

**RESOLUTION OF THE AQUILLA ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING
GRADING AND CLASS RANK POLICIES DURING PERIODS OF SCHOOL
CLOSURE AND GRANTING THE SUPERINTENDENT CERTAIN AUTHORITY
RELATED TO GRADE REPORTING**

WHEREAS, The Governor of Texas has determined that a State of Disaster exists in Hill County and every county in Texas due to the public health risks posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the recent COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in the closure of schools statewide and is reasonably anticipated to interfere with the regular operation of schools within the Aquilla Independent School District in the coming weeks and months; and

WHEREAS, Aquilla ISD administrators continue to respond daily to new recommendations and guidance related to public health and safety from local, state, and national educational and public health officials during this rapidly developing situation; and

WHEREAS, Aquilla ISD will be required to close its schools or otherwise suspend on-campus operations for periods of time to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Aquilla ISD will be unable to resume on-campus instruction for an extended period of time and the ability to administer the current policies and guidelines for student grading will be impossible or impractical, a temporary suspension or modification of certain policies and guidelines related to student grading will ensure fairness in the process for all students; and

WHEREAS, Aquilla ISD Board Policy EIC (LOCAL) currently provides that for purposes of determining local graduation honors, top ten percent, and academic honors, and student class rank should be determined for graduating seniors on grades available at the time of the calculation at the end of the sixth six-weeks grading period; and

WHEREAS, Aquilla ISD Board Policy EIA (LOCAL) provides guidelines for student grading and number of student assignments to ensure mastery of course objectives, as well as report cards every six weeks and progress reporting to parents at least once every three weeks; and

WHEREAS, due to emergency school closure(s) or related suspensions of normal operations, Aquilla ISD may not be in a position to assign grades for the fifth or sixth six-weeks grading period for the 2019-2020 school year, as required by Board policy EIC (LOCAL), or issue grade reports or progress reports in accordance with EIA (LOCAL); and

WHEREAS, these one-time modifications of Board policies and grading procedures are intended to ensure fairness to all students in light of the current unprecedented circumstances.

Now therefore it be resolved by the Board that:

1. The Board determines that a temporary modification of Board Policy EIC (LOCAL) shall be implemented to allow calculation of grade point averages, for all purposes, using those grades available at the end of the Fall semester for all students taking high school credit

courses; and

2. The Board determines that a temporary modification of Board Policy EIC (LOCAL) shall allow class rank for purposes of local graduation honors, top ten percent, academic honors, and class rank for the Class of 2020 only, to be determined using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the Fall semester of the student's senior year; and
3. The Board determines that a temporary modification of Board Policy EIA (LOCAL) shall be implemented to allow a determination of "Satisfactory" and "Unsatisfactory" to serve in place of a numerical grade for students in grades 1st through 8th, which shall be based on a student's performance and engagement during normal instruction as well as home based learning, and using administrative guidelines, teachers will determine whether a student has mastered the course objectives, which information will assist grade placement committees in making decisions regarding student retention and promotion; and
4. The Board suspends all grading policies and procedures during the pendency of the time the District is closed and students are not physically coming to the district facilities for instruction and the Superintendent is hereby granted the authority to determine how and whether grades may be issued for the final Spring Semester grading period including providing that all elementary and junior high courses will be satisfactory/unsatisfactory for the spring semester of the 2019-2020 school year; and
5. Students in the graduating classes of 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 8th grade students in courses receiving high school credit will receive only a numerical semester grade for the Spring Semester 2020 based on the grade received in the fourth six weeks, three week progress report of the fifth six weeks, and completion of homebound instruction. These grades will be figured into these students' GPA with the exception of the Class of 2020; and
6. The Superintendent is hereby granted the authority to determine whether interim progress reports will be provided after the third week of the sixth six-weeks grading periods in the 2019-2020 school year; and
7. If the Superintendent determines that interim progress reports will not be provided for the sixth six-weeks grading period, the requirement to provide interim progress reports under Board Policy EIA (LOCAL) is waived for those grading periods; and
8. The measures described in paragraph number two above shall not impact the District's ability to calculate class rank for purposes of admission to application to Texas institutions of higher education, as required by state law; and
9. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent to take any other actions as necessary to fulfill the purpose of this Resolution, including suspension of other grading procedures, regulations, rules or practices.

AQUILLA

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 21, 2020

Hello Students and Parents of Aquilla ISD,

There has been much thought and consideration given in these past several weeks of uncertainty to ensure our students and their families are not only taken care of educationally but also emotionally. One of those areas of importance is how do we assess our student's progress. It is important that we take into consideration the dynamics of our families who work during the day, access to technology, and each student's age as well as their specific academic needs in order to apply an equitable assessment system given our current distance learning situation. With guidance from Texas Education Agency and our local Education Service Agency Region 12 we have implemented the below grading guidance during this time period for grades 9 through 12.

- Grade point averages for the Class of 2020 will be locked at the Fall semester. These GPAs will be used to determine valedictorian, salutatorian, and class rank.
- For the classes of 2021, 2022, 2023 and 8th grade students taking a class for high school credit, the Spring of 2020 grades will count in their cumulative grade point averages.
- Report Cards will be mailed at the end of this school year.
- Report Cards will have the students grade for the 4th 6 weeks and the 5th and 6th six weeks will be blank. However, there will be a numerical semester grade based on the 4th six weeks grade, progress report grade from the fifth six weeks and the completion of the homebound instruction (packets).
- Progress Monitoring: Consists of Teachers tracking assignments turned in and interacting weekly with students to offer support and instructional guidance.

This is a time where grace is needed. Each family has their own unique situation and challenges to overcome. Your school district is here to support and guide you each step of the way. Feel free to reach out to your teachers or administration at info@aquillaisd.net with any questions or concerns whatsoever.

Respectfully,

Aquilla ISD Administration

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Adopted by the vote of the majority of members of the Board of Trustees of the Aquilla ISD present and voting at an open meeting of the Board on the 20th day of April, 2020, at which a quorum was present:

BY: David K Snipes
David Snipes, Board President

BY: Courtney Lewis
Courtney Lewis, Board Secretary