WEIGHTED GRADES

1. Do you have a system of weighted grades for your high school students (9-12)?
   ___ Yes
   ___ No

2. If so, what kinds of classes do you weight?
   ___ Honors classes (9-12)
   ___ Advanced Placement classes (11-12)
   ___ Other(s): Please explain.

3. If honors classes, how do you define "honors"?
   ___ Use of a differentiated curriculum
   ___ Use of enrichment activities
   ___ Use of additional reading
   ___ Other(s): Please explain.

4. How does the system of weighted grades work?
   ___ Give 5.0 for an "A" on a 4.0 scale
   ___ Give extra credits to students (If a course is worth five credits per semester, then a weighted course is worth more. If so, how much more? _________)
   ___ Other(s): Please explain.

5. What are the positive effects of this system?
   ___ Higher acceptance rates into colleges/universities
   ___ Higher response by the more prestigious colleges/universities
   ___ More scholarship moneys for students
   ___ Better self-esteem among students
   ___ More students taking weighted courses
   ___ The top students in the graduation pool taking weighted courses
   ___ Other(s): Please explain.

6. What are the negative effects of this system?
   ___ Greater stress among students
   ___ Students at the lower end of the academic spectrum left out of the process
   ___ Students at school becoming tracked into "those who take these courses" and "those who can't or don't"
   ___ Greater parental pressures
   ___ Greater pressure from colleges/universities
   ___ Students taking too many weighted courses in a given semester
   ___ Charges of elitism
THE NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER ON THE GIFTED AND TALENTED SURVEY

WAIVING CLASSES

1. Do you allow students to "waive" certain classes in your high school?
   ___ Yes
   ___ No
   _______ Grade Level(s)

2. How do you define "waiving" classes?
   ___ Students do not have to take a class at all
   ___ Students do not have to take a class but must fulfill class objectives
   ___ Students do not have to take a class but must take the final examination
   students would take in class
   ___ Students must present a portfolio or demonstration of competence on class
   material
   ___ Other(s): Please explain.

3. Do you have a formal system/policy for waiving classes?
   ___ Yes
   ___ No

4. If "yes," is the formal system/policy available for?
   ___ Gifted only
   ___ All students

5. If a student waives a class, does s/he generate credit for the class?
   ___ Yes
   ___ No

6. If "yes," under what circumstances?
   ___ Only if the student fulfills the class objectives
   ___ Only if the student completes a final exam
   ___ Only if the class is prerequisite for a higher-level class
   ___ All classes that are waived generate credit
   ___ No classes waived generate credit

7. Who makes the decision to waive a class?
   ___ The principal or associate principal
   ___ The department chairperson
   ___ The gifted facilitator
   ___ A committee
   ___ A district-office administrator
   ___ Other(s): ________________________________
8. Do you have quite a number of students who decide to apply for waiving?
   ___ Yes
   ___ No

9. If "yes," then define "number":
   ___ Half the students eligible or more
   ___ One-fourth to one-third of the eligible students
   ___ One-tenth of the students eligible
   ___ Fewer than 5% of the eligible students
   ___ Fewer than two students a year

10. Do you waive district-level required classes?
    ___ Yes
    ___ No

11. If "yes," could a student in the following categories waive a class?
    ___ A cross-country team member waive PE requirement
        ___ Yes
        ___ No
    ___ A politically-active student waive "Citizenship Issues"
        ___ Yes
        ___ No
    ___ A high academic and college-bound, focused student waive classes like
    "Career Education" to take more "academic" subjects
        ___ Yes
        ___ No
    ___ Other(s): Please explain.

12. Do students who waive classes tend to take more elective classes?
    ___ Yes
    ___ No

13. If "no," then do students take more study halls or work-study?
    ___ Yes
    ___ No

14. Have you found waiving classes a successful way to motivate students to get out of high school more quickly?
    ___ Yes
    ___ No

15. Do you have any difficulty with college-entrance requirements if a class has been waived?
    ___ Yes
    ___ No

16. If "yes," in what way(s)?
   ___ Colleges/universities regard waiving as problematic
   ___ Colleges/universities require make-up classes
   ___ Colleges/universities judge entrance status by completion of all courses
   ___ Other(s): Please explain.

17. If you were in charge of your high school, would you recommend your institution waive classes?
   ___ Yes
   ___ No