



## WHARTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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### 2020-2021 Wharton ISD Grading Guidelines

Wharton ISD has constructed its grading guidelines based upon key principles from the concept of mastery learning. Mastery learning, in its most simple definition, means students master the skills and concepts which they are taught in the classroom. Teachers drive this mastery by first providing high-quality instruction. Then, teachers give students frequent and specific feedback to improve understanding. If necessary, teachers re-teach material.

Wharton ISD grading guidelines acknowledge the importance of mastering skills and concepts by allowing students who do not perform well on certain assignments or tests an opportunity to redo the work. Specific rules apply in these situations.

Student grades must reflect the student's mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and Student Expectations and local curriculum requirements. The district seeks to provide each student with a challenging and appropriate educational program. We can best achieve this goal by recognizing that individual students, through their varied learning styles, respond to different instructional approaches and require varied periods of time in which to master concepts and essential knowledge and skills. This philosophy is applied to an integrated program of developmental skills, PreK-12, as well as to a rigorous post-graduation preparatory curriculum. In this way, every student will be provided an optimal opportunity for academic development and success.

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## MINIMUM INSTRUCTIONAL EXPECTATIONS

Instruction in all programs is guided by researched-based theory and lesson design that provide for individual learning differences and requirements. The following characteristics are inherent in effective classroom practice:

1. Instruction occurs in a clearly defined manner;
2. Student thinking processes and engagement are constantly monitored as a part of instruction;
3. Both formative and summative performance assessments are administered frequently in order to evaluate and monitor student progress;
4. Summative evaluation occurs only after the instructor has utilized appropriate re-teaching, extension, or enrichment activities or experiences

## OBJECTIVE STANDARDS

1. The standard for each student will be the grade level Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and local requirements for that grade level.
2. Grades will reflect the degree of mastery of the district curriculum.

## INSTRUCTIONAL MODIFICATIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

1. Modifications/accommodations in instruction and/or materials, as documented on individual modification sheets (for 504 students) or Individual Education Plans (IEP), are to be implemented to the degree specified. The degree of modification or the appropriateness of the student's instructional challenge will be reviewed annually.
2. If a student must work significantly below level and, as a result, the level/type of classroom work must be significantly altered, he/she will be graded according to his/her IEP.
3. Implementation of IEP modifications/504 accommodations is not optional; it is required by both district policy and federal law.

## STUDENT SUPPORT PROCEDURE

Teachers are expected to make efforts throughout the year to support individual students in attaining mastery of the district curriculum. Such efforts include, but are not limited to, using differentiated instruction, developing a support plan, correcting misconceptions, and providing opportunities to show mastery.

## REQUEST FOR A GRADE CHANGE

Grade Change Request must be utilized to change any of the information reported on the student's report cards, progress reports, or transcripts. A separate form must be submitted for each grade, on each student, to be changed after receiving approval from campus principal.

## INTERIM PROGRESS REPORTS

Interim progress reports will be sent to parents twice during the nine-week grading period (every three weeks) and a report card at the end of the nine-week grading period.

## TRANSFER STUDENTS

In the case of a transfer student, grades accepted shall be accepted based on the intent of the sending school. If the transfer grade from an accredited school has been designated as an AP, Pre-AP, Honors, or Dual Credit course on the transcript, the grade shall be awarded weighted rank points as long as the same course is weighted at the same level of difficulty within the District. If the transfer grade from an accredited school has been designated as an IB or Pre-IB course on the transcript, the grade shall revert to weighted rank points for an AP or Pre-AP weight. Numerical grades earned from an accredited school shall be accepted. If the originating school sends a grading scale, alpha grades will be entered according to the scale. If no grading scale is available, alpha grades shall be recorded as:

A+ 99 B+ 89 C+ 79 D+ 72 F 65 A 95 B 85 C 75 D 71 A- 92 B- 82 C- 73 D- 70

When a transfer student's Academic Achievement Record indicates transfer grades of P (Pass) or F (Fail), those grades will be posted on their transcript as a P or F. The P or F will not be converted to a numerical grade for entry into the GPA or rank. If the transfer school will send a numerical grade for the P or F, then the registrar will post the numerical grade. At that time, the numerical conversion grade will be posted and

calculated into GPA and rank for the transfer student.

Students who transfer into the district may receive adjusted award of credit, based on the following:

1. Internal averaging will be conducted manually within the same school year for the same full year course to determine the final year average under the following condition: If the final grade of semester one and semester two of the same course average to a 70 or higher, the student will receive credit for the course.
2. If a student transfers into the district within the same school year and the final grade for semester one and semester two average to a 70 or higher, an adjustment will be made to reflect the passing grade average in the year-long average of the course.
3. The year-long average of the course will not be calculated into the grade point average, only in the awarding of credit for the course.
4. This averaging procedure would require campus administrative approval and the completion of a grade change form to reflect the year-long average and the award of credit.

## COLLEGE BOARD ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

AP students shall be given the opportunity to re-do assignments and retake assessments for which they receive a failing grade for a maximum grade of 70. Students enrolled in AP Courses will be required to take the appropriate AP Exam at district expense. Students may register and pay for additional AP Exams for courses in which they are not enrolled.

## 2020-2021 Elementary Grading Guidelines

### Pre K - K:

The reporting system will reflect students' performance in the classroom based on grade level expectations. These expectations should be based on developmentally appropriate objectives that are specified and conform to the State Guidelines. Report cards for grades PK-K shall indicate progress toward mastery of student learning standards by content area using the following letter grades:

- E = Exceeds Standard
- S = Met Standard
- N = Not meeting Standard

### Conduct Grades (Grades Pre K – 6)

Conduct grades will be assigned in all classes.

- E = Excellent
- S = Satisfactory
- N = Needs Improvement
- U = Unsatisfactory

### Grades 1 - 6:

- A (90-100) Excellent progress, work is consistently of above average quality
- B (80–89) Good progress, work is above average
- C (75–79) Work is of average quality
- D (70–74) Work is of poor quality, in need of improvement
- F (Below 70) Failure, work is unacceptable.

Numerical grades will be used to reflect the mastery of standards and skills. A minimum of nine (9) daily grades and three (3) major grades will be taken each nine weeks and should be evenly distributed throughout the grading period. A minimum of one (1) grade per week entered no later than the following Monday at 11:59 p.m. will be taken each nine weeks. The report card grade will reflect a weight of 50% daily grades, 50% quizzes and test grades. Each unit students will be assessed using the unit assessment at the end of each unit.

Fine Arts (Music, Band and Art) and Physical Education Letter grades will be assigned for grades Pre K - K and numerical grades will be used to determine academic progress for grades 1-6. A minimum of nine (9) total grades will be taken in each special area each nine (9) weeks.

Reading & Math Screening Assessments and Progress Monitoring:

All Screening Assessments will be given at the beginning, middle and end of the academic school year and will be used to help drive differentiated instruction for all students.

Homework:

Homework should be used to reinforce and support mastery of learning, engage parents in the learning process, and when appropriate and possible, should be differentiated for students depending on their mastery of the objectives. Feedback should be provided regarding any assignment sent home for completion. Homework should be based only on content standards previously taught, assigned and completed during the same instructional week, and at a level of difficulty that can be completed independently by students.

Honor Roll (Grades 1 – 6):

Students in grades one (1) through six (6) have the opportunity to be on the honor roll. Prizes are awarded to students who are on the A honor roll and AB honor roll every nine weeks. All honor roll students will be acknowledged.

Make up Work Your child will have several assignments during the school day for which he or she is responsible. If your child is given an assignment to complete, it must be turned in the following day. For each day a student is absent, they will receive one day to complete the assignment(s). All make up work will be given upon the student's return to school. In the event of extenuating circumstances, additional time will be allotted to make up the assignments.

Missing Assignments:

When a student does not turn in an assignment, the teacher will post a missing grade indicator for that assignment.

Retest:

Students who fail a major assignment (test) will be given one opportunity to retest. The retest must be completed within five school days of the notification of the grade and it must be done either before or after school. Teachers will offer an intervention

based on individualized student areas of deficiency on the major assignment. The retest administered will be a different format of the test and will have a maximum grade of a 70. Teachers will be consistent with the method of retesting for each major assignment. The requirements for retesting must be approved by the principal.

*EXCEPTIONS:* The following assessments are not subject to the reassessment guidelines: DRA; mCLASS and Running records; Student projects.

#### Grade Reporting:

In order to provide students and parents with timely feedback, grades are entered into the online gradebook by the Monday of the following week the assignment was given. Grades are recorded during the nine weeks in which the work occurs.

#### Dishonesty / Cheating:

Cheating is considered a major offense that interferes with the learning environment. Parents will be notified of the offense and may be requested to come for a conference with the administrator to discuss the offense and the disciplinary action. The disciplinary action will depend on the offense, previous actions, and the seriousness of the misbehavior and will follow the Student Code of Conduct.

## 2020-2021 Secondary Grading Guidelines

### Wharton Junior High and Wharton High School Classes:

- Major Assignments (unit tests, projects, presentations, lab reports, book reports, etc.) will count 60% of the nine weeks grade. A minimum of three major grades in a regular class is required in each nine weeks. No major grade will be counted more than once. Non-Major Assignments (homework, class work, short quizzes, lab reports, projects, journal writings, etc.) will count 40% of the nine weeks grade. A minimum of nine non-major grades are required each nine weeks, with a minimum of one grade (either a major or non-major grade) posted each week. These grades will be recorded by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday of the following week.
- Class of 2025 (current 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the 2020-2021 school year): There will be three levels of courses offered – on-level, pre-AP, and AP/Dual Credit. High school level courses that are completed at the junior high level will receive high school credit on a 4.0 grading scale (Algebra I).
  - On-level – grades will be calculated on a 4.0 grading scale
  - Pre-AP – grades will be calculated on a 5.0 grading scale
  - AP/Dual Credit – grades will be calculated on a 6.0 grading scale
  - Dual Credit classes follow WCJC guidelines.
- To protect the integrity of the grading process, students will not grade another student's work; however, peer editing and collaborative pairs or small groups that are collectively comparing and contrasting work are allowed. Numeric grades are only to be assigned by the teacher.
- Grades will not be given for non-academic tasks. Additionally, classes that have extra- curricular components (athletics, band drill team, FFA, etc.) will not assign grades for after school practices or performances. Grades are to be generated by in class work that is related to the TEKS.
- Students who fail a major assignment (test) will be given one opportunity to retest [EIA (LEGAL)-P]. The retest must be completed within five school days of the notification of the grade and it must be done either before or after school. All teachers will offer an intervention based on individualized student areas of deficiency on the major

assignment. The retest administered will be a different format of the test and will have a maximum grade of a 70. Teachers will be consistent with the method of retesting for each major assignment. The requirements for retesting must be approved by the principal.

- For each day of an excused absence, they have one school day to redo the assignment. Students absent for an extended period of time will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- If a student does not turn in an assignment, the teacher will post a missing grade indicator for that assignment.
- Academic Dishonesty: A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to either grade penalties or disciplinary penalties in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.
- Semester Exams will count 1/7 (14%) of the semester average. Students will not have the opportunity to retake a semester exam if they fail that exam.

#### Wharton High School Final Exam Exemptions

SENIOR LEVEL-Students are eligible for an exam exemption in up to four (4)\* classes provided ALL of the applicable criteria are met:

- An average of 80 or above in regular and Honors course.
- No more than three (3) unexcused absences in the class.
- OSS or DAEP placement automatically bars the student from any exemptions.
- All fines/fees are clear and/or current.
- Seniors have the opportunity to be exempt for First and Second Semester exams.

JUNIOR LEVEL-Students are eligible for an exam exemption in up to three (3)\* classes provided ALL of the applicable criteria are met:

- An average of 80 or above in regular and Honors course.
- No more than three (3) unexcused absences in the class.
- OSS or DAEP placement automatically bars the student from any exemptions.
- All fines/fees are clear and/or current.

SOPHOMORE LEVEL-Students are eligible for an exam exemption in up to two (2)\* classes provided ALL of the applicable criteria are met:

- An average of 80 or above in regular and Honors course.
- No more than three (3) unexcused absences in the class.
- OSS or DAEP placement automatically bars the student from any exemptions.
- All fines/fees are clear and/or current

FRESHMAN LEVEL-Students are eligible for an exam exemption in one (1)\* class provided ALL of the applicable criteria are met:

- An average of 80 or above in regular and Honors course.
- No more than three (3) unexcused absences in the class.
- OSS or DAEP placement automatically bars the student from any exemptions.
- All fines/fees are clear and/or current