

## COVID-19 Grading Systems Protocol

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent school closures required by the Governor of the State of New York, the District has shifted to a Distance Learning Platform (hereinafter “DLP”). This shift creates a unique set of circumstances related to the continuity of learning, equity, and access. As always, but particularly during this unprecedented time, the District must eliminate practices which may perpetuate disparities among students, schools, and/or programs within the District and foster an environment in which students are not prevented from attaining success due to a lack of resources or opportunity. In accordance with NYSED guidance, the District shall consider the needs of all students and strive to ensure that its plan for the continuity of learning is equitable and available to all students. The District’s priority for instruction during this time will be to best prepare our students to meet the learning outcomes for their assigned courses and grant credit as long as the student has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework.

To best achieve this, the Board of Education shall suspend the District’s current grading systems established in Board policy 4710, Grading Systems, and hereby establishes this temporary grading systems protocol to be implemented throughout the District. Since this is a rapidly evolving and continuously changing situation, the Board may amend this protocol, as necessary, to address the most currently available information including, but not limited to, new Executive Orders issued by the Governor of the State of New York, guidance issued by the New York State Education Department (NYSED), and guidance issued by the United States Department of Education (USDOE).

The below uniform grading system appropriate for elementary and secondary students shall be implemented for the remainder of the 2019 – 2020 school year, or until such time as the Board determines it is necessary to change this protocol or appropriate to return to the grading systems established in Board policy 4710, whichever is sooner.

### **Elementary Level Grading**

The following grading scale shall be used for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students for the second marking period (January 27 – June 26, 2020).

- Students shall receive a grade of **Meets Learning Standards (M)** or **Does Not Meet Learning Standards (DNM)** for each subject area.
- **A student shall be awarded a M if:**
  - the student:
    - participated in the teacher’s DLP consistently, inconsistently, or did not participate due to lack of access; and
    - submitted completed assignments or Student Work Logs for Distance Learning (hereinafter “Work Logs”); or
  - the student did not submit any assignments or Work Logs because he/she/they were unable to, but the teacher and/or an administrator confirmed that the student completed Work Logs and the building principal provided authorization for such grade.
- **A student shall be awarded a DNM if:**
  - the student did not submit any completed assignments or Work Logs; and
  - the teacher and/or an administrator could not confirm that the student completed Work Logs after informing the building principal that the student did not submit any work.

The following grading scale shall be used for students in grades one (1) through six (6) for the third marking period (March 16 – June 26, 2020).

- Students shall receive a grade of **Pass (P)** or **Fail (F)** for each subject area.
- **A student shall be awarded a P if:**
  - the student:
    - participated in the teacher’s DLP consistently, inconsistently, or did not participate due to lack of access; and
    - submitted completed assignments resulting in a passing grade of sixty-five through one hundred (65 – 100) or Work Logs; or
  - the student did not submit any assignments or Work Logs because he/she/they were unable to, but the teacher and/or an administrator confirmed that the student completed Work Logs and the building principal provided authorization for such grade.
- **A student shall be awarded a F if:**
  - the student did not submit completed assignments or Work Logs, and the teacher and/or an administrator could not confirm that the student completed Work Logs after informing the building principal that the student did not submit any work; or
  - the student submitted assignments resulting in a failing grade (64 and below).

### **Secondary Level Grading**

**Third Marking Period:** The following grading scale shall be used for students in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) for the third marking period (January 27 – April 17, 2020).

- Students shall receive a grade of **Pass (P)**, **Pass with Distinction (PWD)**, or **Incomplete (I)**.
- **A student shall receive a P if:**
  - the student:
    - participated in the teacher’s DLP consistently, inconsistently, or did not participate due to lack of access; and
    - submitted completed assignments resulting in a passing grade of sixty-five through eighty-four (65 – 84) or Work Logs; or
  - the student did not submit any assignments or Work Logs because he/she/they were unable to, but the teacher and/or an administrator confirmed that the student completed Work Logs and the building principal provided authorization for such grade.
- **A student shall receive a PWD if:**
  - the student participated in the teacher’s DLP consistently, inconsistently, or did not participate due to lack of access; and
  - submitted completed assignments resulting in a passing grade of eighty-five through one hundred (85 – 100).
- **A student shall receive an I if the student does not meet the above criteria to receive a P.**
- **Students that receive an I** in the third marking period shall have until May 29, 2020 to submit completed assignments or Work Logs. After May 29, each student’s grade shall be converted to a P, PWD, or F, as appropriate.
  - A student shall receive a P or PWD consistent with the above criteria.
  - A student shall receive a F if:
    - the student did not submit completed assignments or Work Logs, and the teacher and/or an administrator could not confirm that the student completed Work Logs after informing the building principal that the student did not submit any work; or

- the student submitted assignments resulting in a failing grade of forty through sixty-four (40 – 64).

**Fourth Marking Period:** The following grading scale shall be used for students in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) for the fourth marking period (April 20 – June 26, 2020).

- Students shall receive a grade of **Pass (P)**, **Pass with Distinction (PWD)**, or **Fail (F)** for each course.
- **A student shall receive a P if:**
  - the student:
    - participated in the teacher’s DLP consistently, inconsistently, or did not participate due to lack of access; and
    - submitted completed assignments resulting in a passing grade of sixty-five through eighty-four (65 – 84) or Work Logs; or
  - the student did not submit any assignments or Work Logs because he/she/they were unable to, but the teacher and/or an administrator confirmed that the student completed Work Logs and the building principal provided authorization for such grade.
- **A student shall receive a PWD if:**
  - the student participated in the teacher’s DLP consistently, inconsistently, or did not participate due to lack of access; and
  - submitted completed assignments resulting in a passing grade of eighty-five through one hundred (85 – 100).
- **A student shall receive a F if:**
  - the student did not submit completed assignments or Work Logs, and the teacher and/or an administrator could not confirm that the student completed Work Logs after informing the building principal that the student did not submit any work; or
  - the student submitted assignments resulting in a failing grade of forty through sixty-four (40 – 64).

**Student Grade Point Averages (GPAs)**

Student GPAs for the 2019 – 2020 school year shall culminate at the end of the second marking period (January 24, 2020). Grades from the third and fourth marking periods shall not be calculated into a student’s GPA for the 2019 – 2020 school year. All grades from these marking periods will be included on a student’s official transcript; however, the grades will not be calculated into a student’s final cumulative GPA.

**Students with Disabilities**

For students with individualized education plans, progress toward annual goals shall be reported on the student’s Progress Report for IEP Goals and provided to parents and/or persons in parental relation contemporaneously with student report cards.

In accordance with New York State laws, rules, and regulations, students with severe disabilities, who qualify for New York State alternate assessment (NYSAA) and for whom the standard performance indicators and/or assessments are not appropriate, shall be graded and/or assessed utilizing alternate performance indicators and/or assessments aligned with alternate academic achievement standards. Progress reports on these assessments will also be issued pursuant to applicable New York State laws, rules and regulations. The same considerations regarding student participation in the teacher’ DLP

and the submission of completed assignments or Work Logs shall be utilized for students who participate in NYSAA.

### **Grade Change Requests**

In accordance with the District's current procedures and if warranted, a teacher may request to change a student's previously assigned grade during the 2019 – 2020 school year to reflect a justified increase to that grade. All grade change requests must be submitted for approval to the Building Principal in writing on the District's grade change form. The form must be signed by the teacher and shall include a justification for the grade change. All requests must be thoroughly reviewed by the Building Principal and grades may only be changed if the Building Principal authorizes the change in writing on the District's form. A copy of said form shall be maintained in the student's record whether or not it is approved. Upon the request of the Superintendent of Schools, his/her designee, and/or a District Central Office Administrator, the Building Principal shall be prepared to provide information regarding the justification for the grade change request and an explanation of their approval or rejection thereof.