

REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROGRAM
R2624 Page 1 of 11
Grading System

R2624 GRADING SYSTEM

A. Purpose of Grading

1. Grades acknowledge a pupil's demonstrated proficiency in the New Jersey adopted Standards and locally established learning goals and objectives:
 - a. Active participation in and attention to daily lessons,
 - b. Frequent contribution to discussions,
 - c. Prompt, thorough, accurate, and neat preparation of assignments,
 - d. Thorough preparation and performance on formative and summative assessments,
 - e. Display of an eagerness to learn and an inquisitive approach to lessons,
 - f. Attention to the need for proper materials,
 - g. Cooperation with the teacher's efforts, and
 - h. Willingness to work to the best of his/her ability and to do more than the minimum expected.

B. Preparation for Grading

1. Each pupil must be informed of the behavior and achievements expected of him/her at the outset of each course of study or unit of study.
2. Each pupil must be kept informed of his/her progress during the course of a unit of study. Grades must be entered into a digital gradebook and parent portable



REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROGRAM
R2624 Page 2 of 11
Grading System

within one week of grading the assignment.

3. Each method of grading shall be appropriate to the course of study and the maturity and abilities of the pupils.
4. Pupils should be encouraged to evaluate their own achievements.

C. Grading Periods

1. Grades will be awarded at the end of four marking periods in full year courses. Half year courses will award grades after two marking periods of study.
2. Pupils will be given a final grade in each subject at the end of the school year for full year courses or 2nd semester of study for half year courses.
3. Grades will be recorded on report cards and posted on the parent portal for parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and notification will be provided in accordance with Policy No. 5420 and Regulation No. 5420.

D. Basis for Grading

The teacher responsible for assigning a grade should take into consideration the pupil's:

1. Completion of written assignments prepared in the classroom or elsewhere;
2. Oral contributions in class, including discussion responses, observations, panel participation, presentations, initiation of topics;
3. Performance on oral and written assessments;



REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROGRAM
R2624 Page 3 of 11
Grading System

4. Research into standard references and other background materials;
5. Oral and written reports on materials read by the pupil;
6. Laboratory work;
7. Research papers;
8. Other evidences of the pupil's constructive efforts and achievements in learning; and
9. For the final grade, the pupil's attendance record, in accordance with Policy Nos. 5200, 5410, and 5460.

E. Meaning of Grades

1. The following grades will be given in each academic subject at the end of each marking period:
 - a. A grade of A indicates superior performance (2017-2018 school year) and superior achievement (2018- and thereafter). It may be given to a pupil whose achievement is significantly above grade level; whose work achieves a quality and quantity that consistently excels; and who demonstrates a high degree of initiative, application, and purpose.
 - b. A grade of B indicates above average performance (2017-2018 school year) and proficient (2018- and thereafter). It should be given to a pupil whose achievement is above grade level; whose work frequently excels; and who generally demonstrates strength in the subject.
 - c. A grade of C indicates average performance (2017-2018 school year) and satisfactory (2018- and



REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROGRAM
R2624 Page 4 of 11
Grading System

thereafter). It should be given to a pupil whose achievements in most areas of the subject are average; whose work is acceptable; and who demonstrates a reasonable degree of proficiency.

- d. A grade of D indicates below average performance (2017 and thereafter). It should be given to a pupil whose achievement in the subject is barely passing; whose work is the minimum acceptable for credit; and who demonstrates a need of improvement in the subject.
 - e. A grade of F indicates failing performance and no credit can be given for the subject. It should be given to a pupil who has not met the minimum requirements of the course; who has demonstrated an inability or unwillingness to master the basic elements of the course; or who has failed to meet the minimum attendance standards necessary to pass a course of study.
 - f. Intermediate grades (+/-) are transitional steps between whole letter grades that are supported by a numeric and weighted value.
 - g. Letter grades may not be modified by plus or minus signs in the 2017-2018 school year. The use of plus and minuses will be used 2018 and thereafter.
2. The following grading scales and indicators shall be used in the 2017-2018 school year:
- A - Superior Achievement
 - B - Good Achievement
 - C - Satisfactory Achievement
 - D - Below Expected Achievement
 - F - Failure to achieve minimum performance
 - I - Incomplete
 - NG - Not Graded



REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROGRAM
R2624 Page 5 of 11
Grading System

| Marking period grade | Numerical value |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | 0-59 |
| P | Pass |
| NG | No Grade |
| I | Incomplete |
| W | Withdrawal |

3. A grade of "Incomplete" will be given to those pupils unable to complete the work assigned to the course for reasons beyond the pupil's control.
 - a. A teacher who submits a grade of incomplete will accompany the grade with a reasonable estimate of the amount of time the pupil will require to complete the work necessary for the granting of credit.
 - b. Except as may be required by unusual circumstances, make up work should be completed within two-three weeks of the end of the marking period or, if the pupil is disabled at the end of the marking period, two-three weeks after the pupil's return to school.
 - c. The pupil's completed work will be graded and the teacher will submit a grade, which will replace the incomplete grade on the pupil's transcript.
 - d. A pupil who does not complete the work within the period allowed will receive a grade of F in the subject.



REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROGRAM
R2624 Page 6 of 11
Grading System

4. Final grades, year-end or semester-end, will be calculated by assigning a numerical value to each marking period grade and dividing the sum of those values by the number of marking periods.

F. Grade Validation

In order that he/she may justify a grade, each teacher is directed to retain in his/her possession the following records to validate grades awarded to pupils. The records should be kept until the end of the school year in which the grades were awarded and, then forwarded to the Principal for retention.

1. The daily attendance and tardiness record;
2. All grades earned for classroom activities such as quizzes, tests, reports, and class recitations;
3. All grades earned for activities conducted elsewhere, such as homework assignments and term papers;
4. Any notation regarding the meaning of each grade and its relation to the type of activity or material covered;
5. Any notation of discussions with the pupil on a grade or the pupil's cumulative grade average;
6. Any notations recording communications between the teacher and the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), the Principal, or other teaching staff members.

G. Appeal

1. Each teacher is responsible for the determination of the grade a pupil receives.



REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROGRAM
R2624 Page 7 of 11
Grading System

2. Each teacher may be required to furnish reasons, supported by evidence (see E above) to substantiate any grade earned.
3. If a grade is challenged by a pupil or a parent(s) or legal guardian(s), the teacher will convene a conference and will explain the grading system and the reasons for the final grade.
4. If the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or pupil is not satisfied by the teacher's explanations, he/she may appeal the grade to the Principal, who will consult with the teacher and the pupil in an attempt to resolve the dispute. The Principal will give every reasonable deference to the teacher's professional judgment.
5. If the Principal determines that the grade should be changed, he/she will alter the grade on all records and indicate by whose authority the grade has been changed.
6. No reprisals will be taken in any form against a teacher who remains determined in his/her belief that the grade originally given is fair and correct.
7. The Superintendent may hear an appeal from the Principal's determination. Only in the most extraordinary circumstances will the Superintendent alter a grade determined at the school building level.

H. Grading Transition

1. Paterson Public Schools is committed to holding all students to high academic standards and expectations. This commitment has lead the district to implement a new grading scheme over the course of the next three years. The current passing grade of 60 will increase to 63, then 67, and finally a passing score of 70.



REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROGRAM
R2624 Page 8 of 11
Grading System

- a. The following grading scale will be assigned to marking periods over the next three years.

| | |
|----|------------------------------|
| A+ | Intermediate grade |
| A | Superior Achievement |
| A- | Intermediate grade |
| B+ | Intermediate grade |
| B | Proficient |
| B- | Intermediate grade |
| C+ | Intermediate grade |
| C | Satisfactory |
| C- | Intermediate grade |
| D+ | Intermediate grade |
| D | Below Average Performance |
| F | Failing |

2018-2019 School Year

| Marking Period Grade | Numerical Value | Weighted Value | Honors/Dual Enrollment Weighted Value | Advanced Placement Weighted Value |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| A+ | 96-100 | 4.33 | 4.67 | 5.00 |
| A | 92-95 | 4.00 | 4.33 | 4.67 |
| A- | 90-91 | 3.67 | 4.00 | 4.33 |
| B+ | 86-89 | 3.33 | 3.67 | 4.00 |
| B | 82-85 | 3.00 | 3.33 | 3.67 |
| B- | 80-81 | 2.67 | 3.00 | 3.33 |
| C+ | 76-79 | 2.33 | 2.67 | 3.00 |
| C | 72-75 | 2.00 | 2.33 | 2.67 |
| C- | 70-71 | 1.67 | 2.00 | 2.33 |
| D+ | 67-69 | 1.33 | 1.67 | 2.00 |
| D | 63-66 | 1.00 | 1.33 | 1.67 |
| F | 0-62 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| I | Incomplete | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| NG | No Grade | n/a | n/a | n/a |



REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROGRAM
R2624 Page 9 of 11
Grading System

| | | | | |
|---|------------|-----|-----|-----|
| P | Passing | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| W | Withdrawal | n/a | n/a | n/a |

2019-2020 School Year

| Marking Period Grade | Numerical Value | Weighted Value | Honors/Dual Enrollment Weighted Value | Advanced Placement Weighted Value |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A+ | 96-100 | 4.33 | 4.67 | 5.00 |
| A | 92-95 | 4.00 | 4.33 | 4.67 |
| A- | 90-91 | 3.67 | 4.00 | 4.33 |
| B+ | 86-89 | 3.33 | 3.67 | 4.00 |
| B | 82-85 | 3.00 | 3.33 | 3.67 |
| B- | 80-81 | 2.67 | 3.00 | 3.33 |
| C+ | 76-79 | 2.33 | 2.67 | 3.00 |
| C | 72-75 | 2.00 | 2.33 | 2.67 |
| C- | 70-71 | 1.67 | 2.00 | 2.33 |
| D | 67-69 | 1.00 | 1.33 | 1.67 |
| F | 0-66 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| I | Incomplete | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| NG | No Credit | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| P | Passing | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| W | Withdrawal | n/a | n/a | n/a |

2020-2021 School Year and Thereafter

| Marking Period Grade | Numerical Value | Weighted Value | Honors/Dual Enrollment Weighted Value | Advanced Placement Weighted Value |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A+ | 96-100 | 4.33 | 4.67 | 5.00 |
| A | 92-95 | 4.00 | 4.33 | 4.67 |
| A- | 90-91 | 3.67 | 4.00 | 4.33 |
| B+ | 86-89 | 3.33 | 3.67 | 4.00 |
| B | 82-85 | 3.00 | 3.33 | 3.67 |
| B- | 80-81 | 2.67 | 3.00 | 3.33 |
| C+ | 76-79 | 2.33 | 2.67 | 3.00 |
| C | 72-75 | 2.00 | 2.33 | 2.67 |
| C- | 70-71 | 1.67 | 2.00 | 2.33 |
| F | 0-69 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| I | Incomplete | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| NG | No Credit | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| P | Passing | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| W | Withdrawal | n/a | n/a | n/a |



REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROGRAM
R2624 Page 10 of 11
Grading System

I. Grading System Transition Support System

1. The following strategies will be taken to support students during the transition of the grading policy:

- a. Students receiving a failing grade on an assessment (excluding unit assessments, benchmarks, or Final exams), in-class assignments or homework assignment will receive three days to repeat or show proficiency to receive a minimum score of 70%.
- b. Students receiving a grade lower than a "C" at the conclusion of the marking period are placed on a "Watchlist."
- c. 50% will be the lowest failing grade recorded on the report card except for the final marking period in the course. The grade restriction of 50% will not make failure inevitable throughout the school year.
- d. High School students receiving a failing cumulative grade below the minimum passing score required to attain credit for a course during the transition period will receive an incomplete on their report card and will be required to attend the academic support program (2018-2019 school year 60-62, 2019-2020 school year 63-66, 2020-2021 67-69). Students will have an opportunity to have the grade modified to a passing grade if students attend, and attain proficiency in the Academic Support Program.

J. Grading Policy Review

1. The Superintendent or designee will review the grading policy every three years. If policy revisions are



REGULATION

**PATERSON
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

PROGRAM
R2624 Page 11 of 11
Grading System

deemed necessary, the Superintendent or designee will do so in consultation with district stakeholders.

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