

Grading Policy

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Students shall be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement. A passing grade of 70 shall indicate that the students have sufficiently mastered the abilities they need to function at the level to which they are advancing. Any numerical grade below 50 will be recorded as a 50 in grade reporting except for midterm and final exams.

In Kindergarten, achievement shall be reported to the parents as (E) Excellent, (S) Satisfactory, and (U) Unsatisfactory. Grades one through five will receive numerical grades in all subjects.

In determining the six-weeks grade, a teacher will take into consideration any test(s) given, daily grades and any other activity grades that might be assigned. The teacher will take a minimum of 12 grades with two of the 12 as a major test grade not to exceed 60% of the six-weeks grade (changes in grades must be cleared through the principal).

Semester averages will be determined by the three six-weeks grades averaged with the semester test grade. Each grade will count as 25% of the semester average.

To be promoted from one grade level to the next in grades one through five, a student shall attain for the year an overall average of 70 or above. Averaging the final numerical grades for English, reading, spelling, mathematics, social studies, and science shall derive the overall average. In addition, a student shall attain an average of 70 or above in language arts (English, reading, spelling), and in mathematics.

A kindergarten student must demonstrate completion of readiness skills in reading and math and should be developmentally ready to begin grade one. Kindergarten students may be retained with parental consent. For students in the elementary grades who are not meeting achievement standards, the District may use any or all of the following alternatives:

1. Require the student to repeat the grade level; however, no student shall be retained more than once in grades K-4 and once in grades 5-8 unless the parents, teacher, and school administrator agree that the student should be retained a second time because of some special circumstance.
2. Require the student to participate in tutorial or summer school programs and accomplish specified levels of achievement in order to be promoted to the next grade.
3. Place the student at the next grade if the District determines that the student is achieving at his or her maximum ability, subject to the following:
 - a. The student is achieving at a level that is not significantly lower than the student at that grade level, so that placement in a class will not disrupt or overly complicate instruction for other students or the teacher.
 - b. The student is achieving at a borderline level in some of the courses or subjects taken, is enrolled in special remedial or compensatory classes or programs for the subjects or courses in which achievement is significantly below grade level, and is making satisfactory progress in the special classes.
 - c. The District informs the parent/guardian that the student was not promoted, but placed at the next grade, and informs the parent/guardian of the student's actual achievement level in relation to the achievement level for the grade in which the student is placed.
 - d. When the District places a student in the next grade, as described above, it may also use grouping strategies to provide intensive, individualized progress programs or classes in specific subject areas so that students remain in the regular classroom for the majority of the day. These arrangements shall provide specially designed instruction in expectations, with the purpose of enabling the student to master the TEKS as rapidly as possible.
 - e. The District may establish a review committee that includes the principal, teacher, and any other appropriate District employee (s) to determine placement in and dismissal from these programs.
 - f. Documentation of placement in subject area, individualized progress programs and classes, evaluation of student progress, and dismissals shall be maintained.

4. As per TEA regulations, third grade students, beginning in the school year 2002/2003, will be required to pass a standardized test in reading before promotion to the next grade level. Information can be obtained by calling the counselor @ 378-4242
5. Place the student in a special remedial category for individualized progress classes or programs.

Junior High Grading (6-8)

Achievement shall be reported to the parents as numerical grades. Adding the average daily grade, unit or chapter average test grade, the six-weeks examination grade, and/or the laboratory or other activity grade and dividing by three or four generally determine six-week grades. At least two grades per subject for each student should be recorded each week. The semester grade is an average of the 3 six-week grades and the semester exam.

To be promoted from one grade level to the next, a student shall attain an overall average of 70 or above for the year in all courses taken. Averaging the final numerical grade for all courses taken shall derive the overall average.

In addition, students shall attain an average of 70 or above in four of the following subjects:

1. Language Arts (including Reading Improvement, if required to be taken)
2. Mathematics
3. Social Studies
4. Science

Campus assignment shall be at the discretion of the District in the event the student passes some, but not all, courses in the eighth grade.

The parent or guardian of each student who has not successfully completed a subject or course for any semester shall be notified by the District as soon as possible of any summer program available in the District that may permit the student to successfully complete the failed subjects or course.

High School Grading (9- 12)

Achievement shall be reported to the parents in numerical grades. An average of 70 or above must be attained to earn a course credit. Six Weeks grade will include daily averages and test averages. They may also include projects, labs, or special exams. Six weeks grades will be determined by an average of these three, with daily grades being a minimum of 60% and tests 40%. Grade, class, and participation expectations will be provided to students and parents in writing, at the beginning of the year by individual teachers. Three week progress reports will be sent to parents for a signature.

At least two grades per subject for each student should be recorded each week. The semester grade is an average of the 3 six-week grades and the semester exam. A minimum grade of 70 is required for passing.

Students in grades K-12 will be instructed individually by teachers and paraprofessionals based on the following criteria:

1. Student has scored one or more years below grade level on the District's standardized achievement test.
2. Student has failed to demonstrate mastery (failed) on one or more areas of the most recent TAAS test.
3. Student has been recommended, based on prior performance in academic courses, by the teacher, principal, or counselor.

Conduct Grades

Conduct grades for K-12 will be reported as:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| E – Excellent | N – Needs Improvement |
| S – Satisfactory | U – Unsatisfactory |

Re-teach Policy

All children can learn and master the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). When a student does not master the TEKS or assigned curriculum, the teacher will re-teach for mastery of the TEKS.

No grades will be translated into letter grades. Therefore there will be no grading scale included in the handbook. Students will be recognized as follows:

“Lion’s Pride Award”—will be given each six weeks at the discretion of the classroom teacher to the most improved student or students.

“Academic Recognition Certificate” – will be given to all students who make a numerical grade of 93 or better in every subject taken during each six weeks period.

Changing Courses

Schedule changes may be made, with the principal’s permission, if schedules of classes will permit. These changes must be made during the first five days of the semester. Any other changes will be considered only during an emergency or special situation.

Summer School

Students may attend an accredited summer school provided that approval of the principal is obtained before enrolling. Students will not be allowed to earn more than two credits during summer school.

Correspondence Courses

Correspondence courses may be used to make up courses failed. Only two correspondence courses can be counted toward required courses for graduation. Prior approval from the principal must be obtained.

Early Graduation

Students who anticipate early graduation must file an application for early graduation in the principal’s office. It is preferred that the student makes this application well in advance of intended graduation and always at least one semester before graduation. Diplomas will be awarded at the end of the school year.

Graduation Requirements for Class of 2003 - 2004

Students have 3 programs to choose from regarding graduation: the Minimum High School Program, the Recommended High School Program, and the Distinguished Achievement Program. Students are also required to pass the Exit Level TAKS. Beginning with the class of 2005 all graduates must meet Recommended Program requirements.

Students considering attending college are encouraged to work towards the Recommended High School Program.

Minimum High School Program: (22 Credits)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Units Required</u>	
English	4	
Mathematics	3	(must include Algebra I)
Science	2	(must include Biology I or Chemistry or Physics)
Social Studies	2½	(World History or World Geography, U.S. History, and Government)
Academic Elective	1	(World History, World Geography, or any Science)
Economics	½	
Health	½	(or 1 credit of Health Science Technology)
Communication App.	½	(Speech)
Technology App.	1	(Microcomputer Applications)
Physical Education	1½	
Electives	5½	

Recommended High School Program: (24 Credits)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Units Required</u>	
English	4	
Mathematics	3	(Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)
Science	3	*(see note below)
Social Studies	3½	(World Geography, World History, U.S. History, and Government)
Economics	½	
Health	½	(or 1 credit of Health Care Science)
Communication App.	½	(Speech)
Languages	2	(of same language)
Fine Arts	1	
Physical Education	1½	
Computer Science	1	
Electives	3 1/2	

*(Science- three credits: students may choose three credits from the following four areas. Not more than one credit may be chosen from each of the four areas:

- Integrated Physics and Chemistry (formerly Physical Science)
- Biology, AP Biology
- Chemistry, AP Chemistry
- Physics

Students who wish to complete the recommend or distinguished programs are encouraged to take Biology, Chemistry, and Physics to fulfill the requirements of this section.)

Additional Components: (choose one option)

Option I: 1 advanced math, 1 advanced science, and 1 ½ elective

Math: Pre-calculus

Science: Students may choose any science course

Elective: 1 1/2 credits

Option II: career and technology. The student must demonstrate proficiency equivalent to three and one half credits in a coherent sequence courses for career and technology preparation.

Option III: Academic- Three and one-half credits consisting of state-approved courses from language arts, science, social studies, mathematics, foreign language, fine arts, and/or computer science. This option allows students to use any three and one-half credits as long as they are beyond the minimum required for the recommended program.

(This will total 24 credits for the Recommended program.)

Distinguished Achievement Program: (26 Credits)

1. Additional requirements: Other Languages 3 credits; with reductions under option I to 1/2 elective, and under options II and III to two and one-half credits under each.
2. Students must also achieve any combination of four of the following advanced measurements:

Original research/project: (can be used for only 2 of the 4)

- Judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project;
- Conducted under the direction of mentor(s) and reported to an appropriate audience
- Related to the required curriculum set forth in the TEKS
- A score of three or above on The College Board Advanced Placement examination
- A score on the PSAT that qualifies a student for recognition as a Commended Scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PSAT score may count as only one advanced measure regardless of the number of honors received by the student.

College courses

-A grade of 3.0 or higher on courses that count for college credit, including tech prep programs
(This will be the method for the majority of our students to achieve their four points. These can be concurrent credit classes taught through distant learning or they can be classes taken at night or during the summer. PLEASE NOTE: for students to take college classes while still in high school they must have passed the TASP or be exempt from taking it due to scores on the TAAS, ACT, or SAT. Details regarding the TASP and exemptions are available in the counseling center.)

Promotion/Retention

A student may be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency of the subject matter of the course or grade level. To earn credit in a course, a student must receive a grade of 70 based on course-level or grade level standards. Please be aware that, effective in the school years set out below, a student's satisfactory performance on TAKS examinations will be required for promotion. The requirement will be effective for the following students:

- third graders in the 2002-2003 school year,
- fifth graders in the 2004-2005 school year,
- eighth graders in the 2007-2008 school year

Students who do not perform satisfactorily will have opportunities to participate in special instructional programs designed to help them improve their performance.