

Grading for Students in Grades K through 8

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.

On April 22, 2020, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) provided information on new requirements for report card grading. Students enrolled in Kindergarten through 8th 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 extended 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 grade-level or content-level standards. It is acknowledged that specialists' direct involvement with students in the distance learning environment may not resemble the same learning environment as brick and mortar. 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.

Student promotion to the next grade level shall not be based on performance during the period of school closure; **no child shall be held back or retained due to any impacts of extended school closure.**

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

PASS	INCOMPLETE
Student made progress toward meeting grade-level standard(s) or was passing required course(s) at point of school closure (March 13, 2020) and showed evidence of essential learning during Distance Learning.	Student did not make progress toward meeting grade-level standard or was not passing required course(s) up to the point of school closure on March 13, 2020 and has NOT demonstrated evidence of essential learning during Distance Learning.
Student made progress toward meeting grade-level standard(s) or was passing required course(s) at point of school closure (March 13, 2020) but did NOT engage in Distance Learning despite repeated documented attempts to contact/engage the student/family.	Student did not make progress toward meeting grade-level standard(s) or was not passing a required course(s) up to the point of school closure on March 13, 2020 and did NOT engage in Distance Learning.
Student was not making progress toward meeting grade-level standard(s) or was not passing required course(s) but showed evidence of essential learning during Distance Learning. Grade mark changed from Incomplete (I) to Pass (P).	

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WHAT DOES A PASS MEAN?

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, elementary students earning a 2 or above standards-based mark or middle school students earning a D or higher letter mark will receive a Pass. Exceptions should be minimal and only apply to students who had 1 or F marks and produced no evidence of learning or did not engage in Distance Learning.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR EDUCATORS GIVEN THE NEW CONTEXT OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

- To remain flexible
- Allow for multiple modes of student engagement and response
- Acknowledge all student effort
- Minimize expectations for student persistence with a non-preferred task
- Acknowledge student's inability to sustain high levels of intellectually demanding work
- Modify assignments and allow students to show what they know in multiple ways, such as, allowing students to provide oral responses if students have extreme difficulty generating written responses
- Collect a wide variety of evidence of learning (including approximations of learning)
- Gather evidence that goes beyond academic 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 community and/or faith-based organizations along with additional staff, 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.

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 subject or 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.

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

¹ *Oregon's Extended School Closure Guidance*, Spring 2020, p. 80