

**PURPOSE:** To include NI grades for Work Service, Wellness, and Resident Life in the eligibility for privilege plans.

**Introduced By:** Jake Heisler

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE SENATE:**

**SECTION ONE (REASONING):**

Each quarter, students are assessed on their Wellness, Work Service, and Resident Life performance. Typically, students receive one of three grades: an “O” for Outstanding, an “S” for Satisfactory, or a “U” for Unsatisfactory. These grades then determine their eligibility for privilege plans. There is one other possible grade, however, that is not mentioned anywhere in the handbook or in privilege plan eligibility: an “NI” for Needs Improvement.

An NI is the grade between U and S. NI’s are given to students who fail to meet the Satisfactory requirements but don’t deserve an Unsatisfactory. For example, students who miss one day of Work Service and don’t make it up typically receive an NI. This causes much confusion with the students getting NI’s because of their absence in the handbook. While an NI is technically passing, students who get it wonder if there are punishments for receiving an NI like there is for receiving a U and question how it affects their privilege plan eligibility.

Since NIs are nowhere in the handbook, these students have to take their questions to their Hall Director, who then has to discuss the student’s situation with the person who gave the student the NI and with the other Hall Director. A Hall Director may believe that a student who would qualify for Extended Plan if they had an S instead of an NI should be on Standard Plan or IP Plan, while a student who would qualify for Premium Plan should be on Extended Plan. Some students may see this as unfair and try to challenge this decision because it’s not in the handbook.

To avoid this confusion, extra work for the Hall Directors, and upsetting decisions, NI’s should be included in the eligibility for privilege plans. O-Plan and Premium Plan eligibility should stay how it is, as students receiving an NI do not deserve to be on those plans. Extended Plan eligibility could change, however, to include an NI if the student has two O’s. This is fair because the current eligibility is one O and two S’s, so the added eligibility is balanced by the two O’s requirement. This system of increasing an S to an O and decreasing another S to an NI would be applied to Standard Plan as well.

With these added eligibility requirements, students receiving an NI won't be confused about where they fall with privilege plans, and Hall Directors won't have to have meetings to discuss the student's situation and determine what plan they should get. This also eliminates Hall Directors having to make decisions for individual students rather than referring to handbook guidelines.

## **SECTION TWO (SPECIFIC CHANGE):**

On pages 123-124 of the Student Handbook (PDF pages 129-130), under the section "PRIVILEGE PLANS," the following would be changed to:

### **THE "EXTENDED" PLAN (Available to juniors and seniors)**

#### Eligibility Criteria

#### Privileges

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |             |                                                                                     |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GRADES          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percent Average: 83-86.99</li> <li>• No NCs</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                      | LIGHTS OUT  | Regular                                                                             |
| VIOLATIONS      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No more than three Level I</li> <li>• No more than one Level II</li> <li>• No Level III</li> <li>• Students with no Level III violations in the previous 3 nine-week periods can petition the Executive Director</li> </ul> | CURFEW      | Regular                                                                             |
| SATURDAY SCHOOL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No more than 4 hrs assigned for academic reasons</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                 | STUDY HOURS | One day a week not required (remember that others will be studying)                 |
| EXTRACURRICULAR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation/Membership in one activity, club, sports, or organization during the</li> </ul>                                                                                                                               | TV TIME     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ends 12:00 a.m. Sunday-Thursday</li> </ul> |

|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                              | previous 9 weeks                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| ATTENDANCE                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No unexcused absences</li> <li>No more than three tardies in the nine week period</li> </ul>                                                                                     |  | SIGN OUT LIMIT (weekend) | 5 hours                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| WORK SERVICE, RESIDENTIAL LIVING, & WELLNESS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outstanding for one and Satisfactory for the other two</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outstanding for two and Needs Improvement for one.</li> </ul> |  | CAR USE                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 time Monday-Thursday for general errands [4 hours; local; in by 10:00]</li> <li>3 general purpose sign outs [Arrange with Hall Director]</li> </ul> |

**THE "STANDARD" PLAN**  
(Available to juniors and seniors)

Eligibility Criteria

Privileges

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |            |         |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------|---------|
| GRADES     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percent Average: 80-82.99</li> <li>No more than one NC</li> </ul>                                                                                   |  | LIGHTS OUT | Regular |
| VIOLATIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No more than four Level I</li> <li>No more than one Level II</li> <li>No Level III</li> <li>Students with no Level III violations in the</li> </ul> |  | CURFEW     | Regular |

|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                              | previous 2 nine-week periods can petition the Executive Director                                                                                                                                                   |  |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| SATURDAY SCHOOL                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No more than 6 hrs assigned for academic reasons</li> </ul>                                                                                                                 |  | STUDY HOURS              | One day a week not required (remember that others will be studying)                                                                                                                          |
| EXTRACURRICULAR                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                              |  | TV TIME                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ends 12:00 a.m. Sunday-Thursday</li> </ul>                                                                                                            |
| ATTENDANCE                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No more than one unexcused absence</li> <li>No more than 4 tardies in the nine week period</li> </ul>                                                                       |  | SIGN OUT LIMIT (weekend) | 5 hours                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| WORK SERVICE, RESIDENTIAL LIVING, & WELLNESS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Satisfactory for all three</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outstanding for one, Satisfactory for one, and Needs Improvement for one.</li> </ul> |  | CAR USE                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 time Monday-Thursday for general errands [4 hours; local; in by 10:00]</li> <li>3 general purpose sign outs [Arrange with Hall Director]</li> </ul> |

### SECTION THREE (APPENDIX):

#### Response One (Mr. Edward Allen, Frazer Hall Director):

“I like the sound of this bill, and I would love to try to implement these changes. I don’t see an issue, and this should have been here in the first place. I support this bill.”

#### Response Two (Ms. LaToya Bledose, Goen Hall Director):

“This is something worth a try. I don’t see an issue with it, and it would be fine to be introduced in the Senate.”

#### Response Three (Anonymous Student with an NI Work Service Grade):

“I received an NI for my Work Service grade and was extremely confused as to what it was, how it would affect my privilege plan, and why I received it. After talking to a Frazer Assistant Hall Director, he explained that it wasn’t a failing grade but that there was room for improvement in my communication about schedule changes. He wasn’t able to tell me how the NI would affect stuff like my privilege plan, though. I like this bill’s clarification of what an NI is and what it does for the student. A balance is needed between S and U, and I think this bill does that perfectly.”

**Response Four (Anonymous Student with an NI Work Service Grade):**

“Last year, I was given an NI in work service. I didn’t understand why, so I spoke with my supervisor who told me that he had given me that grade unintentionally, but he couldn’t go back and change it. I was put on Standard Plan for the second quarter even though I had Os in both Wellness and Resident Life, good grades, and no violations. I support this bill because it can help avoid unfair situations like that from happening in the future.”

**Response Five (Anonymous Student with an NI Work Service Grade):**

“I was able to convince my grader to change my grade to an S, but I still think this bill is a good idea because I was very scared and confused when I first saw the NI.”