



NORTH LAMAR

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

NLISD District Grading Guidelines

(revised 8/2020)

The primary purpose of grades is to provide a snapshot of student progress toward mastery of learning goals. Grades are tools to guide discussions as students and parents partner with the school for students' success.

Beliefs

- Grades include both formative and summative assessments.
- Grades provide clear, consistent, and timely feedback.
- Grades reflect content knowledge.
- Grades are an indicator of progress toward mastery of learning objectives.
- Grades are an opportunity for students to take ownership of, and responsibility for, their own learning.
- Behavior and effort are assessed separately from learning objectives.
- Grades are a method of communication between school, students, and parents.

Grade Posting

Each teacher is required to effectively communicate student grades weekly in the district gradebook. Students and parents will be given instructions regarding utilization of online Parent Portal at the beginning of the school year.

Students in Kindergarten will receive skills based progress reports from the classroom teacher in lieu of Parent Portal. Students in grade 1 will receive a minimum of eight grades in English language arts, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies per grading period.

Students in grades 2-5 will receive a minimum of six daily grades and three tests grades in all content areas per grading period.

Students in grades 6-12, will receive a minimum of nine daily grades and three test grades in all content areas per grading period.

At midpoint within the grading period, teachers will have at least 40% of the minimum grades posted as indicated above.

Grade Category Distribution

Grades 2-3	70% Daily	30% Test
Grades 4-5	60% Daily	40% Test
Grades 6-12	34% Daily	66% Test

At the secondary level, final semester grades are calculated as follows: all 3 six weeks periods 75%, semester exam 25%.

Communication

The electronic gradebook (Parent Portal) is used for all grade reporting. Progress reports will be available to parents at approximately the midpoint of each grading period. District policy EIA Local specifies, "Interim progress reports shall be issued in accordance with law for a student who demonstrates consistent unsatisfactory performance. Other interim reports shall be issued as established by campus grading guidelines. Supplemental progress reports may be issued at the teacher's discretion." It is the teacher's responsibility to communicate with the parents of struggling students. Report cards will be issued to all students at the end of each six weeks grading period.

Makeup Work

A student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work in a satisfactory manner and within the time allotted by the district. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the district will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. The amount of time to complete the work will be three school days from returning to class.

Additional school days may be granted at the request of the student and the discretion of the campus principal. For example, a student misses two days of class, then a student will have three days to complete makeup work.

A student will be permitted to make up tests and turn in projects due in any class missed because of absence.

A student involved in an extracurricular activity must notify his or her teachers ahead of time about any absences.

DAEP Makeup Work

Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Grade Levels

All work assigned to students that have been removed to disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) during the school year will come from the school of record for the student. Once completed, the DAEP staff will send the work back to the school of record for grading.

Grades 9–12

A high school student removed to a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) during the school year will have an opportunity to complete, before the beginning of the next school year, a foundation curriculum course in which the student was enrolled at the time of removal. The district may provide the opportunity to complete the course through an alternative method, including a correspondence course,

another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FOCA(LEGAL).]

In-School Suspension (ISS) Makeup Work (All Grade Levels)

A student removed from the regular classroom to in-school suspension or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity to complete before the beginning of the next school year each course the student was enrolled in at the time of removal from the regular classroom. The district may provide the opportunity by any method available, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FO(LEGAL).]

Late Work

Students may be assessed a penalty of no more than twenty (20) points for work that is not turned in on time. In order to be accepted, the late work must be turned in by the end of the next school day before a zero may be given.

Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses are exempt from the policy above. Please refer to individual course syllabus for guidelines on late work.

Redo/Retake

North Lamar ISD board policy EIA Local states, “The District may permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to retake a test for which the student received a failing grade.”

The district grading guideline for redo/retake is the following:

- the student shall earn a grade no higher than 70 on a test retaken under such a circumstance
- the student shall be allowed to retest only once a six weeks per subject
- the teacher may elect to provide the student with an alternative assessment method

In order to support mastery, the student must make a request to the teacher to retest. The student must attend tutoring and take the retest within three days of receiving the failing grade from the teacher. The students’ grade shall never decrease due to their attempt to retest. This grading policy does not apply to benchmarks, mid-term exams, or final exams. This policy does not apply to work that was subject to a penalty due to academic dishonesty, work that was expected to be done within a class period, novel tests, or work that was once considered late. Please refer to late work policy for stipulations.

If the student and/or parent initiates the district grading policy that has failed a test below a 70, the teacher must comply with the request. The teacher may provide an alternate assessment or test for the student to retake to determine mastery of content. The alternate assessment or test may only cover the areas that the student did not meet mastery, and does not have to re- cover content that the student mastered.

What does the term “no higher than 70” mean? How does a teacher calculate the makeup grade? The following examples are to help clarify what this looks like:

Johnny takes a unit test and makes a 53 on the assessment. He requests to retake the test. The teacher gives an alternate version of the test and Johnny makes an 83. Teacher records a 70 for new grade. (53 then 83 so 70)

Julie takes a unit test and makes a 47 on the assessment and requests to retake the test. The teacher gives an alternate version of the test and Julie makes a 62. Teacher records a 62 for new grade. (47 then 62 so 62)

Benjamin fails a class assessment with a 58 and requests to redo the class assessment. The teacher provides a class assessment and Benjamin makes a 43. Teacher keeps the 58 for the assignment grade. (58 then 43 so 58)

Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses are exempt from the policy above.

Academic Dishonesty

North Lamar ISD board policy EIA Local states, “A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to grade penalties on assignments or tests and disciplinary penalties in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or another supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from students.”

Mastery of the learning objectives cannot be determined when academic dishonesty takes place; therefore, students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty:

- Will receive a zero for the original assignment.
- May receive disciplinary action. Refer to North Lamar ISD Student Code of Conduct for details.
- May receive an opportunity for an alternative assignment for an additional grade of the same weight. The grade on the alternative assignment does not replace the zero earned on the original assignment.