

WEST HARDIN COUNTY CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Resolution for Modification of Policies and Procedures on Grading, Promotion, Class Rank and Related Instructional Issues During Periods of School Closure Due to COVID-19

WHEREAS, the West Hardin County Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees (the Board) recognizes that officials in the State of Texas and the United States Government have declared a disaster and emergency regarding Coronavirus/COVID-19 (COVID-19) and its potential spread; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that COVID-19 is an unforeseen and unavoidable emergency of urgent public necessity, that the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and that additional emergency declarations may follow in the coming days and weeks; and

WHEREAS, the Board and District Administration are following advice and directives from federal, state and local authorities in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, due to the outbreak of COVID 19, the normal operations of the District closed on March 16, 2020, and Governor Abbott has ordered all schools remain closed through at least May 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the District has implemented procedures for continuity of instruction to the extent possible during the closure of its schools and/or suspension of normal District operations; and

WHEREAS, the District will be unable to resume normal instruction for an extended period of time and administering the current policies and guidelines for student grading, promotion, and class rank will be impossible or impractical; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that disparity exists with regard to student access to technology and home learning environments and that temporary suspension or modification of certain policies and guidelines related to student grading, promotion, and class rank will ensure fairness in the process for all students; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy EIC (LOCAL) currently states that the determination of class rank, local recognition for top ten percent, and all related academic honors for graduating seniors ("Graduation Honors") shall be determined by using all eligible grades available at the time the District receives the final grades for dual credit courses in May; and

WHEREAS, due to the inability to provide normal instruction during the period of school closure, the calculation of grade point averages for graduating seniors, including the determination of Graduation Honors, shall be determined by using all eligible grades available as of the end of the third nine-week grading period; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding other provisions of this resolution, the District will continue to calculate class rank for purposes of applications to Texas institutions of higher education as required by state law; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy EIA (LOCAL) includes requirements and guidelines for student grading, student assignments to ensure mastery of course objectives, as well as progress reporting to parents every nine weeks; and

WHEREAS, any requirement in Board Policy or regulation that students be issued numerical grades, that teachers provide a specific number of assignments or that the District issue regular progress reports shall be suspended until the District resumes normal instruction; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy EIE (LOCAL) includes minimum grade requirements and/or percentage standards for purposes of determining student retention, promotion, and the award of course credit; and

WHEREAS, student engagement and grades received prior to the school closure, as well as evidence of learning that demonstrates mastery of standards during distance instruction, may be used to determine whether a student has mastered the course objectives or grade level, and such information may be considered in making decisions regarding end of semester grades, student retention and promotion, and the awarding of credit; and

WHEREAS, these one-time modifications of Board policies and grading procedures are intended to ensure fairness to all students in light of the current unprecedented circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Board will continue to provide controls and oversight for the District authority granted to the Superintendent herein, by requiring that the Superintendent timely report to the Board all actions taken under this grant of authority.

Now therefore it be resolved by the Board that:

1. The Board determines that a temporary modification of Board Policy EIC (LOCAL) shall be implemented to allow calculation of grade point averages, for all purposes in the policy, using those grades available as of the end of the third nine-week grading period, or in the case of dual credit courses, grades issued by the educational institution in May 2020; and
2. The District shall continue to calculate class rank for purposes of applications to Texas institutions of higher education as required by state law; and
3. The Board determines that a temporary modification of Board Policies EIA (LOCAL) and EIE (LOCAL) may be implemented to allow a determination of “Mastered” and “Not Mastered” to serve in place of some or all numerical grades during the time of school closure, and that this standard may be used to assist in making decisions regarding end of semester grades, retention and promotion, and the award of course credit; and
4. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent to take any other actions as necessary to fulfill the purpose of this Resolution and to determine procedures and standards for awarding grades for any grading period after the closure of school, including second semester grades, and suspend any other grading policies,

procedures, regulations, rules or practices made impossible or impractical due to the school closure and issues related to distance learning; and

5. Any temporary modifications to or suspensions of policies, regulations, and procedures apply only for the 2019-2020 school year.

Adopted by the vote of the majority of members of the Board of Trustees of the West Hardin County Consolidated ISD present and voting at an open meeting of the Board on the 9th day of April, 2020, at which a quorum was present:

BY: _____
Board President,
West Hardin County Consolidated Independent School District

BY: _____
Board Secretary,
West Hardin County Consolidated Independent School District