

Grading for Students in Grades 9-11

The overarching goal of the Reynolds School District during this time of uncertainty is to support our students and their families. First and foremost we should do no harm. We must celebrate and reward any and all efforts by our children to engage, to whatever extent they are able. We must also be understanding if a child is unable to engage as we cannot ever truly know that child’s circumstance. Students must be held harmless during the time of upheaval. The guiding principle of our work in determining final grade marks for children must be to err on the side of the child, to uplift, and to give the benefit of the doubt every single time. The Reynolds School District remains committed to the focus on Care, Connection, and Continuity of Learning that prioritizes the well-being of the student and centers on a student’s social, emotional, physical, and mental health needs.

On April 22, 2020, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) provided information on new requirements for report card grading. Students enrolled in 9th through 11th grade will receive either a Pass (“P”) or Incomplete (“I”) on the June report card in all graded subject areas.

Distance Learning for All is designed to help minimize learning gaps for students during the emergency school closure. During the rest of this academic year, general education teachers and licensed specialists (ELD, Special Education, PE, Music, et.al.) will continue to provide multiple opportunities for students to make progress toward content-level standards. Teachers will provide feedback to students, document student progress, and determine progress towards the standards. When we return to in-person class instruction, educators will be prepared to support students and to move them forward in their growth, learning, and development.

Table 1. Pass/Incomplete Grading and Credit Guidance During Extended School Closure

PASS/CREDIT EARNED	INCOMPLETE/NO CREDIT EARNED YET
Student was passing required course(s) up to point of school closure (March 13, 2020) and demonstrated evidence of essential learning during Distance Learning by end of spring term 2020. Student earns credit for the course(s).	Student was not passing required course(s) up to point of school closure on March 13, 2020 and has NOT demonstrated evidence of essential learning during Distance Learning by the end of spring term 2020. Student does not earn credit for the course yet. See Credit-Earning Assurance Plan.
Student was not passing required course(s) up to point of school closure on March 13, 2020 but showed evidence of essential learning during Distance Learning. Grade mark changed from Incomplete (I) to Pass (P). Student earns credit for the course(s).	Student was not passing required course(s) up to point of school closure on March 13, 2020 and did NOT engage in Distance Learning. Student does not earn credit for the course yet. See Credit-Earning Assurance Plan.
Student was passing required course(s) on March 13, 2020; student cannot be reached by district staff despite repeated documented attempts to engage the student/family. Student receives a Pass and credit for the course(s), if requirements within the <i>Safeguarding Student Opportunity Clause</i> are met.	

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WHAT DOES A PASS MEAN? SHOULD A CRITERIA BE SET FOR THIS AS A WHOLE?

In order to approach student progress with care, connection, and continuity of learning, educators will pursue supportive, flexible options to allow students to demonstrate what they know and can do in reference to Oregon's standards. At the time of the school closure, high school students earning a D or higher letter mark will receive a Pass. Exceptions should be minimal and only apply to students who had F marks and produced no evidence of learning or did not engage in Distance Learning.

SAFEGUARDING STUDENT OPPORTUNITY CLAUSE

There may be students and families whom districts attempt to engage and cannot locate. This may be due to a variety of reasons such as relocation, family illness, houselessness, inability to access phone/internet, students working to support themselves/family, or that the school has not been able to establish a trusting relationship with the student/family. Districts should engage with additional staff as needed, such as McKinney-Vento liaisons, Migrant Education staff, and Indian Education specialists. Should a district not be able to contact or engage a student or their family, the following must be done:

- Document/record weekly attempts (at a minimum) to reach the student and family and keep a log of all efforts.
- Document letters (translated into home language, when necessary) sent to the student's parent/guardian/person in parental relations to re-engage the student.
- Document attempts to reach the family through partnerships with community-based organizations, internal support staff, other support agencies, or other trusted partners.
- Clarify that students are focused on essential learning and earning credits with Pass/Incomplete marks and not getting grades.

If the above efforts have been implemented and the district is unsuccessful in efforts to reach or engage the student by the end of the school year, the student shall then be awarded the mark (Pass or Incomplete) the student had upon the time of school closure for that course.¹

WORK SAMPLES/LOCAL ASSESSMENTS

All work sample requirements in mathematics, scientific inquiry, speaking, and writing for Grades 3-8 and high school are suspended for 2019-20. While ODE is not requiring work samples, the performance assessment remains an appropriate assessment strategy during Distance Learning for All.

CREDIT-EARNING ASSURANCE PLAN FOR STUDENTS IN NEED OF CREDIT

Districts are responsible for designing opportunities for students who did not receive full credit during *Distance Learning for All* in courses that were previously marked as Incomplete during the extended school closure by the end of spring 2020. A Credit-Earning Assurance Plan must be developed with students and families by the end of September 2020. All Credit-Earning Assurance Plans must be complete prior to the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year (by September 2021.)

For extended details on the grading and report card guidance, please refer to section five of [Distance Learning for All: Care, Connection and Continuity of Learning](#)

¹ *Oregon's Extended School Closure Guidance*, Spring 2020, pp. 61-62