

## COVID 19: Guidance for Grading

### The Why

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed many changes, challenges, and uncertainties. It is critical that we take this into consideration as we approach the upcoming weeks. The nature of non-traditional instruction is flexible and learner-centered. Learning experiences must be designed with multiple and varied ways for learners to access, engage with, and demonstrate mastery of content and skills. **It is also important to know that feedback from other districts is that teachers tend to assign far too much work early on. Please keep this in mind as planning takes place.**

Due to the nature of both teaching and learning in our current environment, flexible approaches to grading must also be considered. This is an issue that schools across the country and around the world are struggling with at this time.

The Guiding Principles below reflect the considerations from the Kentucky Department of Education as well as recommendations from the district NTI Grading Committee. This committee included members of the district leadership team, JCTA representatives and members of the SPP&G Committee.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL AND GRADING GUIDANCE: KDE, April 8, 2020**

The following non-traditional instruction (NTI) program guidance includes information and essential questions that can guide thinking as districts' leaders, administrators and teachers address the issues of the Senior Class of 2020 and the assigning and reporting of grades.

[Considerations for the Senior Class of 2020](#)

[Considerations for the Assigning and Reporting of Grades](#)

### Guiding Principles

- Above all, our first goal is to connect with our students, on-line or by phone. The first week should focus on connecting with each one and establishing relationships and norms in this new environment.
- The first week is also especially important for identifying each student's needs and creating a plan with each one that will ensure participation, progress and ultimately, a successful learning experience.
- Learners should not be penalized in any way if they cannot participate.
- Due dates/deadlines should be flexible, with student work being accepted at any time during the NTI window without penalty.
- The goal for this time period is the continuation of learning, not the continuation of all learning. What are the most essential standards and skills left to be learned and what is the most efficient, engaging way to support students' learning?

- Learners should have multiple opportunities and varied ways to demonstrate learning depending on interests, needs and context.
- Learners should have multiple opportunities to revise assignments in response to feedback
- Learners should have access to formative feedback throughout the learning process and before any kind of grade is considered.
- The time period from March 13 through the duration of NTI should not have any impact on a student for the 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 school year. This includes determination about program and/or school admission as well as grade level placement decisions.
- Revised GRADING PERIODS: For Middle and High Schools, the final two grading periods will be combined. We will not stop a grading period on April 24 and begin a new one on April 27 as originally scheduled.

**Grading during NTI will be as follows:**

Elementary Schools	Met or Not Yet Met
Middle Schools	Met or Not Yet Met
High Schools** (including any middle school students earning high school credit(s))	Participation provides an opportunity to improve Incomplete if not participating

**\*\*Additional Information for High Schools:**

1. Teachers track participation and provide feedback on student work during the NTI term.
2. A student who is participating will have the opportunity to improve the grade they had on March 13. If a student had a failing grade (U), a teacher may contract with the student during the NTI term in order to earn a passing letter grade.
3. Non-Participating students will be given an Incomplete and the opportunity to recover missing content and/or skills through a variety of intervention options.\*
4. Schools will demonstrate extra diligence and support for high school seniors to ensure all meet graduation requirements as determined by state regulations.

\*Summer/Fall Intervention Plan Options:

- a. Connect students to JCHS for Edmentum credit recovery work
- b. Schools use ESS funds to support school-based catch-up opportunities prior to the fall term or during August/September of SY 2020-21.
- c. Schools provide in school (3 weeks) review/catch up time for students as part of current course instruction.