NOVATO CHARTER SCHOOL
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January 2025

Re: Standards Based Grading Scale at Novato Charter School, School Year 2024-2025

To whom it may concern,

We are reaching out to inform you that a student from Novato Charter School is applying for admission to your high school. You may notice that our report cards follow a slightly different format than those of other schools. Novato Charter School (NCS) is piloting a transition to Standards Based Grading. The intention is to roll out the change over a three to five year period. In year 1 of the implementation (school year 2024-2025) NCS decided to use a 3 point scale as follows:

3 = Standard Met 2=Standards Nearly Met 1= Standard Not Met

NCS understands that many schools use a 4-point scale (4 = Standard Exceeded.) NCS may use a 4-point scale in the future. The decision to use a 3-point scale was based on many factors, including the desire to communicate the paradigm shift from a traditional letter/percentage system to a skill-based assessment approach. The goal for all students' skill level to be at the 3 = Standard Met mark. Other skills (ie, work habits, communication, conduct, collaboration/participation) that are typically factored into letter and percentage grades are assessed with a letter identifying the behavioral/habit skill level as follows:

M = Meets Expectations I = Improving N = Needs Improvement

We want to ensure that this grading system does not negatively impact the student's application. We encourage you to consider the letters of recommendation from our faculty and staff, which provide additional insight into the student's academic progress, strengths, and overall readiness for high school.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this difference in our grading policy. Please do not hesitate to contact us for more information about our system or a student from whom you are evaluating appropriateness for your program.

Best regards,

Novato Charter School