

STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN

Final Academic Grades and Grade Forgiveness Policies

This information presented herein is part of the District Student Progression Plan. The entire document may be viewed on-line at http://oat.dadeschools.net/docs/SPP_2015-2016.pdf.

Determining Final Academic Grades for Secondary Students

In authorized annual courses, the student's final grade shall be determined by the teacher as follows: 25 percent value for each of four nine-week grading periods, with a provision for teacher override. A teacher may administer an assessment at the end of each nine-week grading period. The value of the assessment may not exceed 5 percent of the grade for each nine-week grading period. This equates to ten points required to pass an annual course using a 4.0 scale. In secondary courses with mandatory Florida End of Course (EOC) assessments, the EOC score must be included as 30% of the final course grade.

Students in grades 9-12, in order to pass an annual course must earn a minimum of 10 grade points, five of which must be earned in the second semester. Students in grades 6-8 must also earn a minimum of 10 grade points, but earning five points in the second semester does not apply. Teacher override (either up or down) can be used. A teacher exercising the override rule must have documentation for such a decision. See Appendix D for an explanation of teacher override. In secondary courses with mandatory Florida End of Course (EOC) assessments, the EOC score must be included as 30% of the final course grade.

Grade Forgiveness Policy for Secondary Grades/Attendance and Grading

In grades 6-12, teachers may override the final grade of a semester or an annual course on the electronic gradebook, thus overriding the computation of the grade point average. The override option applies to raising a grade to a higher grade or lowering it. The grade forgiveness policy is addressed in 1003.4282, (5) F.S.

Grade Forgiveness in Grades 9-12

For students in grades 9-12 the forgiveness policy for required courses is limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F" with a grade of "C" or higher earned subsequently in the same or comparable course. The forgiveness policy for elective courses is limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F" with a grade of "C" or higher earned subsequently in another course. In either situation when student attempts forgiveness for a grade, only the new grade will be used to compute the student's GPA, but the lower grade will remain on the student's transcript and in the student's permanent record. Any course not replaced according to this policy shall be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average required for graduation.

Grade Forgiveness in Middle Grades

The only exception to these forgiveness policies shall be made for a student in the middle grades who takes a high school course for high school credit beginning and earns a grade of “C,” “D,” or “F.” In such case, the forgiveness policy must allow the replacement of the grade with a grade of “C” or higher, earned subsequently in the same course or comparable course.

Attendance and Grading

Students in grades 6-12 who have 10 or more unexcused absences in an annual course or five or more unexcused absences in a semester course will be subject to the withholding of passing final grade(s) (“A” – “D”), pending a student/parent-requested administrative screening and/or review of all absences by the attendance review committee. If all course objectives and competencies have been appropriately mastered by the student, he/she may receive a passing final grade within acceptable grade definitions. For additional information, as well as how attendance affects the grades of K-5 students, refer to School Board Policy 5200, Attendance.

Schools shall not exempt students from academic performance requirements, such as exams, based on practices or policies designed to encourage student attendance. A student’s attendance record may not be used in whole or in part to provide an exemption from any academic performance requirement.