

Holtville Unified School District

4th Quarter 2020 Grading and Credit Earning Framework and Policy: Beginning April 27, 2020

I. Introduction

The spread of the COVID-19 virus around the country quickly and dramatically altered our school year, forcing schools to close suddenly on March 17, 2020. However, as per the California Governor's directive, this closure does not lift the responsibility that California schools must continue educating students. It is during this challenging time that our schools have been tasked with the challenge of educating students from afar, utilizing existing technology, innovating new teaching methods, and pioneering alternative means to keep our students engaged in learning.

Over the past few weeks, while our staff has been diligently working to keep educating students, the HUSD Administration Team has been busy preparing for the weeks to come. While we remain hopeful that the COVID-19 virus will be defeated, and that we may return back to school, we must temper our optimism with the reality that our schools may not be allowed to open for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. This brings about many questions that must be answered. One of the most asked of these questions is, "How will our schools handle grading if the schools do not re-open?" Though we may not have all of the answers to the questions you are seeking, our team has gone through the difficult task of addressing how grades will be assigned should we be forced to remain closed for the remainder of the school year.

The document that follows is our district's attempt to address this immediate concern – student grades. We know that there will be other questions concerning student events, including promotion and graduation ceremonies. At this time, we ask for your continued patience as we await further news from State and Local authorities. For now, we ask that you please read the following grading policy that takes effect April 27, 2020. Please review the following carefully in order to help your student to progress and achieve as much as possible in the remaining weeks of the 2019-20 school year.

II. Grading and Credit Guidelines:

Active participation in distance learning is an expectation of all students during the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. The following are guidelines by grade level:

GRADES TK-5

- All classes and subjects during the 4th quarter of the 2019-2020 school year will be graded on a "Pass/Fail" credit model. Students will receive credit if they complete the work assigned to them between April 27, 2020 and June 4, 2020.
 - Pass: 60% or better with completion of coursework per subject area

- Fail: 59.99% or lower and student is not completing coursework that is assigned per subject area
- Consideration will be given for modifications and accommodations for students with IEPs, 504s, and students who are English Language Learners.
- All students in grades TK-5 who were meeting grade level criteria at the end of the 3rd quarter must complete the assigned work (April 27, 2020 to June 4, 2020) to meet promotion criteria.
 - All course work from March 17 - April 9, 2020 will have a positive impact on the grade and incomplete work will not affect the final grade.
- Students in grades TK-5 who were not meeting promotion criteria on March 13, 2020 will be evaluated on a case by case basis for the work completed from April 27, 2020 to June 4, 2020.
- If the student has made no effort to complete work, nor contacted the school or teacher in any format, they may receive no credit. Any student who is failing as of May 8, 2020 will receive a deficiency notice the following week.

GRADES 6-8

- All classes and subjects during the 4th quarter of the 2019-2020 school year will continue to be graded on a letter grade model. Students will be graded on the work assigned between April 27, 2020 and June 4, 2020.
- Consideration will be given for modifications and accommodations for students with IEPs, 504s, and students who are English Language Learners.
- All students in grades 6-8 who were meeting grade level criteria at the end of the 3rd quarter must complete the assigned work (April 27, 2020 to June 4, 2020) to meet promotion criteria.
- All course work from March 17 - April 9, 2020 will have a positive impact on the grade and incomplete work will not affect the final grade.
- Students in grades 6-8 who were not meeting promotion criteria on March 13, 2020 will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for the work completed from April 27, 2020 to June 4, 2020.
- If the student has made no effort to complete work, nor contacted the school or teacher in any format, they may receive no credit. Any student who is failing as of May 8, 2020 will receive a deficiency notice the following week.
- If the student has made an effort to complete the work, their semester grade will be no lower than their 3rd quarter grade.

- The semester grade may regress to a lower grade if no attempt to complete work has been made, and/or no contact with the school has been attempted. The semester grade will regress no more than one letter grade from the 3rd quarter grade.
- The District guidelines for the 8th grade promotion/activities remain in place. Work completed during the 4th quarter will be taken into consideration for 8th grade promotion/activities eligibility.

GRADES 9-12

Active participation in distance learning is an expectation of all students during the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. The following are guidelines for grading:

- The 3rd quarter grade will be utilized as the baseline for the semester grades.
- If the student has made an adequate effort to complete online work and meets teacher expectations of quality, the work can only maintain or improve the student's final semester grade.
- If the student completes partial work, or work that does not meet teacher expectations of quality, the student's final semester grade may be reduced by one letter grade.
- If a student is failing but increases their effort and demonstrates increasing ability during the 4th quarter (April 27 - June 4, 2020), they may earn full credit for the final semester grade.
 - All course work from March 17 - April 24, 2020 will have a positive impact on the grade and incomplete work will not affect the final grade.
- If the student has made no effort to complete work, nor contact the school or teacher in any form, the teacher has the option to:
 - Issue the letter grade that is reflective of the student's achievement.
 - Issue pass/fail for the second semester under special circumstances.
- Considerations will be given for modifications and accommodations for students with IEPs, 504s, and students who are English Language Learners.
- If there are extenuating circumstances that have prevented the student from participating in distance learning, these will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine grading outcomes by the teacher and site administration.
- Students already enrolled in, and working on, an online course such as Edgenuity, APEX, A+ Credit Recovery, or Sam Webb/Alternative Education, will proceed as normal.

- If the student has made no effort to complete work, nor contacted the school or teacher in any format, they may receive no credit. Any student who is at risk of failing as of May 8, 2020 will receive a deficiency notice the following week.
- Grades for Seniors are due from teachers on May 24th at 11:59 pm.
- Grades for Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors are due from teachers on June 4th at 11:59 pm.

III. References from the California Department of Education (CDE)

From Executive Order (N-26-20) issued on March 4, 2020 #2(i):

"If an LEA closes its schools to address the COVID-19, as provided in paragraph 4 of this Order, the LEA will continue to receive State funding to support the following during the period of closure:

- Continue providing high-quality educational opportunities to students, to the extent feasible through, among other options, distance learning and/or independent study"

From State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, in his statement released March 31, 2020:

"Due to the current safety concerns and needs for ongoing social distancing, it currently appears that our students will not be able to return to school campuses before the end of the school year. In order to allow schools to plan accordingly, and to ensure that learning still occurs until the end of the school year, we are suggesting that schools plan and prepare to have their curriculum carried out through a distance learning model. This is in no way to suggest that school is over for the year, but rather we should put all efforts into strengthening our delivery of education through distance learning."

IV. References from the U.S. Department of Education

From the Supplemental Fact Sheet, "Addressing the Risk of COVID-19 in Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Schools While Serving Children with Disabilities", issued March 21, 2020:

"To be clear: ensuring compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504), and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act should not prevent any school from offering educational programs through distance instruction.

School districts must provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities and those individuals providing education, specialized instruction, and related services to these students. In this unique and ever-changing environment, OCR and OSERS recognize that these exceptional circumstances may affect how all educational and related services and supports are provided,

and the Department will offer flexibility where possible. However, school districts must remember that the provision of FAPE may include, as appropriate, special education and related services provided through distance instruction provided virtually, online, or telephonically.

The Department understands that, during this national emergency, schools may not be able to provide all services in the same manner they are typically provided. While some schools might choose to safely, and in accordance with state law, provide certain IEP services to some students in-person, it may be unfeasible or unsafe for some institutions, during current emergency school closures, to provide hands-on physical therapy, occupational therapy, or tactile sign language educational services. Many disability-related modifications and services may be effectively provided online. These may include, for instance, extensions of time for assignments, videos with accurate captioning or embedded sign language interpreting, accessible reading materials, and many speech or language services through video conferencing."

IV. Holtville Unified School District Contact Protocol

- We understand that this is a difficult time for Holtville students, parents, and guardians. We also know that there may be many questions regarding the above grading framework. To ensure that we are adequately able to address concerns in a timely fashion, we ask that parents and guardians refer questions first to the student’s teacher. If a satisfactory answer is not provided, or if you feel that your student has additional needs, we ask that you then contact the site Principal(s).

Finley Elementary School
Mrs. Lupita Perez
lperez@husd.net

Pine Elementary School
Mrs. Patricia Harrison
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Holtville Middle School
Mr. Eric Velazquez
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Holtville High School
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Freedom Academy
Mr. Mitchell Drye
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Sam Webb High School
Mr. Mitchell Drye
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- If you have contacted the school site Principal, and feel you need additional assistance, you may contact the District Office Administration.

Mrs. Marjorie Stacey
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Mr. John-Paul Wells
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Mr. Celso Ruiz
Superintendent
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