



**Sulphur Springs Independent School District**  
**631 Connally Street**  
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Josh Williams  
Assistant Superintendent for Secondary  
Education and State and Federal Programs

To: SSISD Community

From: Josh Williams

Re: 2019-2020 Student Handbook (All Levels) Amendment for Spring 2020 Grading Guidelines

Date: April 20, 2020

Following our regularly scheduled spring break, SSISD has been closed since March 16<sup>th</sup> and will continue to be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Since closing, SSISD has deployed its new Distance Learning Program to meet students' needs. Though our teachers are actively engaging our students through the Distance Learning Program by providing feedback and monitoring academic growth, traditional grades will NOT be entered during our period of school closure. The purpose of this decision is to ensure that students' grade promotion, earning credit, class rank, and graduation status will not be negatively affected by the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result, SSISD is suspending the specific grading guidelines described in the campus student handbooks for the duration of our school closure. All Board policies pertaining to grading (EIA) and promotion/retention (EIE) are unchanged. Thus, and in accordance with TEA's guidelines published in their "Guidance on Grading and Graduation Requirements," the District is providing assignments for student completion with prompt feedback from teachers but choosing not to record grades during this time.

For the spring 2020 semester, grades were recorded during the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine-weeks before school closure. These grades represent the complete record of student grades taken for the spring semester of 2020. No further grades will be taken this spring.

For students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and below, and per policy EIE (LOCAL), promotion and retention decisions will be based on all of the factors listed and a determination based on each student's individual needs.

For high school students who entered the 4<sup>th</sup> nine-weeks facing the possibility of losing credit in a class due to failing grades, an opportunity may exist to pass the course and earn credit through their participation in the Distance Learning Program.

Paris Junior College instructors have elected to continue giving grades throughout the time of SSISD's school closure. For these dual-credit courses, SSISD will record the grades given by Paris Junior College professors.

Regardless of grade level, students' grade promotion, earning credit, class rank, and graduation status will not be negatively impacted through any SSISD assignments completed or not completed through the Distance Learning Program.