



April 27, 2020

Coronavirus Update

Dear Everett Public School families:

We hope this letter finds your family healthy and well. When school districts across Washington closed for the remainder of the school year, our plans prioritized students' access to meals, technology, and resources to consistently engage in distance learning. One unresolved issue was how to assign grades during this time. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) came out with statewide grading standards on April 21. Working within their parameters, Everett Public Schools will be grading this semester as outlined below.

Grading K-8

Students in grades K–8 will be challenged by their teachers to demonstrate effort and success in learning standards. Students will move on to the next grade unless the parent/guardian has already been working through the retention process with their teacher/principal prior to the date of school building closure. The process to assign final semester grades for K-8 is yet to be determined, but no student grades will be lower than their March 17 status.

Grades 9–12 and middle school students taking credit-bearing high school level work

Students will be graded on the A, B, C or Incomplete criteria. We are awaiting word from OSPI whether Sequoia High School can continue to use alternative grading scales as they have done for many years.

- Every student will get an opportunity to improve their grade with their March 17 status as a baseline.
- No grade will go down from the March 17 baseline. No student will receive a "pass," "fail" or "no credit" grade for any course.
- Any student can improve their grade by showing frequent or consistent engagement, or by showing progress. Engagement is defined as participation (for example: exchanging academic work and connecting with teachers; logging on to lessons, evidence of independent work). Progress is defined as work that demonstrates growth towards meeting essential learning standards.
- **A or 4.0 on the 4.0 grading scale:** This is for students who had an A on March 17, or who had a lower grade and have shown both progress to learning standards **and** have shown engagement during distance learning.

- **B or 3.0 on the 4.0 grading scale:** This is for students who had a B on March 17, or who had a lower grade and have shown either progress to learning standards or have shown engagement during distance learning.
- **C or 2.0 on the 4.0 grading scale:** This is for students who had a C on March 17 and is also the foundational target for teachers to work with students who had lower than a C, to engage them in learning.
- **I (Incomplete):** This is the rare option for circumstances that might warrant it. Students assigned an “incomplete” for a course will be given opportunities to reengage in the learning standards according to a district process to be developed soon. Some options could include:
 - Summer school,
 - Courses in the following term or year,
 - Independent study,
 - Competency-based courses,
 - Online courses, or
 - Backfilling the incomplete grade with the letter grade obtained in the next course taken in that subject area.
- Every class taken during the closure period will be given a statewide designator on the high school transcript to denote the unique environment in which the course was taken.

Students receiving Special Education services

With access to accommodations and modifications, students can be graded using the grading criteria above. If a student was graded Pass / Fail before closure they can receive a “pass” or “satisfactory” grading option or the grading criteria above per OSPI. Grading should be determined on an individual-student basis in partnership with the student and parent/guardian.

College in the High School

High school students who are taking a College in the High School course will receive specific information from their teachers. Please note these courses may be subject to grading standards and expectations from the respective higher education institutions.

Sno-Isle and CTE Dual Credit

We are still seeking clarity for grading in Sno-Isle and CTE Dual Credit courses. We will provide further information as soon as possible.

Thank you and be well.

Dr. Ian Saltzman
Superintendent