



# UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATIONAL ITEM

**TOPIC:** Grading Guidelines for Remote Learning during the COVID 19 Closure

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**SUBMITTED BY:** Emma Leza, Executive Director for Instructional Accountability

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:** April 22, 2020

## **INFORMATIONAL REPORT:**

Due to the COVID 19 school closure and the need to provide remote learning opportunities for all elementary, middle and high school students, United ISD will implement a Pass or Fail grading system for remote learning provided from March 23, 2020 through May 28, 2020.



# Remote Learning Grading Guidelines



To Meet COVID 19 Closures  
April 22, 2020

Board Presentation

# **Promotion for Elementary & Middle Credit Earning for High School Courses**

**General Overview**

# Parent Information

## GRADING and PROMOTION FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

The United Independent School District will implement a **Pass or Fail** grading system for the last two six-week periods (February 25 to May 28) or the final nine week period (March 23 to May 28) of the 2019-2020 school year for **remote learning** (remote learning refers to online instruction or using instructional packets).

### **Remote Learning Highlights:**

Teachers will provide **daily and/or intermittent feedback** on the instruction provided through remote learning. Students submitting instructional packets will receive feedback upon the return of instructional packet(s).

Teachers will evaluate students' work and issue a **Pass or Fail Status** for at least one assignment per content area per week as noted on the schedule shared on [www.uisd.net](http://www.uisd.net).

Teachers will also evaluate students' progress and issue an **overall pass or fail status** for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> six weeks of school for every content area. This overall status will be noted on the final report card that will be issued at the end of the current school year.

# Parent Information - Elementary and Middle School

## Grading and Grade Promotion for All Students (Including Special Ed., Sec. 504, English Learners)

- The guidelines addressing promotion for students in first through eighth grades will be based on the grades each student accumulated from August 14, 2019 through February 20, 2020 (the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> six-week period).
- The board approved the temporary change to policy EIE (Local) allowing all promotions to be based on achieving an overall average of 70 for language arts, reading, math, science and social studies in elementary.
- If the student is taking English as a Second Language, their grade will be averaged with the English Language Arts or Spanish Language Arts grade.
- The pass or fail information for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> six weeks period **MAY** be considered when making promotion decisions.
- The final report card will denote a **PC** for Passed Course or an **FC** for Failed Course in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> six-week periods for each content area.
- Each marking period will receive equal weight to determine the final content area grade.
- The final report card will denote the promotion or retention status for the student.

## Middle School Students Taking Algebra 1

- **High school credit for Algebra 1** will be awarded based on the final grade calculation for instruction up to February 20, 2020 of **70 or better and a pass status** for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> six weeks.
- The final numerical grade for Algebra 1 will reflect the **weighted grade**, if a **70 or better is earned** based on district regulations and the grade will be recorded in the students' Academic Achievement Record.

# Parent Information Q&A - Elementary and Middle

## Questions and Answers:

1. What will happen to the grades recorded on the student information system or Tyler from February 24th through March 13th?

Teachers will use these grades and the remote instruction to determine the final pass or fail status for students for the 5th and 6th six-week marking periods.

2. Why is it important for my child to complete the remote instruction?

Due to the unfortunate and unforeseen circumstances caused by COVID 19, not all learning objectives were covered in the traditional classroom setting. It is imperative for students to access the instructional material prepared by teachers so that they can be ready for next school year. Maintaining structure and continuity in the remote learning setting will allow your children to be better prepared for the next grade level.

Students taking Algebra I for high school credit must earn a pass status for the 5th and 6th six weeks in order to earn the credit. The Texas Education Agency waived the STAAR End of Course (EOC) assessments and middle school students taking Algebra I this school year will not be required to take the STAAR Algebra I EOC test.

# Parent Information Q&A - Elementary and Middle

## Questions and Answers:

3. How will my special needs child in a specialized unit be graded?

For students in specialized units, teachers will utilize a variety of methods to determine the pass or fail grade such as work samples, participation, observations conducted through Google Meet and feedback from parents on progress.

Every effort will be made to provide equal opportunity and access to accommodations, specialized instruction, and related services during school closures. Any deviation from the IEP due to the COVID-19 outbreak and mandated school closures will be based on appropriate, reasonable, and safe models of educational service while the schools are closed due COVID-19.

4. When will I know if my child has been promoted?

Information on promotion or retention will be posted on the final report card for each student in grades PK – 8<sup>th</sup> as per district policy. Final report cards will be emailed to the email address on file for parents or guardians.

5. Why are numerical grades for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> six-weeks not being used?

March 13, 2020 marks the last day traditional classroom instruction was provided to all students at United ISD. Although great care has been taken to develop remote instruction for all students, we are aware that access to online teacher instruction or hard copies (packets) may not be ideal. This along with the stressful and unique situations caused by this pandemic at every household led us to the decision of issuing pass or fail status for the remainder of the school year. Promotion is extremely important to our students and should therefore be based on the traditional instruction provided by each teacher prior to COVID-19 closures.

# Parent Information for High School 18-WK Courses

**Grading and Earning Course Credit for all students (Including Special Ed., Sec. 504, English Learners)**

## **18-Week Course Credit:**

- Students enrolled in 18-week courses will earn a  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit **if their Quarter (Q3) grade is a 70 or better.** To earn the **additional  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit**, students must **earn a pass status** for the remaining 9 weeks by participating through remote learning from March 23 to May 28.
- Students **not** earning the additional  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit this semester **must retake** the entire course in order to **meet graduation requirements** as mandated by state and district policy.
- The **final grade** for the 18-week course **will be calculated by doubling the Q3 grade.** For example if the Q3 numerical grade is a 95, then the Quarter 4 (Q4) grade will be a 95, and render a final average of 95.
- Final averages (numerical grades) **will impact** the student's final Grade Point Average or **GPA.**
- Tier I and II courses with a final numerical average **will receive** respective weight.
- Final GPAs for **ranking purposes** will be based on the grades earned up to Quarter 3, which ended on March 13, 2020. These GPAs will be calculated beginning the week of April 20, 2020 and will be released as soon as **all GPAs have been calculated for all high schools.**



# Parent Information for High School 9-WK Courses

**Grading and Earning Course Credit for all students** (Including Special Ed., Sec. 504, English Learners)

## 9-Week Course Credit:

- Students enrolled in 9-week courses, which began on March 23, 2020, will earn a ½ credit if they earn a **pass status** for the course through remote learning. **No weight** will be added to these credits.
- If students earn a fail status for the course, they will **not** earn the ½ credit and **might not** meet graduation requirements.
- A final course status of P or F in Quarter 4 for 9-week courses this school year (2019-2020) will **NOT IMPACT** the student's GPA.
- The final report card will denote a P or F by each course in the Q4 Avg. column for 9-week courses.
- The students' Academic Achievement Record (AAR) will denote the P or F **and if the credit is earned.**

# Parent Information - Q & A

**1. Why is it important for my child to complete the remote instruction?**

Earning the remaining ½ credits of 18-week courses and the ½ credits for 9-week courses will be based on each student's participation through remote learning. Earning high school course credit is required for graduation.

**2. How will my special needs child in a specialized unit be graded?**

For students in specialized units, teachers will utilize a variety of methods to determine the pass or fail grade for courses such as work samples, participation, observations conducted through Google Meet and feedback from parents on progress.

Every effort will be made to provide equal opportunity and access to accommodations, specialized instruction, and related services during school closures. Any deviation from the IEP due to the COVID-19 outbreak and mandated school closures will be based on appropriate, reasonable, and safe models of educational service while the schools are closed due COVID-19.

**3. When will I know if my child has earned course credits? How will my child be promoted to 10th, 11th or 12th?**

Information on the pass or fail status will be documented on every high school student's report card, which will be issued at the end of this school year via the email on file and credits will be documented on each student's academic achievement record.

Promotion in high school is based on the number of credits earned. To be a 10th grader or sophomore a student must have earned 7 credits and one full academic year of high school, an 11th grader or junior must have earned 14 credits and two full academic years of high school and a 12th grader or senior must have earned 21 credits and three full academic years of high school.

**4. How can I help my senior meet all graduation requirements?**

Ensure your child is participating in remote learning. If he or she is experiencing difficulties, email or connect with the teacher or the counselor of record. Call 956-473-8000 if you need information on who to contact or call the school directly. Make sure you communicate your child's needs so that we may assist in providing opportunities to meet all graduation requirements. We are United in finding resources for our students to successfully complete this very challenging school year and be future ready.