



**Huntsville Independent
School District**

**Secondary
Grading
Guidelines
2018-2019**

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PURPOSE OF GRADES

Grades are a reflection of a student's achievement of learning standards.

PROCEDURES

INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICE

When a student learns new material, he or she goes through a time of wrestling with the material before eventually mastering the information or skills. It is expected that a student will make mistakes during this learning process. Any work done during this learning period is considered *Instructional Practice*. The purpose of *Instructional Practice* is not to evaluate a student's final achievement of a learning standard(s), but to determine where he or she is in the learning process, diagnose any problems, and aid in getting the help needed to learn the material. *Instructional Practice* could consist of different types of practice including, but not limited to:

- Rubric graded notebooks and journals based on TEKS
- Teacher observations
- Formative assessments
- Learning centers/stations
- Writing processes
- Homework
- Learning pieces within a Portfolio

INSTRUCTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

The purpose of Instructional Achievement is to evaluate how well a student is meeting the learning standards. Some student work for Instructional Achievement may take place outside of the classroom. Instructional Achievement could consist of many different types of assessments including, but not limited to:

- Tests
- Quizzes
- Writings (term papers, essays, compositions)
- Presentations
- Research Projects
- Performance
- Special Projects

HOMEWORK

Homework is for the purpose of independent practice, extension, and enrichment of learning topics previously covered in class. Assignments must be related to state and/or local curriculum standards. While students should be able to complete homework assignments independently, parents are encouraged to oversee the assignments. Homework will not be assigned (created) as a consequence for misbehavior.

	INTERMEDIATE	MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actual time required to complete assignments will vary with each student's study habits, academic skills, and selected course load. Collaborate with team teacher/department leads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Intermediate
Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection of a student's achievement of learning standards. Non-completion of homework should not determine a failing grade for the grading period. Homework can not count more than 10% of a total "Instructional Practice" average. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Intermediate
School Holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No homework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As needed to meet course requirements, i.e., Pre-AP, AP, certification exams, etc..
Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiated and meaningful homework tied to the TEKS. Emphasis on process not product. Homework is an extension of previously taught material. It may also prepare students for future learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Intermediate

LATE WORK

Late work penalty only applies to students who are in attendance, but fail to turn in work on time. Late work will only be accepted until the end of a grading period.

Days Late	Points deducted	Examples
1 day	10	100 records up to 90
2 days	20	100 records up to 80
3 days	30	100 records up to 70
4 or more days	40	100 records up to 60

REASSESSMENT

Reassessment must be offered to allow a student another opportunity to show mastery on a test/assessment after he/she has scored a 74 or lower. After reteaching occurs, the reassessment option may include a formal or informal measure deemed appropriate by the teacher/course level for evaluating the skills/concepts. The teacher needs to make every effort to allow the student to be reassessed as soon as possible. The opportunity to be reassessed should be provided within one week after the failing grade is received. A reassessment must be completed prior to the next assessment/test (Instructional Achievement assessment).

Only one reassessment may be taken per failing assessment/test grade. The maximum grade earned on reassessment is a 75. Reassessment shall be optional on the part of the student. The reassessment option is not available for final exams.

If 50% or more of the students in a class (Leveled, PreAP and AP) fail to demonstrate mastery of state and/or local curriculum standards on an Instructional Achievement Assessment, the teacher must provide reteaching and reassessment during class time. All students in the class will be given the opportunity to reteach and reassess. The higher of the two grades will be recorded.

PARTICIPATION GRADES

Participation grades will be awarded as an Instructional Practice grade. Such grades will be awarded only on the basis of criteria that are clearly identified and communicated to students prior to the learning activities. The criteria shall state the expected academic proficiencies and behaviors to be demonstrated by the students. The criteria must be directly related to the knowledge and skills of the course. Teachers may observe and assess an individual student's participation in learning activities but no individual student's participation grade on any assignment involving group instructional work shall be

determined by the performance of other students in the group.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit must be related to the TEKS in the course. If extra credit is offered, it must be available to all students in that course. Extra credit may not be given for clerical tasks such as giving a student a "100" for returning a progress/report card, canned goods, fundraiser, etc.. If the extra credit assignment creates a financial or transportation burden on the student, an alternative extra credit assignment will be given. Extra credit will not replace any missed assignment, and can only be given if all required work has been completed.

ABSENTEEISM

A. Enrolled Students

1. Students shall be expected to make up assignments and tests after absences. In general a student has one day to make up work for each day he/she is absent.
2. Instructional Practice and Instructional Achievement assignments scheduled and communicated before an absence are generally due on the day of return.
3. Make-ups of exams will generally be scheduled by the teacher and student to take place outside of regular classroom time.
4. Teachers need to take into account extenuating circumstances of students in regards to making up work missed due to absences.

B. Students Not Enrolled for an Entire Grading Period

1. When students transfer into the district during a grading period from another accredited school, the grades received from the sending school for the same or similar course will be calculated with current course grades to compute the progress or report card grade.
2. A student, through no fault of his/her own, who is not enrolled for an entire grading period, semester, or course, shall be provided opportunities to earn credit for the semester or course or grade for the grading period. The Board of Trustees shall adopt policies establishing alternative ways for students to make up work or regain credit lost, because of absences. Appropriate opportunities shall include, but are not limited to: credit by examination, make-up work, and or tutorial sessions.

AWARDING CLASS CREDIT

Mastery of Objectives

1. Student academic achievement shall be based upon the degree of mastery of the District's objectives which reflect the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
2. In order to be awarded a grade of a "70" in a course or subject, a student must demonstrate 70% mastery of the District's objectives in any recording period.

Required Attendance

In accordance with State law, the student must have ninety percent (90%) attendance in the class during the semester to be eligible to earn credit for that course.

Seniors and juniors are allowed a total of two college visits each school year. The college visitation form is to be completed prior to the college visit for approval from the student's counselor. These absences for approved college/university visits do not affect exemption for semester exams. The absences are considered excused if a letter on college letterhead or an email from the college coach are turned into the attendance office.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF GRADES

For each report card period, the minimum number of grades to be used in calculating the average for each core subject and/or course is as follows:

GRADES 5-12 A minimum of nine separate grades per subject are required each six weeks and a minimum of twelve separate grades per subject are required each nine weeks. At least two grades for six weeks and three grades for nine weeks must be separate Instructional Achievement grades.

At least three grades (including one Instructional Achievement grade) must be recorded and reported by the end of the third week progress report. The requirement for one Instructional Achievement grade by progress report time may be waived for the first six weeks of the year.

All grades taken within Instructional Practice and Instructional Achievement shall be recorded in the electronic grade book for grade levels 5-12 within a week of being collected. However, major projects and similar student work may take longer than a week to grade due to the nature of the grading process.

GRADING SCALES

Grades may be calculated on Instructional Practice and Instructional Achievement in one of the following methods.

A. NUMERICAL GRADES

A 100 is the highest grade that can be recorded. The lowest passing grade is 70.

The grading scale is:

A= 90-100

B= 80-89

C= 75-79

D= 70-74

F= Failing (Below 70)

B. GRADE EQUIVALENTS (To be used for Transfer-In-Grades)

1. Secondary

A+ = 100

A = 95

A- = 90

B+ = 88

B = 85

B- = 80

C+ = 78

C = 75

D+ = 74

D = 72

D- = 70

F = Failing 69 and below

CALCULATION OF GRADES

All secondary courses will calculate and report a semester average. Calculated averages reported on Progress Reports or Report Cards may not exceed 100%. Grades recorded in a gradebook represent a confidential record for assessment of student performance.

Intermediate School Courses

The semester average will be the average of the two nine week grading periods.

1st Nine Week Average	50%	3rd Nine Week Average	50%
2nd Nine Week Average	50%	4th Nine Week Average	50%
Semester Average	100%	Semester Average	100%

Middle School Courses

The semester average will be the average of the three six week grading periods. High school elective courses will follow the high school course credit semester average since semester exams are administered.

1st Six Weeks Average	33.3334%	4th Six Weeks Average	33.3334%
2nd Six Weeks Average	33.3334%	5th Six Weeks Average	33.3334%
3rd Six Weeks Average	33.3334%	6th Six Weeks Average	33.3334%
Semester Average	100%	Semester Average	100%

COMMUNICATION OF GRADES AND ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Grade Reporting

- Informal Notification: Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to contact teacher at any time to inquire about grades.
- Progress Report: At three week intervals, students will be given a progress report in all courses. It is the responsibility of the student to take the progress report card home to their parents/guardians.
- Formal Notification: At the end of each grading period, parents will be notified of their child's grades by means of a report card. The report card in addition to grades will have the number of days the student has been absent during the official marking class period. Report cards are not mailed home and it is the responsibility of the student to take the report card home to their parents/guardians. Final report cards are mailed home.
- Viewing Grades Online: Parents may view their child's grades online through Home Access Center. Directions and access are on the district's website under the Parent/Student tab.

Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences

- Purpose/Function: Parent/Guardian and teacher conferences are encouraged in HISD and serve the purpose of home and school communication in regards to student's academic and behavior progress. In addition, the district has set calendar dates for parent/teacher conferences. The Board of Trustees shall adopt a policy that provides for a conference between parents and teachers.
- Recommended Conferences: If in any course, a student falls below a grade less than a 70, it is strongly encouraged that a parent set up a conference with the child's teacher. The parent may contact the teacher directly or contact the child's counselor to set up a conference. It is strongly recommended that teachers contact the parent as soon as the child's grade begins to fall below a 70.