

## Grading Practices

A cross-functional team including staff from multiple district and school teams worked together across the spring and summer to define grading practices that ensure grades reflect learning progress and nothing else. The team will continue to work across the 2020-2021 school year to propose additional changes to our grading practices that will further support equitable grading practices and grading clarity.

### Process Updates:

- In order to reduce the number of platforms and create consistency across all learning modes (in-person, distance, and hybrid), **all grading will occur in Canvas and be passed back to PowerSchool nightly.** ([Directions linked here.](#))
  - Any assignment that requires the teacher to provide the student with feedback, such as essay questions or written responses will be passed back as blank until the teacher has provided this feedback. Once the feedback is recorded in Canvas, then the grade will be passed back to PowerSchool that night.
  - Quizzes that only include automatically graded questions will be auto-graded in Canvas and passed back to PowerSchool the night that the student submits the assignment.
  - Courses will be set up in PowerSchool by school schedulers, as normal - these courses, once synced with Canvas, will allow for assignment grade passback after the teacher follows [the set-up process](#); any courses set up in Canvas manually by the teacher (not synced in from PowerSchool) will not allow for grades to be passed back to PowerSchool and should not be used for courses appearing in PowerSchool.
  - Assignment groups that require specific weighting can be set in PowerSchool during the first two weeks of the semester by the teacher. After that time period the PowerTeacher Pro gradebook will become 'read only' and any assignment grades will have standard weighting.
    - If a teacher sees a discrepancy, they should reach out to the service desk to open their gradebook or get assistance for the issue they are experiencing.
    - If weighting is needed after the designated window due to special circumstances, principals may reach out to the service desk for assistance.
  - Transcripts, Report Cards & PowerSchool Parent Portal will be accessible, using the existing tools and platforms, and will reflect assignment grades entered in Canvas.
  - Spark, Summit, and other district-approved personalized learning platforms will continue to track progress within each respective system, and grades will be submitted to the enrollment center for all students at the end of each semester.
  - Designated school staff should monitor student grades on a weekly basis to ensure students are receiving grades. Guidance for monitoring blank grades will be provided by 9/9/20.

## Grading Practices

- **Grades should only be entered to reflect learning** (ie, no grades for supplies, behavior, attendance, etc); for students who are able to excel on assessments without doing daily work, consider exempting students from the assignments that led to the assessment or replacing the grades with a percentage of an assessment - it should not be left blank.
- **During distance learning, students will be given the full week (Monday to Sunday) to submit assignments from that week.** Given the extraordinary circumstances, late work (beyond one week) should be accepted when possible and not be penalized.
- **An average of two grades per week per course** will be recorded in Canvas

We strongly recommend that teachers utilize these additional practices for more equitable grading that is reflective of student learning:

- [Use the Speedgrader](#) in Canvas for student assignment submissions to offer quality feedback on progress, strengths, and next areas for growth
- Instead of extra credit, students should be given the opportunity to replace previous assignment grades with improved grades that reflect new learning in the area assessed by the previous assignments.
- Strongly recommend that teachers utilize a score of 50 to reflect any failing score to avoid disproportionate skewing toward F GPAs - while a score of 50 reflects a grade of F, when scores below 50 are entered as grades, they disproportionately lower the overall grade average.
- [Use high-quality rubrics](#), such as those included in the district-adopted curriculum resources, whenever possible -- especially when grading writing assignments. Teachers can reach out to the Teaching & Learning team for rubric recommendations.
- After assessments are given, teachers will analyze assessments and individual questions to ensure questions are reliable and assessing content properly. For example, if 80% of students answer a question incorrectly, consider not counting that question in the overall score, but using it to drive targeted reteaching. If 'New Quizzes' is used to create the assessment in Canvas, [this guide](#) will walk you through how to analyze the results report.

### **Training during August Professional Learning:**

- Canvas 201 Part 1: Grading & Attendance
- Grading Practices for Online Learning (science teachers)