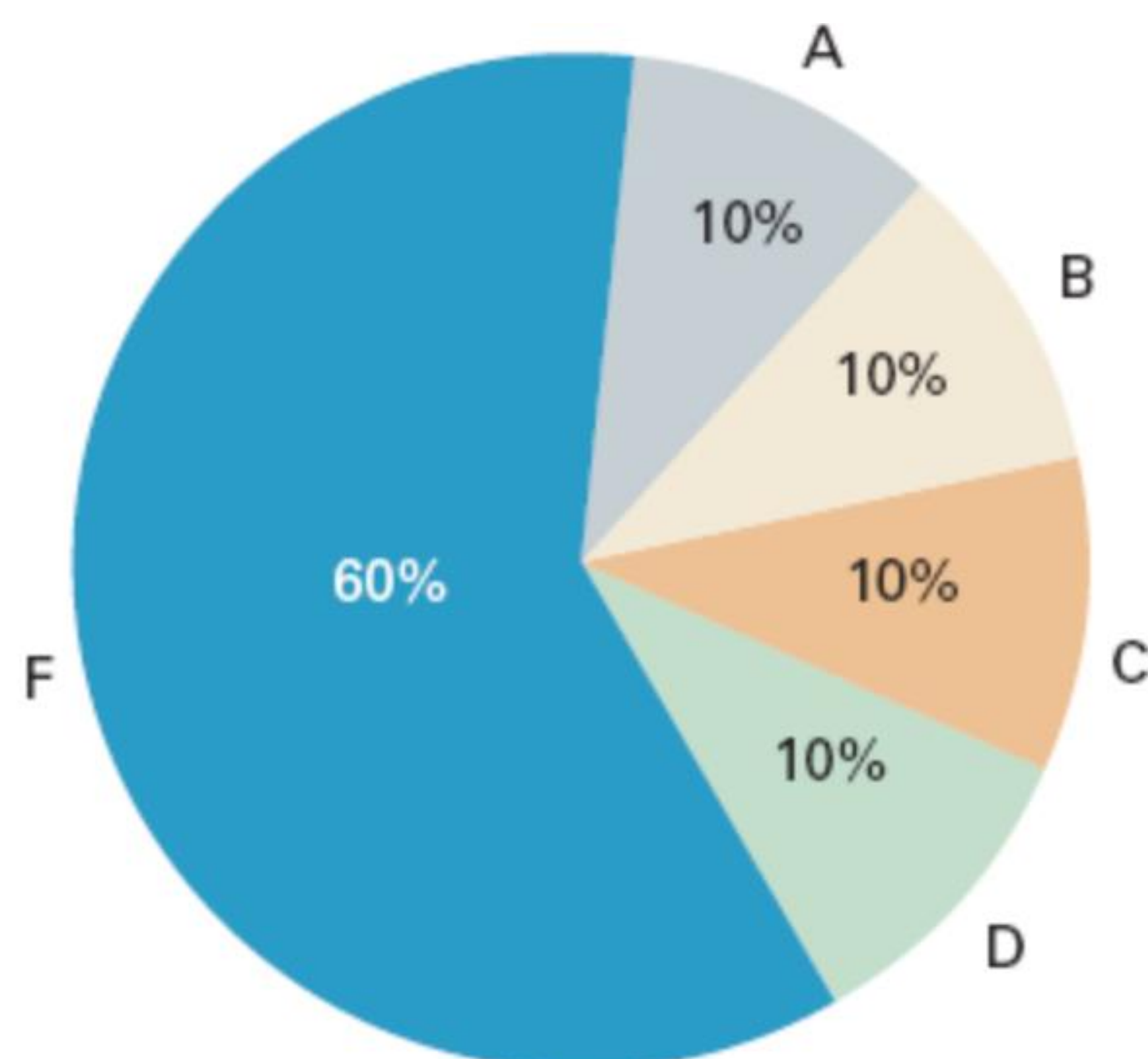
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## ABSTRACT

Controversial no-zero grading policies, or minimum grading policies, have been gaining popularity recently. Under this policy, students will never receive a grade lower than fifty percent. Supporters of no-zero grading policies argue that it helps students who are falling behind to catch up, gives hope to those who feel dropping out is their only option, and encourages a focus on learning rather than on better grades. Others oppose these policies because they promote the notion that work and homework do not matter, which discourages personal initiative, and argue that they do not properly prepare students for future work or college/university. This poster examines some of the benefits and flaws of these no-zero grading policies.

## Weighted Grading Scale



## POSITIVE EFFECTS

- Helps students who are doing poorly in school to be able to catch up and possibly have good grades
- More accurately represents students' comprehension of topics
- Keeps students from feeling hopeless and dropping out of school
- Separates measures of knowledge from consequences for bad student behavior
- Prevents students from facing personal and social consequences that can come with getting a zero
- Prevents teachers from using a zero as a punishment or for control
- Fairer grading system compared with the weighted grading scale because the range of scores that are considered an F decreases
- Requires teachers to use more creative, and possibly better, ways to deal with late or missing assignments

## NEGATIVE EFFECTS

- Takes away the teachers' ability to differentiate and decide what is best for their classroom
- Does not consider accountability or incentive issues
- Does not prepare students for college and future employment
- Undermines certain messages for students, such as taking pride in their work
- Increased workload for teachers to sustain the system
- Statistics are not comparable to schools without no-zero grading policies
- Rewards laziness
- Unfair for those already turning their assignments in
- Inflates student grades and gives a falsely optimistic view of their abilities

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, there is support for and against zero-grading policies. Both arguments should be studied to properly decide what will be the best for educators and students. While no-zero grading policies can promote messages of laziness, they also offer struggling students a way to improve. Thus, there is support for both sides of the argument on no-zero grading policies.

## REFERENCES

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### Cohen's d Analysis on Math, Science, and English Means for with and without a No-Zero Policy

	No-Zero Policy	N	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	d
Mean Math Score	Yes	682	-.197	.057	0.270
	No	654			
Mean Science Score	Yes	703	-.165	.058	0.217
	No	691			
Mean English Score	Yes	703	-.120	.056	0.116
	No	672			