Galveston ISD Secondary Grading Guidelines for AT HOME Learning

Galveston ISD recognizes the importance of providing feedback to students and the role progress monitoring plays in assessing student learning. Because of the COVID 19 pandemic, the District will amend the grading guidelines where appropriate to adjust for circumstances related to At Home Learning.

Middle School

For the 4th nine-weeks (Beginning March 31, 2020), Galveston ISD will record a minimum of one grade or maximum of two grades per teacher/subject per week for TEKS based courses. In order to receive a passing grade for the 4th nine weeks, students are expected to complete all assignments fully according to the specified instructions, and submit each assignment and meet grade-level standards. A student’s final grade in a course is the determination of the classroom teacher and must be based upon performance on assignments and assessments designed to evaluate students' mastery of the TEKS. [Policy EIA(LEGAL)]

All grades will be weighed equally for the fourth nine weeks. Students have until May 22 to submit missing assignments.

Teachers will schedule parent/guardian conferences for any student who is struggling, failing, or not completing assignments. Progress Reports are sent to parents/guardians of struggling students at the end of four weeks of the nine weeks grading period. It is required that parents/guardians must be contacted by the time it becomes apparent that failure is possible. During the COVID 19 Stay-at-Home Order for students who are failing, telephone or electronic contact with parents/guardians should be made and recorded in the electronic logs of contacts and attempted contacts with parents/guardians. For parents/guardians and students who are difficult to reach, principals can solicit the help of the District Attendance Officer to contact those families.

Sporadic Assignments to No Assignments Returned

If students submit less than the minimum number of grades (8), teachers will make every effort to contact families. If teachers assign more than the maximum number of grades, teachers may drop the lowest grades as long as students have the minimum number. A grade of incomplete will be assigned to the student until May 22 at which time all incompletes will be converted to zero (0). Teachers must have documentation showing contact efforts to connect with parents/guardians of students who are failing or who are in jeopardy of failing.
Promotion

In grades 5 - 8 promotion to the next grade level shall be based on an overall average of 70 on a scale of 100 based on course-level, grade-level standards (essential knowledge and skills) for language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

The 90% minimum attendance requirement has been waived for any course taken in the spring semester of the 2019-2020 school year.

If a student was on track for promotion prior Spring Break, every consideration needs to be given to that student so that he/she is promoted to the next grade level. Each campus will use a Grade Review Committee to make such determination.

The student's final grade in a course is the determination of the classroom teacher and must be based upon performance on assignments and assessments designed to evaluate students' mastery of the TEKS. A passing grade should be assigned to any student who has demonstrated proficiency in the TEKS for a course. A grade issued by a classroom teacher can only be changed if, as determined by the board of trustees, the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or inconsistent with the District's grading policy. [Policy EIA(LEGAL)]

Why Not Use Pass / Fail?

Pass/Fail does not provide all students with the opportunity to raise their overall average by being engaged in their learning this 4th nine-week grading period, including students who failed any previous 9wks.

Providing students with meaningful feedback supports the academic effort we expect.
**Secondary Refinement 4.15.2020**

**High School (grades 9-12)**

All 9-12 grade students follow a 6-week grading period:
5th six weeks 2/17 - 4/3
6th six weeks 4/6 - 5/28

Ball High School and AIM College and Career Preparatory will follow current grading guidelines (Student and Parent Handbook p 54-55 [https://www.gisd.org/Domain/52](https://www.gisd.org/Domain/52)) with exception of final exams. Final exams will not be administered.

Individual Graduation Plans will be implemented for seniors impacted by the STAAR EOCs.

Teachers will schedule parent/guardian conferences for any student who is struggling, failing, or not completing assignments. Progress Reports are sent to parents/guardians of struggling students at the end of three weeks of the six weeks grading period or by the time it becomes apparent that failure is possible. During the COVID 19 Stay-at-Home Order for students who are failing, telephone or electronic contact with parents/guardians should be made and recorded in the electronic logs of contacts and attempted contacts with parents/guardians. For parents/guardians and students who are difficult to reach, principals can solicit the help of the District Attendance Officer to contact those families.

**High School Credit Courses**

When a student is exempt from the Semester/Final Exam, the semester average will be the average of the second semester (six-week high school) or (nine-week middle school) grading periods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Middle School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th Six-Week Average</td>
<td>3rd Nine-Week Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Six-Week Average</td>
<td>4th Nine-Week Average</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th Six-Week Average</td>
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*All students will be exempt from the second semester exams due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

**Dual Credit** courses will follow the requirements outlined by the respective institutions.

**Class Rank (EIC LOCAL)**

The District shall apply the same class rank calculation method and rules for local graduation honors for all students in a graduating class, regardless of the school year in which a student first earned high school credit.

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in high school credit courses taken in grades 9–12 only, unless excluded below.
Secondary Refinement 4.15.2020

The calculation shall include failing grades.

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in athletics, Tornettes, cheerleading, student aide, SAVE, Career Connections, student council, and any other local credit course.

Why Not Use Pass / Fail?

Pass/Fail does not provide all students with the opportunity to raise their overall semester average/GPA by being engaged in their learning the 5th and 6th six week grading periods, including students who failed previous grading periods.

By going Pass/Fail, students would lose the entire semester of weighted credit, as rank is pulled from the semester average, which is likely to impose a huge negative impact for our grades 9-11 students.

The NCAA Clearinghouse treats a grade of “Pass” as the lowest possible passing grade. This could put our students who are interested in collegiate athletics at a disadvantage compared to students coming from districts that recorded numerical grades. College courses also look at a “pass” as a “C.”