

# Guidance on Grading and Graduation Requirements during COVID-19

Based on TEA correspondence – as of March  
30, 2020



# Compliance on Providing Instruction

- Teachers will continue to review student work while they support the instruction being delivered off-site.
- Schools should attempt to retain documentation that instruction is happening.

TEACHING



# Grading during Distance Learning

Each District has the authority to adopt its own grading policy. Districts may wish to modify grading policies to account for providing instruction in a distance learning format.

- **Options to consider:**
- Delay recording of grades for a short period
- Record fewer grades
- Choose to require min./max. number of assignments



# Grading during Distance Learning

- **Options to consider**

- Take photographs of work and send photos
- Implement a pass/fail approach for certain assignments
- Provide feedback on assignment but choose not record grades
- Provide self-addressed, stamped envelopes for students to return assignments.

[Logistical Consideration for Paper-Based Packet Pickup](#)



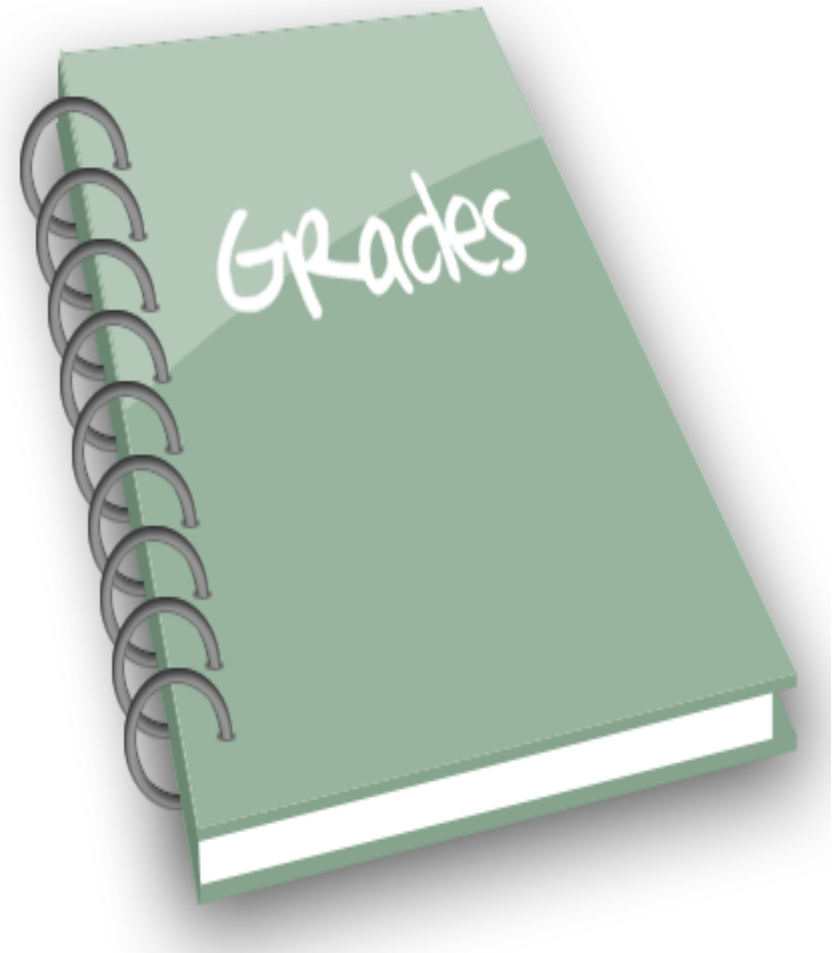
# Receiving work back and Grading fairly

- Districts using low-tech option may arrange for work to be dropped off at regular intervals (e.g. weekly)
- Take photographs of work and send photos back to teachers
- Students should not be penalized for the following:
  - The method used to respond (digitally or in hard copy)
  - Inability to access resources to complete the assignment



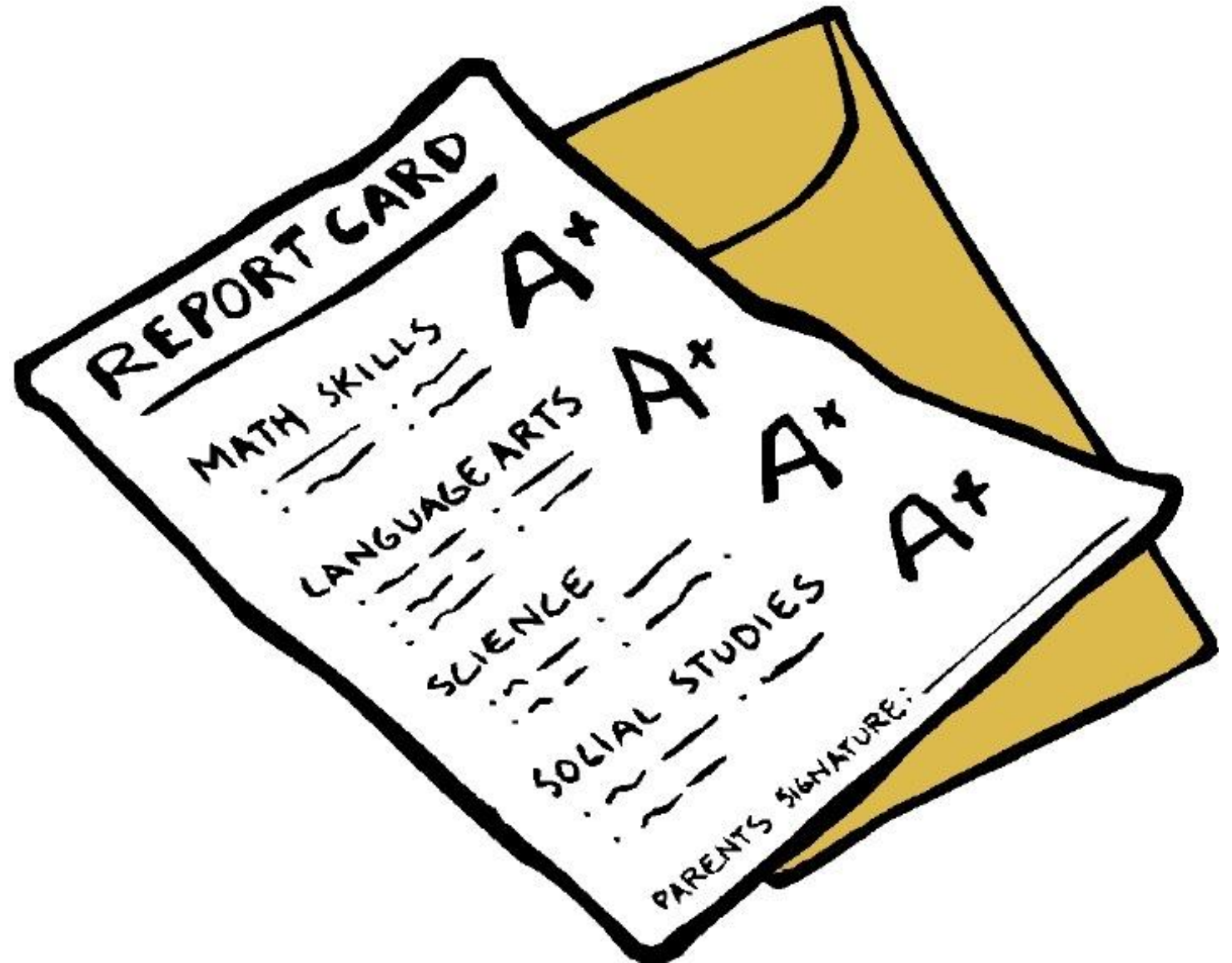
# Record of Grades

Decisions about the recording of grades for individual assignments falls under local district authority, however, districts **must** provide parents with notice of students' performance at least once every 12 weeks.

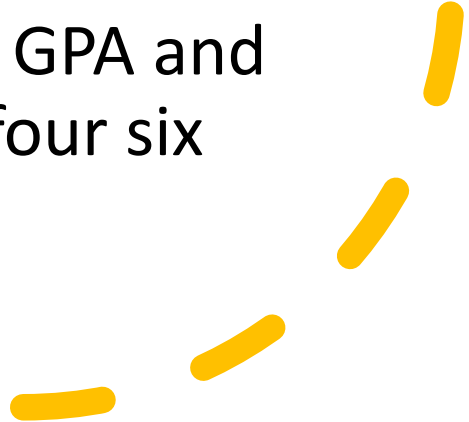


# Report Cards

- Texas Education Code, 28.022(a)(2) requires schools districts, at least once every 12 weeks, to give written notice to a parent of a student's performance in each class or subject.
- Texas Education Code, 28.022(a)(3) requires districts to, at least once every 3 weeks, or during the 4<sup>th</sup> week of each nine-week grading period, give written notice to a parent or legal guardian of student's performance in a foundation subject if the student's performance in the subject is consistently unsatisfactory.



# GPA and Class Ranking

- Calculation of GPA and class ranking is a local district decision, please note that they are not required.
  - However, Districts and open-enrollment charter schools **must** identify junior and senior students in the top 10% of their class for the purpose of eligibility for automatic college admission to a Texas institution of higher education.
  - Districts that choose to calculate GPA and class rank, will only use the first four six weeks of the school year grades.
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# Credits for Graduation

- If a district is closed for the remainder of the year, plans should be made to provide students with remote opportunities to receive instruction and demonstrate proficiency in the remaining content for a course so that students may be awarded credit for the course.
- Credit by examination (CBE) is an option available to districts to determine demonstrated proficiency, this option should be useful in confirming proficiency in order to award credit.
- <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/k12/porrams/testing/cbe>  
Or call 1-800-692-6877 Texas Tech University
- [https://highschool.utexas.edu/credit\\_by\\_exam](https://highschool.utexas.edu/credit_by_exam)  
University of Texas at Austin High School

# Lack of Credit due to Attendance

- Districts should continue with processes to allow students to make up credit that was not awarded because the student was not in attendance for at least 90 percent of the days the class was offered in a prior school year or academic period.



# CPR Instruction for Graduation

- Although school districts and open-enrollment charter schools are required to provide instruction to students in grades 7 through 12 in CPR, this is not a specific graduation requirement for students. If a school remains closed for the remainder of the school year, the school district can request a waiver of the requirement from the commissioner.



# Proper Interaction with Law Enforcement Instruction for Graduation

- This requirement applies to students who entered grade 9 in the 2018-2019 school year or later. Consequently, the requirement would only apply to a student who was in grade 9 last year and is graduating early. A student may access and watch the flashing lights video in order to meet this requirement

<https://www.texasgateway.org/resource/flashing-lights-senate-bill-30>



# Speech Skills Instruction for Graduation

A student must demonstrate proficiency, as determined by the district, in the following:

- Delivering clear verbal messages
- Choosing effective nonverbal behaviors
- Listening for desired results
- Applying valid critical-thinking and problem-solving processes
- Identifying, analyzing, developing, and evaluating communication skills needed for professional and social success in interpersonal situation, group interactions, and personal and professional presentations

A district has the authority to determine when and how a student demonstrated proficiency in these skill. It may be possible to confirm that some or all skills were addressed in the past. If not, a district would need to identify a way for the student to demonstrate proficiency in the skills in order to meet the graduation requirements.



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