



San Antonio Independent School District

141 Lavaca Street • San Antonio, TX 78210 • (210) 554-2200 • www.saisd.net

May 11, 2020

Dear Parent and Guardians:

This latter part of our school year had a profound impact on all of us, but one aspect remained constant – teachers kept teaching and students kept learning. We are grateful to you – our families – for being our partner through all of this.

At this time, we would like to inform you how grading is being implemented during these last nine weeks. In determining our grading procedure, we carefully considered and reviewed local, state and national school district practices, and we have decided that continuing with numerical grades was best for our students. Recording numerical grades allows us to acknowledge student achievement, unlike a Pass/Fail system. This is especially important for our older students who use their transcripts to apply for college, scholarships, internships, jobs and military enlistment.

Following is a list of questions and answers that provide more detail on our grading procedures.

Please know that progress reports and report cards are available on the mySAISD app, with final grades being posted on June 1. For questions about specific course grades, please reach out to the teacher of that class.

Again, thank you for being partners with us in the education of your child. Although we could not continue in-person classroom instruction, we witnessed the power of working together to continue meeting the needs of your children. We stand in admiration of our families and our students.

Sincerely,

Patti Salzmänn
Chief Academic Officer
Office of Academics and School Leadership
psalzmänn1@saisd.net

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Patti Radle, President	Debra Guerrero, Secretary	Steve Lecholop, Trustee	Alicia Perry, Trustee
Arthur V. Valdez, Vice President	Ed Garza, Trustee	Christina Martinez, Trustee	Pedro Martinez, Superintendent

It is the policy of San Antonio ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation or disability in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and SAISD's board policies DIA, FFH, and FFI.

Communicating Grades

1. Will students receive progress reports?

Yes. Texas Education Code, §28.022(a)(3) requires that districts, at least once every three weeks, or during the fourth week of each nine-week grading period, give written notice to a parent or legal guardian of a student's performance in a foundation subject if the student's performance in the subject is consistently unsatisfactory. Progress reports for the 4th 9 weeks will be available to parents beginning April 27, 2020.

2. Will students receive report cards?

Yes. The Texas Education Code, §28.022(a)(2) requires school districts, at least once every 12 weeks, to give written notice to a parent of a student's performance in each class or subject. Final grades will be available to parents on June 1, 2020.

3. How will parents receive progress reports and final reports cards?

Parents will receive progress reports and final report cards by logging in to the mySAISD application. Parents will be able to monitor grades in real-time. It is critical that teachers update grades weekly.

4. Who will parents contact if they have a question about their child's grade?

Parents have been directed to contact their child's teacher for questions about grading.

Determining a Semester Average

Pre-K – 1

5. Will a checklist be used for ECE through 1st grade?

Yes; however, the checklists are designed for a regular face-to-face classroom experience. Teachers may focus on a portion of the checklist. If sections on the checklist are left blank, teachers should carry forward the proficiency from the previous 9 weeks.

Grades 2-High School

6. Will the 4th 9-weeks grade negatively impact a child's semester average?

*Grades for the 4th 9 weeks will not negatively impact students' semester grade averages. The 2020 spring semester average will be determined by the average of the 3rd and 4th 9-weeks grades. The final 4th 9-weeks grade should be the **higher** of the 3rd or 4th 9-weeks grade. A cycle override grade should be entered into the TxGradebook to adjust the 4th 9-weeks grade as needed.*

7. Did SAISD consider a Pass/Fail option for grades?

SAISD leaders thoroughly considered all options. Recording numerical grades for secondary students was determined to be best for our students because Pass/Fail does not allow students who earn high grades in the 4th 9 weeks to be acknowledged for their achievement.

High School Subjects and Courses

- 8. Will there be final exams for high school students?**
No. There will be no final exams this semester. Students in dual credit and dual enrollment courses may be administered a semester exam as required by the respective college.
- 9. How will semester averages be calculated for Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment courses?**
Students in dual credit courses are graded as outlined by the partner college with whom the District has a Memorandum of Understanding.
- 10. Will the spring 2020 semester be included class rank?**
No. The spring 2020 semester will not be included in the calculation of class rank for any cohorts of students.
- 11. Will there be opportunities for credit recovery in June and July?**
Yes. Students will have an opportunity to pursue credit recovery. Summer 2020 credit recovery will be offered as pass/fail.
- 12. How will students take the AP exam?**
The AP Exam will be offered online and can be taken at home during the windows of May 11-15 and May 18 - 22. Students will only be assessed over content taught through mid-March. Students will have 45 minutes to complete their responses and will be able to use notes, books, and other resources. The College Board is providing resources for students through the AP Classroom online. All students who registered for the AP exam have access to this resource through their AP teacher, including access to a revised syllabus and other resources.
- 13. Will children enrolled in the IB Diploma Programme (DP) at Burbank or Jefferson High School take IB exams and will they still be able to earn their IB Diploma?**
The IBO will be taking the following actions for the 2020 May Examination session: The May 2020 examinations, scheduled April 30 through May 22, for Diploma Programme will no longer be held.

IBO sent full details and FAQs to Burbank and Jefferson IB Coordinators on March 27, 2020. FAQs regarding testing cancellation may be found on [IBO's COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) update page.](#)
- 14. Will students be able to take the TSI, SAT and/or ACT for college placement and/or entrance?**
Our testing department and our college partners are working on a strategy for students to be able to take the TSI Assessment, the exam that many colleges require to be completed before students take courses for college credit, including dual credit classes in high school. Please stay in contact with your school counselor for updated information.

College Board and ACT will offer additional opportunities to take the SAT/ACT as soon as large convenings are allowed. Students who are completing college applications should

remain in touch with their chosen college/university and/or their counselor and/or their college-bound advisor for updates on admissions/application completion.

15. Will students be able to complete their certification exam for Career & Technology Courses?

Yes, students should contact the course teacher to arrange to take the certification exam. Please note that some certification exams may be delayed until teachers and students are allowed to return to campuses while others may be done online or at home.

16. Are high schools still required to ensure students are college ready?

Yes. All high schools are continuing to ensure structures are in place for students to be on track for college readiness no later than the fall semester of their senior year.

Seniors

17. Where can I go for more information about prom and graduation?

A [Resources for SAISD Seniors](#) web page is available to all families. This web page is designed specially to address questions from seniors and can be accessed through the SAISD web page.

18. What if a senior does not currently have enough credits to graduate?

Students must complete credit requirements to graduate. Students who successfully complete the 4th 9 weeks and have a passing semester average will receive credit for the semester. Students who are short credits to graduate may continue to accumulate credits in credit recovery courses.

19. What if a senior has failed an EOC required for graduation?

Seniors in the 2019– 2020 school year who have not yet met assessment requirements for graduation may be eligible to graduate as a result of an Individual Graduation Committee (IGC) review. Students should see their counselor for additional information.

20. For seniors in special education, will requirements be waived so that the senior is able to graduate?

The ARD committee will discuss the graduation plan for students which may or may not include the IGC option, based on the collaborative decision of the ARD committee. Unless otherwise indicated in the ARD, students must meet all graduation requirements.