



## **Priority Charter Schools**

### **COVID-19 Grading Policy**

*Effective: March 9, 2020*

Priority Charter Schools (PCS) understands the impact this global pandemic has had on all our families. In turn, PCS has modified and implemented a grading policy that will be in effect for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. The grading policy has been modified to be fair, consistent and manageable for our students, while at the same time, providing a means to measure a level of learning through the continued interaction and support provided by the PCS teachers and staff. In order to benefit our students' education, PCS has offered and will continue to offer varying levels of support and instructional resources to best serve our students at home until a decision is made by the Governor's Office allowing for students to safely return to their campus to receive instruction.

#### **Pre-K and Kindergarten**

Grading will continue to be skills-based with designations of 1, 2, 3, and 4 to indicate their mastery level of a student's learning.

#### **Grades 1-5**

Students are required to complete 1-2 assignments, per subject matter, per week for the last 8 weeks of school. All grades will average equally.

- No less than 8 grades per course (equals 1 grade per week)
- No more than 16 grades per course (equals no more than 2 grades per week or 1 "significant" grade)
- Any grade that is significant (ex. tests, projects, written reports) will be a **double daily grade**.
- A designated number of grades may be exempted for all students:
  - o 8-10 assignments: exempt 1 assignment
  - o 11-13 assignments: exempt 2 assignments
  - o 14-16 assignments: exempt 3 assignments
- All work must be submitted by **May 20, 2020** or all missing assignments will be counted as a "0"

#### **Grades 6-12**

Daily Grades (60% weight of grade)

- Students are required to complete 1-2 assignments per week for the last 8 weeks of school. This is required in core subject areas (i.e. Math, Reading Language Arts, Social Studies and Science) and any elective courses that count as a high school credit.
  - o No less than 8 grades per course (equals 1 grade per week)
  - o No more than 16 grades per course (equal 2 grades per week)
  - o A designate number of grades may be exempted for all students:
    - 8-10 assignments: exempt 1 assignment
    - 11-13 assignments: exempt 2 assignments
    - 14-16 assignments: exempt 3 assignments

### Major Grades (20% weight of grade)

- Teachers are required to have 2-3 major grades for the last 8 weeks of school. These can include but are not limited to: projects, unit assessments, final writing pieces, online program assessment, etc.

### Final Exam (20% weight of grade)

- Students can be exempt from the semester exam by completing 90% of all assignments. Principals have the final decision on exemption of students and completed assignments.

All assignments must be turned in by **May 20, 2020** or all missing assignments will receive a "0". You will receive correspondence from your student's teacher by May 21, 2020 to let you know if your student is exempt from the final exam. All final exams must be completed by May 28, 2020 at midnight.

### Spring Semester Hold-Harmless Averaging Examples for 1st-12th Grade

	3 <sup>rd</sup> 9wks Grade	4 <sup>th</sup> 9wks Grade	Semester Grade
<b>Example 1</b> <i>Does better the 4<sup>th</sup> 9wks</i>	80	90	$(80+90) / 2 = 85\%$ Final Semester Grade
<b>Example 2</b> <i>Does better the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9wks</i>	84	74	$(84+84) / 2 = 84\%$ Final Semester Grade
<b>Example 3</b> <i>Student didn't make a valid attempt at the 4<sup>th</sup> 9wks</i>	80	40	<i>Student did not make a valid attempt to participate/ complete work (min of 65%)</i> $(80+40) / 2 = 60\%$ Final Semester Grade
<b>Example 4</b> <i>Student failed both 9 wks</i>	50	60	Student does not earn credit for the spring semester

### Rank Calculation

A change in policy has been taken into effect and reads as follows:

"The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be selected **at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9wks of the senior year**. The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the two graduation seniors with the highest rank in class (weighted grade point average). To be eligible, a student shall have been enrolled in the School for the entire last three semesters prior to graduation."

### Retention and Promotion Standards

In response to TEA cancelling STAAR testing, retention and promotion standards will be based on the criteria outlined below.

A student may be promoted on the basis of academic achievement and/or demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level. To earn credit in a course, a student must demonstrate mastery on grade level standards and meet Priority Charter Schools' requirements for attendance for the first 3 9wks.

### Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Students in grades K–8 will be advanced based on a number of factors, including reading and math ability; maturity (in lower grades); and class grades. Decisions are made by a committee comprised of teachers, administrators, and, where applicable, counseling and special education

staff. Parents are notified at least four weeks before the end of the school year if retention is a possibility.

In addition to the requirements listed above for students in grades 5 and 8, a student may be considered for retention if they have met any of the following criteria:

1. failed one or more core subject areas;
2. is below level in one or more core subject areas;
3. missed more than 10% of instructional days in an academic year

### High School

A student in grades 9–12 will be advanced a grade level based on the number of course credits earned. Any student taking a high school credit course: The 90% attendance rule has been waived by the state for the second semester only. Credit for second semester will be based on TEKS mastery for that course.

### Students Being Served through Special Education

Upon the recommendation of the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (“ARD”) Committee, a student who is receiving special education services may be promoted and/or permitted to graduate under the provisions of his or her Individualized Education Program (“IEP”).

A student who receives special education services and has completed four years of high school, but has not met the requirements of his or her IEP, may participate in graduation ceremonies and receive a certificate of attendance. Even if the student participates in graduation ceremonies to receive the certificate of attendance, he or she may remain enrolled to complete the IEP and earn his or her high school diploma; however, the student will only be allowed to participate in one graduation ceremony.