

Assessment, Grading, Coursework and Reporting

Staff will utilize assessment, grading and coursework practices that are: consistent; accurate; and meaningful to students, teachers and parents.

Dallas School Board directs staff to follow these tenets for assessing, grading and assigning coursework:

Tenet 1: (standards)

- Published standards will provide the basis for determining grades for each course and grade level.

Tenet 2: (coursework)

- Every student assignment will have clear learning target(s) and assessment criteria.
- Teachers will assign only as much practice necessary to master the content.
- The volume of work assigned must be appropriate to grade level.
- A blanket uniform assignment with no regard for individual differences is not appropriate.

Tenet 3: (assessments)

- Teachers will involve students in assessment and grading processes, sample student performance and provide meaningful feedback.
- Teachers will use quality assessments and properly record evidence of student achievement.

Tenet 4: (feedback)

- Teachers will use clear and consistent descriptions of performance, levels, (i.e. rubrics, scoring guides) for the purposes of assessing, grading and providing feedback of student work.

Tenet 5: (grading)

- Achievement of learning standards will be assessed separately from behavior (i.e. attendance, disruption, late work, tardiness, preparation, effort, attitude, etc).
- Teachers will provide students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of each standard.
- Participation in performances or competitions outside of the school day may be deemed a part of course requirements for a grade. When participation is not possible an alternative will be provided.
- Grades will be based on individual, not group achievement.
- Final grades are determined by reviewing the body of documented evidence relative to mastery of the standards.

Tenet 6: (reporting)

- Parents/guardians will be informed regularly of their student's progress in school.
- Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible when a student's performance shows marked or sudden decline.
- At secondary schools, weekly updated reports will be available through online Home Access.
- Annually the board will adopt a calendar that communicates parent teacher conference dates and progress/semester grading dates.