

January 13, 2020

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**RE: Revised Board of Education Policy 4710
Grading Systems**

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Grades Seven through Twelve Learning Community,

The Board of Education Trustees are methodically reviewing all of the District's policies to ensure they are aligned to New York State Education Department and legal requirements, current pedagogy and to provide an equitable educational experience for all students. At the December 18, 2019 Stated Meeting, the Trustees adopted a revised Grading Systems Policy 4710. The policy states,

The District will use a uniform grading system appropriate for elementary and secondary students. Administration shall ensure that any grading policies specific to the school, department, and/or subject/class are aligned with the District policy.

The revised policy provides specific expectations for grading students. There are a few changes to bring to your attention. Final course grades consist of marking period grades and a final course assignment. Midterm exams will not be administered; some teachers may require a midyear assignment. The lowest grade that can be given to students is 50, with the exception of 40 for students chronically absent. For Incomplete Grades, students are provided additional time to complete the required coursework.

Below is the section of the policy that pertains to students in grades seven through twelve. For Students with Disabilities, in addition to the regular report card, student's progress toward annual goals are reported on the *Progress Report for Individualized Education Plans (IEP) Goals* and distributed with report cards. The entire policy is available on the District's website, www.yonkerspublicschools.org/boe-policy.

Secondary Level Grading

- *Students in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) shall receive report cards four (4) times per year.*
- *The following grading scale shall be utilized:*
 - *Passing grades shall include all numerical grades ranging from sixty-five (65) through one hundred (100) in increments of one (1).*
 - *Failing grades shall include all numerical grades ranging from fifty (50) through sixty-four (64) in increments of one (1).*
 - *A failing grade of fifty (50) shall be the lowest grade awarded to any student in any marking period, except that a grade of forty (40) may be awarded to those students who are chronically absent as defined by the New York State Education Department (see policy 5100, Student Attendance) if appropriate due to incomplete work or lack of class participation.*
- *Final course grades:*
 - *Courses that consist of four (4) marking periods shall be calculated as follows: 22.5% shall be allocated to each marking period grade; 10% shall be allocated to a final course assessment, which may consist of a final exam, project, exhibition, or other assessment tool approved by the principal.*
 - *Courses that consist of two (2) marking periods shall be calculated as follows: 45% shall be allocated to each marking period grade; 10% shall be allocated to a final course assessment, which may consist of a final exam, project, exhibition, or other assessment tool approved by the principal.*

- *Incomplete Grades*
 - *A student who receives an incomplete shall be provided additional time to complete the required coursework for that marking period in accordance with the below.*
 - *The student shall have until the end of the next applicable marking period to complete any missed coursework, except that if a student receives an incomplete during the terminal marking period for the course, the student shall be provided ten (10) days from the last day of that marking period to complete the work.*
 - *The Superintendent of Schools and/or his/her designee may extend the above time periods, if warranted, for reasons such as, but not limited to, an extended health condition and/or illness.*
 - *Once the allocated time period has elapsed, a numerical grade shall be assigned based on any coursework completed for the marking period. Consistent with the above, no student shall be awarded a grade lower than a fifty (50), except that a forty (40) may be assigned to a student who is chronically absent.*
 - *Incomplete grades shall not be calculated into a student's grade point average ("GPA"). Once a numerical grade is assigned, the student's GPA shall be recalculated to include the assigned numerical grade.*

If you have any questions about the Grading System Policy 4710, please contact your child's principal. Your child's academic success is our priority and requires families to work closely with educators. Yonkers' administrators, teachers and staff look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Edwin M. Quezada

C: President Rev. Steve Lopez, Vice President Ramos-Meier and Trustees of the Board of Education