

# La Porte Independent School District



## Instructional Grading & Reporting Procedures

*Prekindergarten – Twelfth Grade  
2020 – 2021*

# **LPISD Instructional, Grading, and Reporting Procedures**

## **FOREWORD**

These guidelines are in accordance with current practices and policies, as well as the Texas Education Code. An attempt has been made to provide a set of guidelines in those areas which will best meet the needs of students and provide assistance to the instructional staff. This handbook provides:

1. A tool which will foster consistency among teachers, disciplines and schools as students progress through the LPISD educational program
2. A reference which will encourage a better understanding of grading, assessment, reporting and promotion for teachers, parents and students
3. A description of the District's grading system

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# LA PORTE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## *DISTRICT GOALS*

**Goal 1:** Increase achievement and success for every student through rigorous, broad-based academic programs and expanded opportunities

**Goal 2:** Provide a safe, secure and disciplined learning environment

**Goal 3:** Attract, develop and retain excellent staff

**Goal 4:** Promote family engagement and active involvement of the community in the education of our students

**Goal 5:** Ensure and demonstrate efficient and effective use of district resources

## *MISSION STATEMENT*

**“Every Student’s Success is our #1 Priority.”**

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# **LPISD Instructional, Grading, and Reporting Procedures**

## **LPISD Curriculum and Instruction PK-12**

### **State and Local Curriculum**

#### **State Curriculum**

Curriculum content is prescribed by the Texas Education Agency through the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Local instructional plans are based upon this State curriculum frameworks and state recommended program standards. Curriculum content is not prescribed in detail by the Texas Education Agency, but provides a framework to draw upon for the development of local curriculum.

#### **Local Curriculum (EIA Local)**

The District shall determine instructional objectives that relate to the TEKS for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives shall address the skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses. Curriculum consists of the defined scope and sequence of instruction, the instructional objectives for student mastery, the materials used (including textbooks and technology resources), the instructional strategies designed to promote student learning, and the assessment practices used to evaluate that learning.

Each elementary school maintains a balanced curriculum. Curriculum offerings include Language Arts (reading, literature, oral language, composition writing, handwriting, spelling), Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Art, Music), Physical Education/Wellness, Theater Arts, Technology Applications, and if desired, Languages Other Than English (LOTE).

Each secondary school maintains a balanced curriculum including English Language Arts, Reading, Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Fine Arts, Health/Fitness, Technology Applications, Physical Education/Wellness, Languages Other Than English (LOTE), and Career and Technology Education (CTE).

### **LPISD Curriculum**

All La Porte Independent School District scope and sequences are correlated to the TEKS to ensure coverage of the essential skills and concepts of each course. The development, alignment, revision, and review of District curriculum is carried out under the direction of curriculum coordinators with a team of teachers.

#### **Instructional Materials**

State-adopted textbooks and electronic media serve as one instructional resource to meet course and curriculum objectives. In Texas, textbooks and electronic media are currently provided by the state from an approved list. District-adopted textbooks are selected through a formal committee process (19 TAC 67.107). Requests to select alternate textbooks or systems must be based upon analysis of alternate resources and student performance data; and must follow the applicable textbook waiver process. Locally-purchased instructional materials are selected by the District, campus or individual teachers to meet the needs of students.

#### **Instructional Practices**

Instructional strategies and practices to ensure student success are based upon campus and teacher analysis of student needs, effective teaching practices, student learning styles, and demonstrated success through the assessment process.

Student academic achievement shall be based on the degree of mastery of the District's instructional objectives as outlined in the curriculum guides for each subject. The objectives reflect the Texas Education Agency TEKS and address the skills and concepts needed for successful performance in the current grade and in the next grade.

Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities shall be designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the designated TEKS. The student's mastery level shall be a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course.

Achievement grades should be fairly determined from a wide variety of information, which could include student performance on daily assignments/homework, tests, and/or special projects. The information used in grading should be appropriate to the grade level and subject being considered. Prior to instruction, students should be informed of the class or course expectations, and the teacher must be prepared to document and explain how grades are determined.

## **Academic Achievement: Retention and Promotion**

### **Curriculum Mastery**

Promotion and course credit shall be based on mastery of the curriculum. Expectations and standards for promotion shall be established for each grade level, content area, and course and shall be coordinated with compensatory/accelerated services. [See *District Policy* EHBC]

### **Standards for Mastery**

In addition to the factors in law that must be considered for promotion, mastery shall be determined as follows:

1. Course assignments and unit evaluation shall be used to determine student grades in a subject. An average of 70 or higher shall be considered a passing grade.
2. Mastery of the skills necessary for success at the next level shall be validated by assessments that may either be incorporated into unit, final examinations or may be administered separately. Mastery of at least 70 percent of the objectives shall be required.

#### **Grades 1 - 8**

In grade 1-8, promotion to the next grade level shall be based on an overall average of 70 on a scale of 100 based on course-level, grade-level standards (essential knowledge and skills) for all subject areas and a grade of 70 or above in the following areas: language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

#### **Grades 9-12**

Grade-level advancement for students in grades 9 -12 shall be earned by course credits.

## **Official Grade Reports**

### **Progress Reports**

The purpose of the Progress Report is to inform students, parents/guardians, and campus administrators regarding progress in a subject, in conduct, or in both. The Progress Report reflects both satisfactory and unsatisfactory student progress.

#### **Elementary Students**

1. Elementary students in first through fifth grade will receive a Progress Report at the mid-point of the nine-week period.
2. It is the student's responsibility to deliver the Progress Report to the parent/guardian.
3. The progress report is to be signed by the parent and returned to the teacher/school.
4. It is imperative to contact parents anytime their student is in danger of failing or if there is a significant drop in grades. It is strongly suggested that parents be contacted at the time it becomes apparent that failure is possible or if a student's grade drops by 10 or more percentage points.
5. Weekly progress reports shall be issued for all students with a grade of 74 or lower in all core subject areas.
6. Telephone or electronic contact with parents/guardians should be made when a Progress Report is not returned with parent/guardian signature or when more immediate notification of possible failure is required. Teachers should maintain a telephone or electronic log of contacts and attempted contacts with parents.

## Secondary Students

1. Secondary students will receive a Progress Report at the end of the third week of a grading period.
2. The campus will email parents with notice that Progress Reports are available. Parents will be able to access Progress Reports through Home Access.
3. It is imperative to contact parents anytime their student is in danger of failing or if there is a significant drop in grades. It is strongly suggested that parents be contacted at the time it becomes apparent that failure is possible or if a student's grade drops by 10 or more percentage points.
4. Weekly progress notices shall be issued for all students with a grade of 74 or lower in all core subject areas. These notices will be either a phone call, email or written notice.
5. Teachers should maintain a telephone or electronic log of contacts and attempted contacts with parents.

## Report Cards

The Report Card is a communication tool for parents/guardians and students. Report Cards provide information regarding academic progress, student conduct, and absences.

1. Report Cards are computer generated.
2. Report Cards are issued once at the end of each nine-weeks/six-weeks grading period.
3. Report Cards require a parent/guardian signature indicating they have seen the Report Card.

## Online Records - Home Access Center

1. Parents/guardians may also access student progress information through the student/parent gradebook portal.
2. The student/parent gradebook portal displays Progress Report averages, Report Card averages, and individual assignment grades in the teacher gradebook (if applicable).
3. Teachers will export updated grades weekly to the student parent gradebook portal to keep students and parents informed of ongoing progress.
4. Students will receive access information at school (parent/guardian permission is required at Elementary and Junior High School).
5. Parent/guardians should contact the school regarding access information. All account information must be acquired in person with photo identification.

## Academic Grading Scales

### Prekindergarten

The Prekindergarten Report Card is designed to assist teachers in evaluating the ongoing growth and development of students. Parent/teacher conferences are suggested throughout the school year upon the request of the parent/guardian or the teacher. Circle Progress Monitoring Reports and the La Porte ISD Prekindergarten Report Card are provided to parents/guardians three times per school year.

**The following symbols are used to indicate a student's progress in all reported areas:**

- E** – Exceeds expectations on PK guidelines
- M** – Meets expectations on PK guidelines
- D** – Developing

## Kindergarten

The Kindergarten Report Card and First Grade Report Card are designed to assist teachers in evaluating the ongoing growth and development of students.

**The following symbols are used to indicate a student's progress in Behavioral Expectations and Co-curricular reported areas:**

- S – Satisfactory
- N – Needs Improvement
- U – Unsatisfactory

## Grades 1-5

The District will report nine-week averages to parents/guardians as numerical scores in core content areas and through development symbols in enrichment areas.

**The following table relates the numerical scores and letter grades used to report Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Conduct, and Handwriting for first through fifth grade students:**

<b>Numeric Average</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Description</b>
90-100	A	Excellent Progress
80-89	B	Good Progress
75-79	C	Average Progress
70-74	D	Poor Progress
69 and below	F	Not Satisfactory

**Technology Applications, Music, Art, Physical Education, Health, and Work Habits will be reported with the following for first through fifth grade students:**

- E**      **Excellent**
- S**      **Satisfactory**
- N**      **Needs Improvement**
- U**      **Unsatisfactory**

## Grades 6-12

The District will report six-week averages to parents/guardians as numerical scores and letter grades.

**The following table relates the numerical scores and letter grades used for reporting all academic progress.**

<b>Numeric Average</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Description</b>
90- 100	A	Excellent Progress
80-89	B	Good Progress
75-79	C	Average Progress
70-74	D	Poor Progress
69 and below	F	Not Satisfactory

## **Academic Integrity**

Academic Dishonesty is defined in the La Porte ISD Policy (EIA). Students 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, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during or regarding 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.

### **Behaviors defined as cheating:**

- Giving or receiving information, looking on someone else's work, or allowing someone else to see one's work during an exam, test or quiz.
- Unauthorized receipt, distribution, or discussion of exam, test or quiz contents, materials, or answer key.
- Use of unauthorized resources such as notes during an exam.
- Taking an exam, producing a project, paper or assignment for another student or asking someone to take an exam or produce a project, paper or assignment for an individual.
- Copying work assigned to be done independently or letting others copy one's work.

### **Behaviors defined as plagiarism:**

- Any misrepresentation of another's work as one's own, including the copying of sentences, phrases, images, entire essays, passages from an undocumented source, musical scores, and other similar works.

### **Academic Dishonesty will result in academic and/or behavioral consequences.**

1. A grade of zero will be given on the work involved, and the grade of zero will be averaged with the other grades.
2. A building principal will be notified of all incidents of academic dishonesty.
3. Other actions as determined by the building principal, which may include assignment to In-School Suspension (ISS).

# Elementary (PK-5) Grading and Reporting Procedures

## Grading Roles and Responsibilities

### Student

1. To complete assigned work on time and return it to the teacher
2. To plan to carefully schedule work on long-term assignments so that assignments will be completed on time
3. To communicate with the teacher when he/she does not understand the assignment or is experiencing difficulty prior to due date
4. For students receiving instruction virtually, **each day** the student will be expected to submit feedback, completed assignments or assessment for credit.

### Parent/Guardian

1. To establish a specific time, place, and manner for homework to be completed
2. To provide the supplies and materials necessary to complete homework
3. To monitor as needed, but not do homework for the student
4. To assist the student in planning a time schedule for long-term assignments
5. To initiate communication with the teacher when concerns arise

### Teacher

1. To provide meaningful tasks that enrich and supplement work introduced in class
2. To communicate homework assignments, both regular and long-range, in an appropriate framework
3. To provide effective instruction prior to assigning homework that adequately prepares the child to do the task independently and successfully
4. To provide course requirements and expectations at the beginning of each grading period to students and parents.
5. To consider available resources, materials, and home situations when assigning a task
6. To review and return homework to students within a timeframe which enhances instruction and provides a benefit to the student.
7. For virtual students, teachers are required to expect student responses **DAILY** in the form of written feedback, completed assignments or assessments.

### Teacher Records/Gradebook

The grading record should be a teacher's record and/or file of evidence to support grades reported on the report card. Grades should be logical, justifiable, and sufficient in number to assure that the report card grade is an accurate measure of the student's progress and achievement. A sufficient number includes no less than two grades per subject per week.

Grades should reflect a balance of objectives covered. The teacher's grade record is a part of the official documentation portraying mastery of TEKS and District objectives. If possible, a description of the learning task should be included in this documentation. These records should be accurately maintained and teachers should be aware that many times grades will need to be justified. All grades should be recorded legibly.

Gradebooks for prekindergarten, kindergarten and first grade may consist of checklists, anecdotal records, or individual portfolios. These materials should be evaluated using the curriculum guidelines.

### Return of Assignments

Teachers should review and return all graded work to students within a time frame that will benefit the student. Graded daily work should be returned on a weekly basis. Larger projects should be reviewed and returned on a timely basis. This

will allow the student to identify any areas of weakness and arrange for tutorials or extra study sessions prior to assessment.

## **Required Tutorials**

The purpose of a mandated tutorial session is to provide instruction to assist students who have not mastered the TEKS currently being taught. Tutorials also serve to provide instructional reinforcement for students needing assistance. All District students may attend tutorial sessions; however, students who have not mastered the TEKS (or are currently failing) will be given priority during scheduled tutorial times.

1. Tutorials will be offered at least twice a week before or after school for students who are not mastering the state mandated TEKS.
2. Parents will be notified and records maintained by teachers that a student requires tutorial instruction.
3. Attendance of students will be maintained by teachers.

## **Lesson Plans**

Elementary teachers are required to prepare weekly lesson plans to assist with planning for instruction. The purpose of lesson plans is to provide a written document, which outlines daily objectives and activities for instruction. The lesson plan should include state and district objectives as referenced in the scope and sequence of district curriculum. Lesson plans are turned in weekly. Lesson plans should be turned in on a scheduled basis according to the campus specific schedule and process to *Forethought* in Eduphoria.

## **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Parents shall be provided any relevant information concerning their child that will enhance their understanding of the child's ability, effort, success, or progress in the school program.

Communicating with parents is one of the most important responsibilities of teachers. Conferences provide an arena for collecting developmental and personal information from parents that may affect a child's learning. Developing rapport and encouraging parent involvement in the child's educational process is critical. Reporting and discussing student progress with parents is also an integral part of helping students be successful.

Teachers shall provide an opportunity for a conference with parents once a semester. In addition to conferences scheduled on the campus calendar, conferences may be requested by a teacher or parent as needed. (EIA Local)

A combination of report cards, progress reports and parent conferences is used to inform parents of their child's progress in school.

Weekly progress reports shall be issued for all students with a grade of 74 or lower in all core subject areas.

## **Grade Level Expectations Overview**

Teachers will provide an overview of the grade level expectations to students and parents at the beginning of the school year.

## **Campus Webpages**

LPISD currently hosts campus webpages through the district website. Teacher contact information will be available in the campus faculty directory.

## **Types of Assessments**

### **General**

Student mastery of subject matter may be assessed in a variety of ways. Therefore, it is not necessary for all grades to be based on written paper work. Nor is it always necessary to receive a grade for every paper produced. Although the teacher will monitor and provide feedback to students for any activity which they assign, the feedback does not always need to be in the form of a grade. Assessment should always follow a period of guided practice and/or independent practice.

Students' work may be evaluated for more than one subject area as appropriate.

### **Performance-Based Courses**

Performance-based courses may have assignments that differ significantly from other academic courses. Performance-based courses include courses within the Fine Arts and Physical Education departments.

In many performance-based courses, the grading and assignments must reflect the TEKS and a measure of the student's performance. In performance-based courses, a higher percentage of the grade may come from participation.

Teachers of performance-based courses should work with the campus administration to ensure that their grading system is in compliance with both LPISD Grading **and** Reporting Procedures and the expectations and guidelines of the program area.

### **Major Assessments**

#### **Tests and Examinations**

Examinations serve to evaluate mastery of the TEKS, concepts, understandings and District objectives. They provide opportunities to demonstrate certain knowledge or skill. Types of examination include:

- end of unit tests
- end of chapter tests

#### **Checkpoints**

A short 10 question assessment will be administered to 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in reading, math, writing, science, and social studies.

80% of the assessment will be made up of questions assessing the standards taught during the 3-week period. 20% of the assessment will be made up of standards determined to be "deep holes". These are standards where data indicates that additional instructional attention should be directed to each class.

The data gathered from the checkpoint will be utilized to guide instructional planning and will not impact individual student report card grades.

#### **Performance Assessments**

Performance assessments are measures of a student's progress toward mastery of TEKS and District curriculum objectives. There are many forms of assessment that may or may not be utilized by individual teachers. Types of performance assessments include:

- classroom participation
- classroom discussions
- oral responses
- written responses



- experiments
- teacher observation
- checklists of skills
- portfolios
- enrichment
- group work/projects
- chapter/unit tests

## Compositions

In writing, compositions are formal writing assignments. Compositions often take a longer time to complete and are graded for many components. The evaluation of the writing process is the major determinant of the average.

## Daily Grades

### 1. Daily Work

Class work is any instructional activity defined/planned by the teacher to be completed during a class period to facilitate the learning process.

### 2. Homework

Homework is work that is assigned to be completed at home. No new concepts should be included in homework.

Homework is an effective tool in developing responsibility, study habits, and skills. It is an extension of the learning process and involves the home in the child's curriculum. It should be purposeful, related to classroom experiences, and be age and grade appropriate. The purpose and directions for the assignment need to be clearly communicated and should be preceded by instruction that adequately prepares the child to do the task independently and successfully.

1. Homework is not to be assigned on weekends or before holidays with the exception of previously scheduled special reports and/or projects.
2. Homework may be assigned not to exceed:

Kindergarten	15 Minutes
Grade 1	20 Minutes
Grade 2	20 Minutes
Grade 3	30 Minutes
Grade 4	40 Minutes
Grade 5	40 Minutes

Because students work at different paces, it may take some students more or less time to complete assignments. Teachers must use discretion about the amount of work given, so that homework does not consistently exceed these time limits.

### Grades K-1 Homework Guidelines

- Homework should be a review or reinforcement of skills already covered in the classroom. It should not be new information for the student.
- Each student is expected to read, or be read to, 15 minutes each school night in addition to assigned homework.
- Homework is not counted as a class grade.

## **Grades 2-5 Homework Guidelines**

- Grades reported as homework grades are constituted of work assigned to be completed at home.
- Homework should be a review or reinforcement of skills already covered in the classroom. It should not be new information for the student.
- Students are expected to complete all homework assignments.
- Each student is expected to read, or be read to, at least 20 minutes each school night in addition to assigned homework.
- The total homework should never exceed one hour.
- If two or more teachers are working with a student, the homework should be coordinated to adhere to the one-hour time frame limit.

## **Grading Homework**

Homework may be evaluated in a variety of ways. At times, checking for completion is appropriate. At other times, a complete analysis of procedure, content, and/or correct answers is appropriate. Graded assignments should be returned to the student in a timely manner.

## **Extra Credit Points**

Teachers may assign extra points to any assignment; however, no "additional" assignments are given solely as extra credit. The instructional process at the elementary level stresses multiple opportunities for student success.

## **Calculating Nine Weeks Averages**

### **Weight of Grades (Grades 1-5)**

1. All numeric averages reported on Progress Reports and Report Cards will be determined using a percentage grading system.

### **Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies**

2. The following percentages and assignment types will be used:

Daily Grades	80%
Major/Assessments	20%
Homework	0%

### **Maximum Weight of a Grade**

When calculating a nine-week average, no single assignment/assessment grade may count more than 20% of the total average regardless of the grade category. It should be noted, however, that some major projects may comprise more than one assignment. Calculated averages reported on Progress Reports or Report Cards may not exceed 100%.

### **Minimum Number of Grades**

A minimum of **two** grades per week should be given in each core academic area (Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) during each nine-week grading period. For Language Arts, a minimum of two compositions during each grading period will be given. Teachers are encouraged to have a sufficient number of grades to allow multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery of the TEKS.

### **Maximum/Minimum Grade Reported**

When an elementary student receives a grade below 50, the actual grade will be recorded in the gradebook and averaged with rest of the grades.

### **Assignment Format**

Teachers may deduct no more than 5 percent on a paper for an incomplete heading.

### **Transfer Grades**

Students new to the District or who enroll in a school after the start of a grading period shall be treated fairly in awarding grades. Grades shall be computed using a combination of grades from the former school and grades earned for the time the student has been enrolled in the new school.

Face-to-Face and Virtual Instruction option changes will be allowed at the end of each 9-week grading period. If the parent/guardian desire to change their instructional delivery method, this request can be made in writing to the campus administrator at least 5 days prior to the end of the 9-weeks grading period. The LPISD Instructional Calendar is attached in Appendix A.

### **Reteach and Reassess for Mastery**

#### **Mastery of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills**

La Porte Independent School district has provided a well-balanced curriculum based on state prescribed Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students who participate in this curriculum will have the opportunity to master the knowledge, skills and competencies established by the district curriculum and the state standards.

LPISD will utilize ongoing mastery assessment to determine which students are in need of remediation (reteaching and acceleration). The use of benchmark tests, teacher-made tests, performance assessments, and teacher observations will help determine which students are not mastering instructional objectives.

1. Teachers will monitor and identify students who need reteaching.
2. Teachers will provide reteaching as necessary.
3. Students will be reevaluated after reteaching has occurred. Reevaluation may include, but is not limited to, oral examination, special assignments or a formal test.
4. For a reevaluation on a failing grade (below 70), a grade of 70 will be the highest grade recorded on reevaluation to designate the student's mastery of the TEKS.

Example: If the reassessment grade is 95 out of 100, a grade of 70 will be recorded. If the first assessment and the reassessment are both below 70, the higher of the two grades will be recorded.

#### **Acceleration (Intervention)**

Acceleration (Intervention) is an integral part of the elementary instructional program and is an ongoing process. Frequent evaluation, both formal and informal, will determine the need for acceleration.

- Provides frequent reinforcement and review so that a student does not "get too far behind"
- Occurs at the time the need is identified
- Allows the student to progress systematically through content without experiencing extended, frustrating periods of non-achievement
- Offers a variation in instructional approach - uses a new technique, strategies, materials, opportunity for review, and practice
- Includes, but is not limited to, targeted small-group instruction, tutorials, and summer school

### ***Late Work in Grades 3 - 5***

Late work penalties are ten points deducted each day for the first three days that work is late. A zero is recorded after the third day.

<b>Days Late</b>	<b>Percent of Grade Received by Student</b>	<b>Example(s)</b>
1 School Day	90%	100 records as 90 ( $100 \times 0.10 = 10$ points off)
2 School Days	80%	100 records as 80 ( $100 \times 0.20 = 20$ points off)
3 or more School Days	0%	No credit given-grade of zero (0)

### **Makeup Work Guidelines**

1. Students shall be expected to make up assignments and tests after absences. Students shall receive a zero for any assignment or test not made up within the allotted time. (EIAB Local)
2. Students shall be permitted to take tests administered in any class missed because of absence.
3. For any class missed, the teacher may assign the student make-up work based on the instructional objectives for the subject or course and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements.
4. A student shall be responsible for obtaining and completing the make-up work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher
5. Teachers may assign a late penalty to any project turned in after the due date in accordance with previously established guidelines approved by the principal and disseminated to students.

### **Unexcused Absence**

The District shall not impose a grade penalty for make-up work after an unexcused absence.

### **Suspension**

This district shall not impose a grade penalty for make-up work after an absence because of a suspension.

# Secondary (6-12) Grading and Reporting Procedures

## Grading Roles and Responsibilities

### Student

1. Complete assigned work on time and return it to the teacher.
2. For students receiving instruction virtually, **each day** the student will be expected to submit feedback, completed assignments or assessment for credit.
3. Plan to schedule work on long-term assignments so assignments will be completed on time.
4. Initiate communication with the teacher when the student does not understand the assignment or if he/she is experiencing difficulty.
5. Complete all assignments within the time limits given by the teacher or be subject to appropriate late work guidelines.
6. Evaluate their own work for accuracy and seek clarification as needed from the teacher.
7. Maintain academic integrity and honesty. Academic dishonesty may result in behavioral and academic consequences (see **Academic Integrity**).
8. Students participating in extracurricular activities have grade eligibility requirements for participation.

### Parent/Guardian

1. Establish a specific time, place and manner for homework to be completed.
2. Provide the supplies and materials necessary to complete homework.
3. Monitor **as** needed, but do not do homework for the student.
4. Assist student in planning a time schedule for long-term assignments.
5. Initiate communication with the teacher when concerns arise.

### Campus

1. Each campus and/or department will adhere to the late work guidelines **as** established in the La Porte ISD Student/Parent Handbook.
2. A comprehensive six-week test schedule will be established on each campus. This schedule must be adhered to for six-week tests.
3. Six-week tests will be developed by each campus department for some core-area courses. District-developed tests may be provided for identified core-area courses.
4. Each campus will design and designate exam schedules as needed.
5. Campus administration shall address issues surrounding the calculation of grades for the purpose of regaining UIL eligibility at the three-week grade checks. Mastery of the content and material should be a guiding factor in determining eligibility.

### Department

1. Teachers within a department/content or grade level team will confer in the development of lesson plans and assessments.
2. Departmental six week tests will be developed if a district-developed test is not administered.
3. Departmental teachers will coordinate the sharing of instructional resources.

### Teacher

1. Teachers are required to provide the daily lesson objectives and activities for each class. If given verbally, they should also be written out so as to provide visual information.

2. For virtual students, teachers are required to expect student responses **DAILY** in the form of written feedback, completed assignments or assessments.
3. Teachers are required to write homework assignments on the board to be copied by students.
4. Only teachers will record grades for assignments.
5. All records of grades and assessments become a part of the confidential record for the assessment of student performance.
6. Teachers will inform students of content covered on all major assessments.
7. Teachers will not increase or decrease a classroom grade for participation or lack of participation in any extracurricular activity.
8. Teachers must follow the LPISD Grading and Reporting Procedures and ask for clarification from campus administration or department chairs as needed.
9. Teachers will provide students with a rubric for long-term projects/alternative assessments.

### **Teacher Records/Gradebook**

Grade records are an important record-keeping tool and should be accurately maintained. Teachers should be aware that many times grades will need to be verified; therefore, accurate record keeping is essential. All teachers will maintain the District-provided electronic gradebook.

1. Grades recorded in a gradebook are documentation of a student's progress and of mastery of the TEKS and curriculum objectives.
2. Grades recorded in a gradebook represent a confidential record for assessment of student performance.
3. The set of grades indicated in the gradebook shall be the complete set from which the student's average is determined.
4. The electronic gradebook must adhere to the calculations outlined in the LPISD Grading and Reporting Procedures.
5. Only the teacher of record (or principal designee) will enter grades in the gradebook.
6. Teachers will update electronic Gradebooks on a weekly basis.

### **Return of Assignments**

Teachers should review and return all graded work to students within a time frame that will benefit the student. Daily work should be returned within two to four scheduled class days. Larger projects should be reviewed and returned on a timely basis (within one week if feasible). This will allow the student to identify any areas of weakness and arrange for tutorials or extra study sessions prior to assessment.

### **Required Tutorials**

The purpose of a tutorial session is to provide one-on-one instruction to assist students who have not mastered the TEKS currently being taught. Tutorials also serve as an instructional reinforcement for students needing assistance. All LPISD students are welcomed and encouraged to attend tutorial sessions; however, students who have not mastered the TEKS (or are currently failing) should be given priority during scheduled tutorial times.

1. Each teacher must offer at least two (2) tutorial sessions per week for the purpose of providing assistance to students. Day and time of scheduled tutorials will be set by each campus. Some campuses may have mandatory tutorials within the school day. Note: Students may not be removed from any class to attend tutorials for more than ten percent of the time the class is offered without first obtaining parent permission.
2. Campuses may also schedule mandatory tutorial sessions for students that have failed to meet standards on state assessments. Students scheduled to attend these sessions are required to attend under compulsory attendance laws.
3. Teachers must be available to students during scheduled tutorial time.
4. It is required that the teacher keep a log of students attending tutorials.

## **Lesson Plans**

The purpose of a lesson plan is to provide a written document outlining daily objectives and activities for instruction. The lesson plan should include state, district, and campus objectives reflecting required TEKS.

1. All secondary teachers are required to prepare weekly lesson plans to assist with planning for instruction.
2. Lesson plans should be turned in on a scheduled basis according to the campus specific schedule and process to *Forethought* in Eduphoria.

## **Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences**

A teacher will schedule one or more conference(s) with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student if the student is not maintaining passing grades, is not achieving the expected level of performance, or in any other case that the teacher considers necessary. This conference may be requested by indicating so on the three-week Progress Report. Such conferences may be handled by telephone or in person.

Each teacher is required to notify parents/guardians to schedule a conference at the six weeks grading period if the grade is below the level required for course credit or grade level advancement.

## **Course Syllabus**

All secondary teachers are required to prepare, post, and distribute a course syllabus for students during the first two weeks of the course and/or semester. The purpose of the course syllabus is to provide information, guidelines, and an overview of a teacher's requirements for successful completion of a course. The syllabus may be defined as the scope and sequence of a course's major projects and themes. It may be prepared by semester or full-year requirements. The syllabus is designed to give students and parents/guardians an overview of the course's major themes and approximate dates of major course projects, exams, or papers. Each teacher may develop his/her own format for the course syllabus, but the following elements must be included:

- Teacher name
- Course title
- Conference time
- School/Teacher phone
- Outline or scope and sequence of major course units, themes, or projects
- Approximate timeline and due dates of long term projects
- General method of assessment and grade calculation in compliance with LPISD Grading and Reporting Procedures
- Average amount of homework
- Assigned reading/literary works

## **Campus Webpages**

LPISD currently hosts campus webpages through the district website. Teacher contact information will be available in the campus faculty directory.

## **Awarding Class Credit**

### **Mastery of Objectives**

1. Student academic achievement shall be based upon the degree of mastery of the District's objectives which reflect the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
2. In order to be awarded a grade of "70" in a course or subject, a student must demonstrate 70% mastery of the District's objectives in any recording period.

### **Required Attendance**

In accordance with State law, the student must have ninety percent (90%) attendance in the class during the semester.

Students may have two college visits their Senior year with two week prior approval by their grade level assistant principal and a letter from the college or university verifying the visit. Approval for visits their junior year need to be approved by the principal prior to scheduling the visit. These absences for approved college visits do not affect exemption for final exams.

### **Credit Recovery Course Guidelines**

Credit recovery is a structured means for students to recover missed credit (failed courses) in order to graduate. Students can recover credit in facilitated independent study online (*Edgenuity*) when scheduled by the school counselor following a review of the academic needs of the student. Credit for a failed course may be recovered as described below.

Credit is recovered if the student retakes the entire course and earns the minimum grade of 70 for the course. In some circumstances, the student may have passing grades in one or two six-week grading periods in which the course was previously attempted. Coursework may then be assigned to recover the portions of the course that have not previously been passed. The semester grade is determined by averaging the grade for the recovered grading period(s) with the grade(s) from the previously passed grading period(s). A maximum grade of 80 may be assigned for the grading period and/or the course when a student is retaking a course for credit recovery. A grade of 50 will be awarded for students not making appropriate progress during any grading period or for students that fail to complete the course.

### **Procedures:**

The teacher will assign work to students recovering credits through the completion of online coursework provided through *Edgenuity*. Online folders of work are provided based on the student's scheduled coursework. With the exception of required reading assignments, all assignments must be completed within the credit recovery class so that work is monitored and facilitated by the credit recovery teacher. Students receive instruction and assistance as needed to provide them the opportunity for successful completion of assigned coursework. The credit recovery grade is calculated within the *Edgenuity* online grade book.

Due to the unique needs of the online setting, the following expectations are shared with students at the start of their online credit recovery experience:

### **Access**

- Coursework is to be completed at school during the school day.
- If necessary, additional time may be completed at school during tutorials, detention, and/or makeup hours for absences.

### **Action**

- Work completed away from school does not accumulate credit toward course completion and will be considered practice work.
- Practice work will be reassigned to complete for credit at school.



## **Expectations**

- Students are to remain alert and on task throughout the Credit Recovery (Edgenuity) class period(s).
- Use of effective academic strategies such as remaining focused, taking notes, and working with the credit recovery teacher are encouraged and expected.
- *Edgenuity* coursework is intended to allow students to accelerate course completion. Students are expected to complete each course within a 9-week time period unless assigned differently by the counselor/Credit Recovery facilitator.

## **Types of Assessments**

### **General**

Student mastery of course objectives may be assessed in a variety of ways. It is not necessary, therefore, for all grades to have as their source written paper work. Nor is it always necessary to receive a grade for every paper produced. Although the teacher should always monitor and provide feedback to students for any activity that he/she assigns, the feedback does not always need to be in the form of a grade. Assessment should always follow a period of guided practice and/or independent practice.

In grading a group project, members of a group should not be penalized for an individual's non-participation. Conversely, a student who does not fully participate, but participates to a limited degree, will receive a grade reflective of his/her participation.

Performance assessments are measures of a student's progress toward mastery of course objectives or content. There are many forms of assessment that may or may not be utilized by individual teachers. Types of performance assessments include:

- classroom participation
- classroom discussions
- oral responses
- written responses
- homework assignments
- experiments
- teacher observation
- research project
- checklists of skills
- portfolios
- enrichment
- group work/projects
- independent or group reading

### **Performance-Based Courses**

Performance-based courses may have assignments that differ significantly from other academic courses. Performance-based courses include courses within the following departments: Career and Technology Education (CTE), Fine Arts, Physical Education and Athletics.

In many performance-based courses, the grading and assignments must reflect the TEKS and a measure of the student's performance. In performance-based courses, a higher percentage of the grade may come from participation.

Teachers of performance-based courses should work with campus administration to ensure that their grading system is in compliance with both LPISD Grading and Reporting Procedures and the expectations and guidelines of the program area.

## Major Grades

### Test/Examinations

Tests and examinations measure performance based on the TEKS or content. They serve to evaluate mastery of the TEKS, concepts, understandings, and District objectives, and provide opportunities to demonstrate certain knowledge or skills.

### Grading (6-12) Grading and Reporting Procedures

1. Test/Examinations are assessments designed to measure a student's successful attainment of the TEKS as expressed in the LPISD curriculum guides.
2. Major examinations or tests are chapter, unit, concept, or cumulative (weekly, three, or six weeks) assessments.
3. Major tests must be scheduled and announced in advance.
4. Major tests are intended to take more than half of the class period to complete.

### Six-Week Tests and/or Assessments

1. Six-week tests are administered in all core content classes. These tests may be Department or team-developed. Curriculum unit tests may be used as six-week tests providing that some content from the entire six-week period is spiraled in.
2. Six-week assessments may be administered in non-core content classes.

### Alternative Assessments

1. Alternative assessments will reflect real-world tasks and relate to instructional objectives.
2. This type of assessment often requires analyzing a task, developing a plan of action, gathering information, selecting the relevant information, and presenting appropriate information.
3. The method of presentation/product should be designed by the teacher based on the subject area and content objectives.
4. Alternative assessments may be substituted for major tests.
5. Teachers will provide students with a rubric for long-term projects/alternative assessments.

### Special Projects/Research Papers

1. Research papers or projects are lengthy class work or homework assignments that may take up to several weeks for a student or group of students to complete.
2. Teachers may assign research papers or projects to an individual or to a group of students as determined by the teacher.
3. A rubric must be provided to the student prior to beginning the project/paper.
4. Term papers or projects, assigned over a lengthy period and included on the course syllabus, are due on or before the due date. Students who are absent on the due date, including school business, must meet the deadline. There are no exceptions for late research projects.
5. The special due date clause for term papers and long-term projects applies only to assignments included on the course syllabus. Long-term projects may be assigned at any time by the teachers, but the special due date clause will not apply. Penalty for these late projects will be the same as for all other late work.

## Daily Grades

### Daily Work

Classwork is any instructional activity defined/planned by the teacher to be completed during a class period to facilitate the learning process. There could be occasions where classwork becomes homework.

### Checkpoints

1. A short 10 question assessment will be administered every three weeks in each of the 6-12 core content classes and the 9-12 CTE courses. 80% of the assessment will be made up of questions assessing the standards taught during the 3-week period. 20% of the assessment will be made up of standards

- determined to be “deep holes”. These are standards where data indicates that additional instructional attention should be directed to each class.
2. The data gathered from the checkpoint will be utilized to guide instructional planning and support.
  3. The results from the checkpoint assessment will be recorded as a daily grade.

### **Homework**

Homework and classwork provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge, skills, and processes from previous learning to display their understanding. Homework and classwork should be considered extended learning opportunities for students to show mastery of concepts taught. Homework and classwork should never be assigned as punishment. Each teacher will prepare a syllabus that states the average amount of homework given weekly. Teachers will also be aware and considerate of other courses that require homework.

Homework can be a necessary part of the instructional process that begins in the classroom, extends into the home, and provides a way for parent/guardians to become aware of the instructional program and their child's educational program.

Homework should never be a disciplinary measure, but should be used to enrich and strengthen classroom experiences.

New concepts, which are introduced through homework, should only be evaluated on effort.

### **Grading Homework**

Homework may be graded in a variety of ways. At times, checking for completion is appropriate. At other times, a complete analysis of procedure, content, and/or correct answers is appropriate. Graded assignments should be returned to the student in a timely manner.

### **Quizzes**

Quizzes are short assessments, intended to take no more than 20 minutes to complete, and designed to evaluate a student's level of understanding and progress towards instructional objectives. Quizzes do not have to be scheduled in advance.

## **Semester Final Exams**

1. Semester Final Exams are administered in all high school credit courses at the end of the fall and spring semester.
2. Semester Final Exams are administered in all junior high courses and courses for high school credit.
3. Students in grades 12 may be exempt from spring Semester Final Exams. (See High School Exam Exemption Criteria). Note: Final exam exemptions will be phased out for classes subject to End of Course Exams.
4. Semester Final Exams must be representative of the work of the entire semester.
5. Comprehensive projects may be substituted for semester final exams with principal approval. The projects should incorporate similar TEKS taught in the semester curriculum. Teachers must develop a project assessment rubric that includes the appropriate level of rigor.

## **Extra Credit**

1. All extra credit is to be academic.
2. The intent of extra credit is for enrichment in a class, not to gain mastery of the TEKS.
3. Extra credit may be offered at the discretion of the teacher.
4. If extra credit is offered, it must be offered to all students in the class.
5. Extra credit will not cause an excessive financial burden on the student or be given for bringing in basic school supplies.
6. Extra credit awarded will not account for more than 5% of the six-week average.

## **Calculation of Six-Week Average**

See Appendix: LPISD Secondary Grading System Planning Sheet

### **Weight of Grades**

1. All six-week averages shall be calculated on a percentage system for each type (category) of assignment.

### **Major Grades**

2. Major Grades will comprise 50% of the six-week average in all grades 6 - 8 courses and high school credit courses.
3. Major Grades include: Alternative Assessments, Examinations/Tests, Projects, Research Papers, Six-Week Tests, and other similar assignments
4. Six-week tests/assessments (department developed) will be given at the end of each six weeks. These tests/assessments will count the same as all other class tests/assessments except for final exams.

**Note 1:** Campuses that systematically use DISTRICT CURRICULUM unit examinations for formative assessments have the option to forgo six week assessments.

**Note 2:** Final exams may be combined with the 3<sup>rd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> six-week exams by including representative content from prior grading periods.

5. For students in a Career and Technology Education (CTE) program requiring employment, 25% to 50% of the six-week average may reflect employer evaluation.

### **Daily Grades**

Daily Grades will comprise 40% of the six-week average in all junior high school credit courses and high school credit courses. Daily Grades include: Class Work, Homework, Notebooks, Quizzes and other similar assignments

### **Writing across the Curriculum**

All grades 6 - 12 courses will administer one or more reading/writing assignments comprising 10% of the six-week average. Informational literacy is a critical component of academic success. Current research indicates that focusing reading assignments across the content areas improves student's skills in navigating effectively through nonfiction works (textbooks, primary sources, math problems, etc.). All teachers are responsible for helping students master the content of a particular course and for making content-specific reading a more meaningful, valuable, and enduring learning experience. Additionally, assessment data clearly demonstrates the writing skills development is a critical need for LPISD students. Campuses should develop plans to systematically address writing across the curriculum.

### **Maximum Weight of a Grade**

When calculating a six-week average, no single assignment/assessment grade may count more than 25% of the total average regardless of the grade category. It should be noted, however, that some major projects (i.e. Research Papers) may comprise more than one assignment. Calculated averages reported on Progress Reports or Report Cards may not exceed 100%.

### **Minimum Number of Grades**

A minimum of **three** grades per week should be given in all subjects/courses during each six-week grading period. For English Language Arts, a minimum of three compositions during each grading period will be given. Teachers are encouraged to have a sufficient number of grades to allow multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery of the TEKS. Three-Week checkpoints will be recorded as a daily grade and will count toward the minimum 3 grades per week expectation.

Grades will be published weekly.

NOTE: Teachers must click on the “Publish “ button on the grade book in order for the grades to post on Home Access. Grades must be posted/updated by Tuesday at 8:00 a.m.

### **Assignment Format**

The header, footer, or cover sheet format for any assignment may comprise no more than 3% of the grade on the assignment unless the sole objective for the assignment is format. Teachers may deduct no more than 3% of the assignment point value for format.

### **Incomplete Grades**

A student receiving an incomplete and/or a zero for a missed Semester/Final Exam has two (2) weeks to convert the incomplete grade to an earned grade.

In unusual cases, where the student has missed a large quantity of work, the time may be extended.

In all cases, the teacher must communicate to the student the nature of the outstanding work and the time limitation for completing the work (UIL Required).

### **Transfer Students Who Have Not Been Previously Enrolled in a School for the Current School Year**

Students will demonstrate mastery of course content through district/campus developed assessment over previously taught content.

Teachers may assign additional assignments that are relevant in preparing students for the assessment.

### **Schedule Changes**

Schedule changes can have a significant impact on the calculation of the six weeks average.

Schedule changes will be considered during the first 5 class days for the following reasons only:

- A. Student is a senior not scheduled in a course needed for graduation.
- B. Student has already earned credit for a course in which he/she is currently scheduled.
- C. Student does not have the prerequisite(s) for a class listed on his/her schedule.
- D. Student has previously failed this course with the same teacher.
- E. Student has been dismissed from a program where approval must be granted for placement.
- F. Student does not have a full schedule.
- G. Data entry error (no lunch, class listed twice, free period, etc.) has occurred.
- H. A class is listed that the student did not request.

Face-to-Face and Virtual Instruction Option Changes will be allowed at the end of each 6-week grading period. If the parent and/or student desire to change their Instructional Delivery Method, this request can be made in writing to the campus administrator at least 5 days prior to the end of the 6-weeks grading period. The LPISD Instructional Calendar is attached in Appendix A.

**Course Level Changes:** Course level changes will be considered only at the end of each grading period for each course. To be considered for a transfer from an Pre-AP or AP course, the student must have made a sincere effort to succeed by attending tutorials, completing his/her work, and by conferencing with his/her teacher. The parent must conference with the teacher before a course level change will be considered. If these conditions are met and the student is earning less than a grade of 75, that student will be considered for a change. Space availability in the receiving course will be a consideration for a course level change.

Students who have registered for a Pre-AP/AP course and did not complete the summer assignment must notify his/her counselor prior to the start of school to request a change. All schedule changes due to non-completion of the summer assignment must be approved by an administrator.

## Calculation of Semester Average

All secondary courses will calculate and report a semester average. Calculated averages reported on Progress Reports or Report Cards may not exceed 100%. Grades recorded in a grade book represent a confidential record for assessment of student performance.

### **Junior High Courses that do not award high school credit:**

The final semester grade will be the average of the three six-weeks grading periods as follows:

Cumulative Six-Weeks Average	90%
Final Exam	10%

The final course grade will be calculated by averaging the two final semester grades.

### **Junior High Courses that award high school credit: (examples include Algebra I, Spanish, Art, and Health):**

Course credit is awarded by semester. The semester average is determined using the six-week averages and the Semester final exam.

Cumulative Semester Average (Three six-weeks averaged together)	80%
Semester Final Exam	20%

### **High School Credit Courses:**

Course credit is awarded by semester. The semester average is determined using the six-week averages and the Semester final exam.

Cumulative Semester Average (Three six-weeks averaged together)	80%
Semester Final Exam	20%

## Reteach and Retest/Reassess for Mastery

### **Mastery of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skill**

La Porte Independent School district has provided a well-balanced curriculum on state prescribed Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students who participate in this curriculum will have the opportunity to master the knowledge, skills and competencies established by the district curriculum and the state standards.

LPISD will utilize ongoing mastery assessment to determine which students are in need of remediation (reteaching and acceleration). The use of curriculum-based unit tests, benchmark tests, teacher-made tests, performance assessments, and teacher observations will help determine which students are not mastering instructional objectives.

### **Required Reteach**

1. If **25% or more** of the students in a single preparation per teacher do not demonstrate mastery of the TEKS on a classroom test, the teacher will provide the opportunity for reteaching and retesting. These opportunities will be provided during class time using different methods of instruction. (Six-week Tests, Benchmark Tests, and Semester/Final Exams are excluded).

2. Students with three or more zeros on assignments over the assessed material may be excluded from the calculation of the 25%. Extenuating circumstances may be taken into consideration.

### **Required Retest/Reassess for Mastery**

The 25% or more of the students who do not demonstrate mastery are re-evaluated after they are re taught or after activities are provided. Re-evaluation may include, but is not limited to, oral examination, special assignment sheets, special homework assignments, test corrections or a formal test.

### **Grading (6-12) and Reporting Procedures**

A student must score at least 70% on the re-evaluation to demonstrate mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). If a student fails to demonstrate mastery on the re-evaluation of the TEKS, the higher of the two grades is recorded.

### **Other Opportunities for Reteach and Retest/Reassess**

If less than 25% of all the students in a single preparation per teacher fail to demonstrate mastery, the teacher is not obligated to reteach and retest during class time. Tutorial time may be used for reteaching.

In the event of unusual circumstances, an individual student can ask for the opportunity for reteaching and retesting. This request can be evaluated by a committee of the teacher, department head, and curriculum principal. In case of disputes, the final decision rests with the head principal. The request for a retesting should be made within one week after the test has been returned.

### **Makeup Work**

In order to provide the total assessment "picture" of a student's academic progress for a course, any student missing classroom instruction should be given the opportunity to make up the missing assigned work. This will ensure instructional continuity and place importance upon consistent attendance and daily study.

### **Makeup Work Guidelines**

Students shall be expected to make up assignments and tests after absences. Students shall receive a zero for any assignment or test not made up within the allotted time. (EIAB Local)

### **Tests**

1. Students shall be permitted to take tests administered in any class missed because of absence.
2. For any class missed, the teacher may assign the student make-up work based on the instructional objectives for the subject or course and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements.
3. A student shall be responsible for obtaining and completing the make-up work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher.

## **Late Work/Projects**

1. Late work is graded in the same manner in all classes at the intermediate and high school levels. The table below shows the minimum percent of the earned grade that a student will be awarded for late work:

<b>Days Late</b>	<b>Percent of Grade Received by Student</b>	<b>Example(s)</b>
1 School Day	80%	100 records as 80 ( $100 \times 0.20 = 20$ points off) 80 records as 64 ( $80 \times 0.20 = 16$ points off) 60 records as 48 ( $60 \times 0.20 = 12$ points off)
2 School Days	60%	100 records as 60 ( $100 \times 0.40 = 40$ points off) 80 records as 48 ( $80 \times 0.40 = 32$ points off) 60 records as 36 ( $60 \times 0.40 = 24$ points off)
3 or more School Days	0%	No credit given-grade of zero (0)

2. Chronic abuse, more than three late assignments during any one six-weeks grading period, may result in additional consequences.
3. Extenuating circumstances may occur that are out of the control of the student and which prevent him/her from completing and returning homework assignments. The student is to inform the teacher of any such circumstances that prevented the completion of the homework. Teachers may grant exceptions to this policy, as necessary.
4. Long-term projects and term papers that are included on the syllabus at the beginning of the Fall and/or Spring semester are due on the announced due date. The student who is absent for any reason on the due date, including school business, must meet the deadline. The teacher will accept all late papers/projects turned in up to two weeks after the due date for the purpose of providing feedback, but a grade of zero will be assigned.

## **Unexcused Absence**

The District shall not impose a grade penalty for make-up work after an unexcused absence.

## **Suspension**

This district shall not impose a grade penalty for make-up work after an absence because of a suspension.



# Appendix A



## 2020 - 2021 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR

Important Dates		July 2020	August 2020	September 2020
Aug. 18	First Day of Instruction – 9th Grade	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
Aug. 19	First Day of Instruction – PreK-8th, 10-12th Grades	1 2 3 H	1	1 2 3 4 5
May 27	Last Day of Instruction	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 H 8 9 10 11 12
May 27	Graduation - The La Porte ISD Academy at Viola DeWalt High School	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
May 28	Graduation – La Porte High School	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 (18) (19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25]26
Feb. 15	Inclement Weather Day	26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 [28 29 30
Apr. 2	Inclement Weather Day		30 31	
Student Holidays		October 2020	November 2020	December 2020
Sept. 7	Labor Day	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
Oct. 12	Columbus Day	1 2 3	1 [2 H 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5
Nov. 3	Election Day	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	6 7 T T T T 12
Nov. 23 – 27	Thanksgiving Break	11 H 13 14 15 16]17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 ER]]19
Dec. 21 – Jan. 5	Winter Break	18 (19 20 21 22 23 24	22 H H H H H 28	20 H H H H H 26
Jan. 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	25 26 27 28 29 30]31	29 30	27 H H H H
Feb. 15	President's Day			
Mar. 15 – 19	Spring Break			
Apr. 2	Easter Break			
State Assessment Dates		January 2021	February 2021	March 2021
Dec. 8 - 11	Eng. I & II, Alg. I, U.S. History, Bio. ECO Retest	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
Apr. 6 - 9	Grades 4, 5, 7, 8 STAAR, Eng. I & II EOC	3 H H [(6 7 8 9	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6
May 4 - 7	Alg. I, U.S. History, Bio. EOC	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	7 8 9 10 11 12]13	7 8 9 10 11 12]13
May 11 - 14	Grades 3 - 8 STAAR	17 H 19 20 21 22 23	14 H [16 17 18 19 20	14 H H H H H 20
Jun. 22 - 25	Grades 5 & 8 ELA/Math Retest, Eng. I & II, Alg 1, U. S. History, Bio. EOC Retest	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	21 (22 23 24 25 26 27
		31	28	28 29 30 31
Campus Schedules		April 2021	May 2021	June 2021
<b>High Schools</b>		S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
7:00 AM - First Bell		1] H 3	1	1 2 3 4 5
7:10 AM - Tardy Bell		4 [5 T T T T 10	2 3 T T T T 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
2:35 PM - School Day Ends		11 12 13 14 15 16 17	9 10 T T T T 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
Early Release 7:00 AM - 10:30 AM		18 19 20 21 22 23 24	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 T T T T 26
<b>Junior Highs/James H. Baker Sixth Grade Campus</b>		25 26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 ER]]H 29	27 28 29 30
8:25 AM - First Bell			30 31	
8:30 AM - Tardy Bell				
4:00 PM - School Day Ends				
Early Release - 8:25 AM - 12:10 PM				
<b>Elementary Schools</b>				
7:40 AM - First Bell				
7:50 AM - Tardy Bell				
3:15 PM - School Day Ends				
Early Release - 7:40 AM - 11:20 AM				
Student Days				
Total Number of Student Days 174				

- First Day of Instruction - 9th Grade
- [ ] Secondary Grading Period
- ( ) Elementary Grading Period
- T State Assessment Dates
- H Holiday
- Inclement Weather Make-up Day
- ER Early Release



## **Appendix B**

### **Effective Communication with Parents/Guardians**

Communicating with parents/guardians is one of the most important responsibilities of teachers. Conferences provide an arena for collecting developmental and personal information from parents/guardians that may affect a student's learning, for developing rapport and encouraging parent/guardian involvement in their student's educational process, and for reporting and discussing student progress with parents/guardians. Accurate and diagnostic reports encourage parents/guardians to participate in the education of their children, help increase mutual understanding, good will and cooperation in the home, and aid in student guidance.

In addition to sending out the regular reports, teachers should inform parents/guardians promptly when problems appear. Any time a student's grade falls below 74 in an academic subject at the nine weeks reporting time, the student and parent/guardian should be notified.

Teachers are encouraged to confer with parents/guardians as well as counselors, especially in instances where the student is experiencing difficulty.

Reports to parents/guardians serve as an instrument of student guidance. An effective report promotes better adult-child relationships because it helps the parents/guardians better understand the child.

#### **An effective report will:**

- inform parents/guardians of the progress of their student
- help students accept responsibility for their own progress
- assist parent/guardians in cooperating with the school to further the student's progress
- bring about good relations between home and school
- be meaningful to teachers, students, and parents/guardians
- encourage good human relations and eliminate antagonism, resentment, or other negative attitudes toward school or teacher
- reflect a student's strengths as well as his/her weaknesses and failures
- stimulate a desire on the part of parent/guardians and students to overcome weaknesses and to achieve greater success
- focus on an educational objective.

#### **Parent/Guardians want to know:**

- whether or not the student is doing as well as he/she can do
- how well the student is doing in terms of what the school expects for his/her chronological and mental age level and his/her grade placement
- the student's strong points on which he/she can build in the future

It should be remembered that what the student says and does when he/she arrives home from school often makes an impression upon parents/guardians that far outweighs any other report that the school might make.

Reports to parents/guardians should bring cooperation between the home and the school so that students will benefit. No matter what form of reporting is used, the information conveyed is highly personalized when it reaches the student. He/she is greatly affected by it and, unless it encourages his/her growth, it may be injurious to him/her.

# Appendix C Course Syllabus

## La Porte Independent School District Course Syllabus 2020-2021

Each secondary teacher in the La Porte Independent School District furnishes a course syllabus to students and parents during the first week of a course. This document contains general information about the course in which the student is registered and specific information from the teacher regarding the section in which the student is enrolled.

**Course Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Conference Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School/Teacher Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approximate Timelines and Due Dates of Long-Term Projects:**

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**General Methods of Assessment and Grade Calculation:**

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**Average Amount of Homework:**

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**Assigned Reading/Literary Works not contained in course textbook:**

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For all state-approved courses, the State of Texas has developed the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) which define the guidelines under which La Porte ISD must develop the objectives for the course. These TEKS are cross-referenced to the LPISD curriculum objectives. In addition, LPISD objectives are also cross-referenced to the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) objectives.

The complete TEKS document, which was approved by the Texas State Board of Education, may be found on the internet at [www.tea.state.tx.us/teks](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks) and is accessible to teachers, parents, and students.

## Appendix D La Porte ISD Secondary Grading System Planning Sheet

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_ Campus \_\_\_\_\_

Course \_\_\_\_\_ Principal Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Please outline the types of assignments that will comprise your grading system and return a copy of this sheet to your campus principal. The method for calculating grades should also be clearly communicated to students and parents via your course syllabus. If all preparations are not graded with the same system, complete a sheet for each preparation.

**All LPISD secondary teachers will use a percentage system and adhere to the LPISD Grading and Reporting Procedures.** Assignments may still be "weighted" and/or have differing "point values"; however, the gradebook will calculate an average for each grading category (assignment type). The final six-week average will be calculated using these category sub-averages at the percent indicated for each.

**Major Grade** assignment types may include tests, examinations, six-week assessments, Benchmark tests, projects, term papers and other assignments. Required six-week tests/assessments are in this category and should not be listed as a separate assignment type as LPISD Grading and Reporting Procedures indicate six-week tests are to count the same as other major tests.

**"Daily" Grade** assignment types may include daily work, classwork, homework, notebooks, quizzes and other assignment types.

You may assign as many category types as necessary, but it is suggested that you keep a simple system and further distinguish assignments in the assignment names.

**The total percentage of Major grades and the total percentage of Daily grades must be within the following ranges.**

	<b>All Secondary Credit Courses</b>
<b>Major Assignments</b>	50%
<b>Daily Assignments</b>	40%
<b>Writing Assignments/Assessments</b>	10%
	<b>100% Total</b>

**Indicate your assignment categories to be used in the eSchool gradebook with the percentage each will count.**

Once entered into the *eSchool gradebook*, there will be no distinguishing between Major and Daily grades.

<b>Major Grades</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Total of Major Assignments</b>	<b>50%</b>

<b>Daily Grades</b>	<b>Percent</b>
3-Week Checkpoints	
<b>Total of Daily Assignments</b>	<b>40%</b>

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**Appendix E**  
**Teacher Acknowledgement**

**La Porte Independent School District**  
**Instructional, Grading, and Reporting Procedures**  
**Teacher Acknowledgement Form**

My signature acknowledges that I have read the 2020-2021 Instructional, Grading, and Reporting Procedures and will abide by the standards, policies, and procedures defined or referenced herein. I am aware that the Instructional, Grading, and Reporting Procedures manual is available to me on-line at the District's website located at [www.lpsid.org](http://www.lpsid.org).

I understand that changes in District policies may supersede, modify, or eliminate the information summarized in this manual. As the District provides updated policy or procedures information, I accept responsibility for reading and abiding by the changes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Campus/Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Signed Forms are due to your campus principal on or before August 18, 2020.**