

Grading Practices Update 2025-2026 School Year

Dr. Ami Engel, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Ms. Jennifer Mitchell, Principal East High School and Director of High School
Programming



Purpose of the Grading Shift

Goal

- Provide accountability for students to remain engaged in classroom content throughout the semester

Resources

- *Grading for Equity* by Joe Feldman
- *Beyond the Grade* by Canady, Canady, and Meek



Grading Committee Members

Administrators

Dr. Ami Engel
Dr. Teresa Vemmer
Ms. Jennifer Mitchell

Teachers

Kara Bown
Wess DeCicco
Vince DiFabio
Ryan Herlihy
Deb Mengler
Liz Salazar
Zach Sipes
Melinda Thomas
Christian Wimber

Meeting Dates

April 2nd, 2025
April 17th, 2025
April 30th, 2025



Grading Philosophy

- **Grades are** intended to provide clarity on *student mastery* of learning objectives.
- **Grades are not** intended to reflect student behavior (this information can be provided to families in other ways).



Current Practice

- Grading practice implemented in 2022/2023 school year
- Grades spanned the entire semester with the coursework accounting for 85% of the grade and the final exam counting as 15% of the grade
- 50% floor - if a student scored below a 50% the score was adjusted to the 50% minimum
- The gradebook automatically updated to the minimum score



New Practice 25/26

Shifted to averaging quarter grades.

- Quarter 1 is 42.5% of the semester grade, quarter 2 is 42.5%, and the final exam is 15%.

The 50% floor only impacts the posted quarter grades below 50% (not individual assignments/assessments).

- If a student's overall grade is not below a 50% at the quarter, the grade is unaffected
- The 50% floor does not affect the final exam.



Example of Quarter-Based Grades with 50% Floor:

- Averaging Quarter Grades Without 50%
 - Quarter 1: 33%
 - Quarter 2: 69%
 - Final Exam: 67%
 - Semester Grade: $33(0.425) + 69(0.425) + 67(0.15) = 53.4\%$
- Averaging Quarter Grades With 50%
 - Quarter 1: 50%
 - Quarter 2: 69%
 - Final Exam: 67%
 - Semester Grade: $50(0.425) + 69(0.425) + 67(0.15) = 60.625\%$



GUIDING PRINCIPLES



EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Meet the diverse needs of all students by ensuring a safe and inclusive learning environment.



OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Utilize systems and resources that promote operational excellence, efficiency, and fiscal accountability.



COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

Engage in continuous improvements through collaborative, student-focused, and data-driven leadership.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Ensure the academic success of all students by closing the opportunity gap.

