

**Purpose:** The transition to digital learning has brought forward shifts that are unique for students, families, teachers and school leaders. Throughout this transition, flexibility, support and balance have been key to working collaboratively for the best interest of each and every student. This document serves to provide guidance and clarification regarding the grading and promotion practices for digital learning due to the COVID-19 health crisis.

## **Grading Overview- Applies to All Grade Levels**

### ***Will a student earn grades for the work they complete during this time of digital learning (Quarter 4/end of year reporting period)?***

Yes, students will continue to earn grades assigned by the teacher based on progress in their classes. Student grades and credits will continue to count toward grade-level promotion and course completion and be based on performance toward and mastery of grade-level standards. Teachers will continue to grade work and update progress within FOCUS. The grades a student earns will appear as they normally would on a student's report card (e.g. A, B, C, or E, V, S etc.)

### ***How can a parent/guardian check student grades/progress?***

Parents/guardians and students can check progress on FOCUS at any time. If there are questions or concerns, parents/guardians should connect with classroom teachers as soon as possible to discuss and collaboratively put a plan in place to support student progress.

### ***Who enters and issues student grades?***

Classroom teachers remain responsible for assessing student progress and issuing student grades.

### ***What will teachers consider and utilize when determining student grades?***

Just as done throughout the school year, teachers will assess and consider the completion, accuracy and quality of student assignments. Teachers will provide students with multiple opportunities to complete work and/or demonstrate mastery of content. Teachers will also consider how students have demonstrated their knowledge in small group or one-on-one interactions throughout digital instruction.

### ***To what extent should accommodations for Exceptional Student Education (ESE), English Learner (EL) and 504 accommodations be considered in a student's grade?***

Teachers should ensure, to the extent possible within the digital platforms, that the accommodations for ESE, EL and 504 students are planned for and provided. Teachers should also ensure students have multiple ways to demonstrate performance toward and mastery of grade-level standards through the differentiation of assignments and appropriate accommodations. Teachers should review the implementation of accommodations and how they did (or did not) impact student performance and grades as compared to the first three quarters of learning. A grade of 'D' or 'F' may only be issued to an ESE, EL or 504 student who received appropriate accommodations and strategies during instruction and assessment.

### ***Does attendance count toward student grades during digital learning?***

No, attendance is not to be utilized as a factor for a student's grade.

***Does every assignment that a teacher gives within TEAMS (online platform) count toward a student's grade?***

No, just as in the traditional classroom setting not every assignment has to be graded and directly factor into student grades. Teachers must; however, be transparent in their expectations and share them widely with families and students.

***Will a student be penalized if technology issues have been a barrier for assignment completion?***

No, if technology is an issue for a student/family, the school-based Child Study Team (CST), in collaboration with classroom teachers and school leaders will reach out to the family to problem-solve and ensure the student has access to the appropriate technology to continue their learning. Teachers will provide students with multiple opportunities to complete work and/or demonstrate mastery of content. Teachers will consider factors, such as technology issues, in determining how many graded assignments to utilize in determining a student's grade.

***There has been a big change in student performance, what should I do?***

As grades are reviewed and assigned during the final grading period, teachers and parents/guardians should reflect on student performance as compared to the other grading periods. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure open and ongoing communication throughout digital learning. Just as done throughout the school year, reaching out via phone and/or email to schedule time to have a virtual conference to collaboratively and proactively plan for success is always in best interest of students. If performance is significantly lower than the previous three quarters, teachers may place greater weight on the first three quarters.

**Final Grade Calculation- Middle and High School**

***Will students have to take district final exams?***

No, the final exams for middle and high school students have been waived to mirror the decision Florida Department of Education to cancel state End-Of-Course (EOC) assessments. Classroom teachers can create and administer assessments and assignments that allow students to demonstrate their overall mastery of content taught during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of digital learning.

***If there are no district final exams, how will semester grades be calculated?***

The semester final grade will be based on the student's 3rd and 4th quarter grades. The final for each quarter will be averaged together (each worth 50%) to calculate a final second semester grade for every course.

***If the state EOCs in Algebra, Geometry, Biology, Geometry, Civics, and US History are not administered, how will grades for these courses be calculated as the EOC is supposed to be 30% of the final grade?***

For students currently enrolled in courses that would normally include a statewide EOC to be factored into the student's grade, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has waived the requirement for the EOC to be 30% of the final grade. The semester final grade will be based on the student's 3rd and 4th quarter grades. The final for each quarter will be averaged together (each worth 50%) to calculate a final second semester grade for every course.

## **Student Promotion and Retention**

### ***Have the promotion guidelines for students been impacted due to the school closures?***

No, district and state procedures place the responsibility for decisions regarding student placement primarily with the principal and the School Placement Committee in consultation with parents. Students may not be assigned to a grade level based solely on age or other factors that constitute social promotion (F.S.1008.25). Grade level placement decisions are made with consideration of the following indicators:

- achievement level and ability level to reach the age appropriate standards;
- physical, social, and emotional maturity;
- attendance and number of retentions;
- other school records; and
- input from parent or guardian

**Note:** As the Grade 3 ELA FSA will not be administered during the 2019-20 school year, promotion of third graders will be based on classroom performance, progress monitoring data with parent, teacher and principal consultation, as needed.

### ***Will parents be able to request their child be retained to the same grade for the 2020-21 school year?***

Parents play an important role in the planning and success of a student's education. If parents, teachers and school leaders determine it is in the best interest of the student a student may be retained. Promotion decisions should always be made in consultation with parents, teachers, and school leaders based on the students' classroom performance and progress monitoring data.

Students will not be retained solely based on performance during the fourth quarter (last nine weeks of school). Performance during the entire school year should and will play a major role in making any determinations about grade-level retention.

Students may be considered for retention in the current grade due to school closure conditions when requested by the parent. Retention will be approved in cases where the teachers and school administrators agree that it is in the best interest of the student.

### ***Will there be summer opportunities to assist students who may need to pass classes to be promoted?***

Yes, students in this situation can enroll in the Summer Bridge Course Recovery program. Elementary and middle school students may enroll in Summer Bridge to successfully recover the failed course(s). Information regarding Summer Bridge Course Recovery can be located on the located on the [district website](#). In high school, students do not need to enroll in Summer Bridge, but should enroll in Credit Recovery at their high school.

### ***What other options are available for student who fail a required core course?***

Students who fail a core course may enroll in credit recovery. If students fail to recover credits, they will be required to enroll in extended learning/course recovery program and/or placed on a flexible schedule during the 2020-21 school year. This may mean that the student will be scheduled for the failed course in place of an elective class.

## **Florida State Assessments and End of Course Exams (*previously issued FAQs*)**

### ***Has the state cancelled the Florida State Assessments (FSAs) and End of Course tests (EOCs) for the 2019-20 school year?***

Yes. The [Governor's Executive Order No. 20-52](#) states, "All remaining state assessments for K-12 are canceled for the 2019-2020 school year." These state assessments include all FSA and End of Course assessments in Algebra, Biology, Geometry, Civics, and US History.

### ***How does the change to state testing impact the graduation and promotion requirements for current students?***

- **Current seniors (students who entered as 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the 2016-17 school year):**

The [Governor's Executive Order No. 20-52](#) states, "students who are in the 2019-2020 high school graduating class are exempt from being required to use assessments to earn a standard high school diploma." Therefore, if seniors have earned the total credits needed, passed the required courses, and attained the required GPA to graduate, then they are eligible to graduate this year.

- **Middle school students and high school students in grades 9-11 who:**

- are **currently enrolled in an Algebra 1** course with an associated EOC will not take the EOC this year, but will be required to meet the math assessment graduation requirement in one of three ways:
  - pass a future administration of the Algebra 1 EOC (offered four times per year), or
  - earn a concordant score, or
  - pass a future administration of the Geometry EOC.
- have not passed the **Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) FSA** must still meet the exit criteria by:
  - passing a future administration of that assessment, or
  - earning a concordant score.
- are currently enrolled in **courses that require an EOC** will not take the associated EOC, with the exception of Algebra 1 (above).
- are currently enrolled in courses that requires an **EOC to be factored into their final grade**, this requirement is waived.

- **Grade 3 promotion**

As the Grade 3 ELA FSA will not be administered, promotion of third graders will be based on classroom performance, progress monitoring data with parent, teacher and principal consultation, as needed.