



South Whidbey Grading System for Second Semester, 2019-2020 School Year During Emergency Remote Instruction

Due to the current health crisis and resulting school closure, second semester grades for the 2019-20 school year will look different from what we are used to. Rather than maintain the traditional grading method, an alternative grading system was created to accommodate the learning challenges our students face during the pandemic in compliance with the OSPI mandate dated April 21, 2020. The South Whidbey School District arrived at this plan based upon teacher input, opinions expressed by parents, and administrative discussions. We believe it provides a structure with some flexibility. Our goal is to ensure that we provide students the best opportunity to engage in learning during this unprecedented, international health crisis.

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the grading system during school closure is to:

- Comply with OSPI mandate
- Minimize the negative impact of the school closure on students' academic records
- Monitor and assess students' academic engagement
- Ensure students receive feedback and support on their academic engagement

Engagement is defined as a student's involvement and participation in the lessons and learning opportunities. It does **not** reflect a level of mastery of standards, content, or skills. This definition is in keeping with the district's intent to minimize the adverse impact of the health crisis on students' academic records.

Assignments and Learning Opportunities

Teachers will provide students with comments and feedback on their work for the purpose of helping students reflect on their progress toward learning and on what support they might need to meet standards.

Attendance

Teachers will check attendance weekly to ensure that all students receive the support needed to engage academically during the school closure. Attendance information will help teachers strategically reach out to students who are not engaging with academic work.

To comply with new OSPI grading rules, [Student Learning and Grading Guidance](#) (April 21, 2020), South Whidbey School District is adopting the following required standards:

Standards for Grading

1. Do no harm. Take no actions that make students' academic standing worse than their status on March 17.
2. Every student must be given the opportunity to improve the grade they had for each class or subject on March 17. They cannot receive a lower grade than what they had on March 17, but they may receive an incomplete (I) or No Progress (N)
 - a. Incomplete (I) pertains to high school equivalent, credit bearing courses.
 - b. No-progress (N) pertains to K-8 non-credit bearing courses.
3. Teachers will continue to regularly evaluate and communicate student growth and progress to students, families and building administrators.
4. Provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate learning (redos, alternative activities, etc.). If students do not show minimum proficiency or progress they may receive an incomplete (I) or no-progress (N).
5. Attendance, including participation in synchronous learning, cannot be used as a factor when grading students during the on-site school closure. This means that we encourage participation but recognize the difficulty this may impose on families. However, there are alternate ways to engage that teachers will provide as needed.
6. All students will be promoted to the next grade level unless otherwise approved by the school district and parents/guardians. Students may still need to make up lost learning. Students will move on to the next course level unless otherwise approved by the school district and parents/guardians. If they received an I or N it is understood that the student may not be ready for the next level without making up concepts missed.
7. Any specialized grading scales or grading accommodations specified in students' IEPs or 504 Plans must continue to be followed.

Grading Criteria: South Whidbey School District will adopt the **A, B, or I** grading criteria for **secondary classes (credit bearing) this second semester.**

A: This grade is for students who have *consistent or frequent engagement*, are completing assignments and in communication with the teacher. For example, a student is engaged, per below definition, at least three times a week. Engagement means contact with their teacher and an above average level of completion on student learning opportunities. Communication may be made through phone, email, Google Classroom, Zoom, submission of student work, etc.

B: This grade is for students who are *adequately* engaged. For example, a student is at least engaged once a week. Engagement means contact with the teacher and average level of completion on student learning opportunities. Communication may be made through phone, email, Google Classroom, Zoom, submission of student work, etc.

I: (Incomplete) This is a rare option for circumstances that might warrant an Incomplete. For example, a student has not been engaged at least once a week and has performed at a below average level of engagement on student learning opportunities during this school closure. This is a team decision made by the teacher and the principal.

Grading Criteria: South Whidbey School District will adopt the **A, B, or N** grading criteria for **grades 5-8**

A: This grade is for students who have *consistent or frequent engagement*, are completing assignments and in communication with the teacher. For example, a student is engaged, per below definition, at least three times a week. Engagement means contact with their teacher and an above average level of completion on student learning opportunities. Communication may be made through phone, email, Google Classroom, Zoom, submission of student work, etc.

B: This grade is for students who are *adequately* engaged. For example, a student is at least engaged once a week. Engagement means contact with the teacher and average level of completion on student learning opportunities. Communication may be made through phone, email, Google Classroom, Zoom, submission of student work, etc.

N: (No Progress) This is a rare option for circumstances that might warrant No Progress. For example, a student has not been engaged at least once a week and has performed at a below average level of engagement on student learning opportunities during this school closure. This is a team decision made by the teacher and the principal.

South Whidbey School District will adopt the 2, 3 or N grading criteria for grades K-4 this second semester.

3: This grade is for students who have had consistent and frequent engagement, completing assignments and communication with the teacher. For example, a student is engaged, per below definition, at least three times a week. Engagement means contact with teacher and above average level of completion on student learning opportunities. Communication may be made through phone, email, See Saw, I-Ready, Google Classroom, Zoom, submission of student work, etc.

2: This grade is for students who are adequately engaged. For example, a student is engaged at least once a week. Engagement means contact with the teacher and average level of completion on student learning opportunities. Communication may be made through phone, email, Google Classroom, See Saw, I-Ready, Zoom, submission of student work, etc.

N (No Progress): This is a rare option for circumstances that might warrant assigning an N. For example, a student has not been engaged at least once a week and has performed at a below average level of completion on student learning opportunities during this school closure. There is no evidence seen by teacher of engagement in learning activities. This is a team decision made by the teacher and the principal.

Additional Standards for Credit Bearing Courses

Grades transcribed for the spring 2020 semester (High school courses) will receive a COVID-19 designation.

Resolving an Incomplete:

- a. By default, all students will continue to the next course in the progression unless otherwise approved by the school district and parents/guardians. If they earn a passing grade in that course, the incomplete (I) will then be converted to that appropriate COVID-assigned grade per grade scale below.
- b. Upon request, students in credit-bearing courses may retake the course in the next grading period.
- c. Students may take the final (*if available*) for that course to demonstrate proficiency and earn credit along with the COVID-assigned grade per grading scale below.

Note: This grading scale *does not* supersede any grading practices or scales defined in student IEPs/504 Plans

References (*reformat this section to be consistent with rest of the document*)

- Student Learning and Grading Guidance - https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/communications/OSPI%20Student%20Learning%20and%20Grading%20Guidance_4-21-2020.pdf
- Supt. Chris Reykdal Explains Student Learning and Grading Policy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Op2-wokFU6A&feature=youtu.be&app=desktop>