

# GRADING PROGRAM, PROMOTION STANDARDS, GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Grading and reporting should focus on student growth and learning in a climate of high expectations. Instructional emphasis should be placed on the accomplishment of defined school goals. Student progress will be assessed every six-weeks, using several rubrics, which include portfolios, verbal assessments and written formats, such as tests and quizzes. Additionally, students will be administered an End of Cycle Assessment (ECA) at the end of each grading period.

## **OTHERS BEFORE SELF SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT**

In order to both teach and highlight our “Others Before Self” motto in theory and action, every student at ILTexas will need to complete an “Others Before Self” service learning project in collaboration with their grade level peers. Further, ILTexas high school students are required to complete a total of 60 service hours by the time they graduate (or 15 hours for every year they attend ILTexas). These credit hours can be completed outside of the school and they can be completed during their class service project. The hours need to be turned in monthly to their counselor using the ILTexas Community Volunteer Service Hours Tracking Sheet.

## **TEST RETAKES FOR GRADES K-12**

Students who earn a grade below 70 on a test are eligible for a retake (with the exception of ILTexas benchmarks and high school semester exams). The student may not earn a grade higher than a 70%. The score recorded on the grade book will be the higher of the two. Tests may be retaken only once. Re-takes must be done within 10 instructional days.

## **LATE WORK FOR GRADES 3-5**

All assignments are expected to be turned in on time. If assignments are turned in late, the grade will be affected by the following adjustments:

- On the 1st day of class that the assignment is due, the student will be able to earn a maximum grade of 100%.
- On the 2nd day of class, the student will be able to earn a maximum grade of 90%.
- On the 3rd day of class, the student will be able to earn a maximum grade of 70%.

## **LATE WORK FOR GRADES 6–12**

All assignments are expected to be turned in on time. Students who turn in assignments one class period or more after the due date will earn a maximum grade of 70%. Additionally, students who turn in work two or more days after the due date may face further discipline consequences (see details below). Students who attend after-school tutoring or Saturday tutoring may be able to earn grades above the minimum (based on campus principal and instructor discretion).

- On time: Maximum grade of 100%
- One Class Period Late: Maximum grade of 70%

## **HOMEWORK AND TEST PROCEDURE FOR GRADES 1–12**

It is the student’s responsibility to turn in homework on the assigned date. When absent, students must obtain the missed assignments and make up the work in accordance with the procedure for excused absences. Please reference ILTexas.org for links to teacher pages for class specific information.

## **MANDATORY EAGLE ACADEMY**

Failure is not an option at ILTexas, and our objective is to ensure that every student demonstrates “Mastery of the Material.” Students are expected to complete and to turn in their homework or other assignments when they are due. For students in grades 4 and higher, failure to turn in homework will result in the student being required to stay at school that day to complete the assignment. Parents will be contacted that the student will be staying the next day to complete the assignment. The details of each campus Eagle Academy will be determined at the campus level by the Campus Principal.

## **MAKING UP WORK FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Students who have missed work due to an excused absence have as many class days to make up the work as they were absent. All work assigned before the student absence will be due the day the student returns to class. If a student misses one class, the student will have one additional class day to turn in the assignment.

If a student has missed several days due to an excused absence, parents should contact the teacher to determine a reasonable plan to help their child catch up on missed work. The late work procedure does not apply to an excused absence.

## **MAKING UP WORK FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES**

Students with unexcused absences are required to make-up and demonstrate mastery for all missed daily work. Major work may be made up; however, the grade will be no higher than 70%.

## **PROMOTION STANDARDS**

In order for ILTexas students to be promoted to the next grade level, students must demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level. To earn credit in a course, a student must demonstrate mastery on grade level standards and meet ILTexas’ requirements for attendance. For English Language Learners, the Grade Placement Committee (GPC) in consultation with the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will determine promotion standards. For students with disabilities, the student’s ARD/IEP committee will determine the promotion status based on mastery of IEP goals and objectives and /or course requirements.

Additionally, the Texas Legislature created The Student Success Initiative (SSI) to ensure that students receive the instruction and support they need to be academically successful in reading and mathematics. Under SSI, students in 5th and 8th grade must pass the STAAR reading and math tests.

ILTexas Promotion standards include:

Grade Level	Promotion Standards
<u>KINDER AND GRADE 1</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students must make satisfactory progress (S) towards mastery of at least 70% of the grade level TEKS delineated on the report card.</li><li>• Students must have sufficient attendance*</li></ul>

Grade Level	Promotion Standards
<u>GRADE 2</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students must pass High Frequency Word Test – Recognizing and reading words that appear very often in written and spoken language.</li> <li>• State requirement of overall yearly average of 70 or above and local requirement of an average of 70 or above in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science or social studies.</li> <li>• Students must have sufficient attendance*</li> </ul>
<u>GRADES 3, 4 AND 5</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students must pass STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness) in reading and math. If STAAR is not mastered, the campus GPC may take into consideration locally developed assessments that assess the same TEKS measured on STAAR.</li> <li>• State requirement of overall yearly average of 70 or above and local requirement of an average of 70 or above in reading, other language arts, mathematics, and science or social studies.</li> <li>• Students must have sufficient attendance*</li> </ul>
<u>GRADES 6, 7 AND 8</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students must pass STAAR in reading and math.</li> <li>• A student who fails (under 70% average) two (2) or more core classes may not advance to the next grade.</li> <li>• If the above criteria are not met, the campus GPC may take into consideration locally developed assessments that assess the same TEKS measured on STAAR.</li> <li>• Students must have sufficient attendance*</li> </ul>
<u>GRADES 9 – 12</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are promoted based on their total accumulated course credits prior to the beginning of the next school year.</li> <li>• Individual course credit is earned through a passing grade of 70% or above and sufficient attendance*</li> </ul>

\*Sufficient attendance: A student’s total number of absences should not exceed 10% of class meetings from the date of enrollment.

If a student in grade 5 or 8 is enrolled in a course that earns high school credit and for which an end-of- course (“EOC”) assessment will be administered, the student will not be subject to the promotion requirements described above for the relevant grade 5 or 8 assessment. However, for federal accountability purposes, the student may be required to take both the grade level and EOC assessment.

If a student in grade 8 is enrolled in a class or course intended for students above his or her current grade level in which the student will be administered a state-mandated assessment, the student will be required to take an applicable state mandated assessment only for the course in which he or she is enrolled, unless otherwise required to do so by federal law.

## GPA EXEMPT COURSES

All courses taken during the regular school year at ILTexas shall count toward GPA except for the following: aide positions, study hall, peer tutoring, college credits that are not dual credits credit by examination credits, & SAT prep class.

## CALCULATION OF WEIGHTED LOCAL GPA

Only courses taken at ILTexas count towards local GPA. Local GPA is based on a 100-point scale. Further, weightings are based on the following scale:

<i>Advance Placement/Dual Credit</i>	<i>1.15</i>
<i>Honors/Pre-AP</i>	<i>1.1</i>
<i>All other courses</i>	<i>1</i>

\*For the 2021-2022 school year, beginning with the incoming freshman (class of 2025), dual credit courses will have a GPA set of 1.1

## SENIOR CALCULATION OF WEIGHTED LOCAL GPA

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the campus shall calculate class rank by using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the fifth six week grading period of the senior year. For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, ILTexas shall also calculate class rank as required by state law (top 10% only).

## VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN REQUIREMENTS

Graduating seniors with the highest and second highest cumulative local weighted grade point average as determined at the end of the 5th grading period of the senior year and carried out three decimal places, will be eligible to serve as the Valedictorian and Salutatorian respectively. In the event of a tie for Valedictorian, the student with the highest number of AP and Dual Credit classes taken shall be declared the Valedictorian. If still tied, the person with the highest SAT score will be designated Valedictorian. All courses and corresponding numeric grades earned to determine GPA must not be modified in content and must be identified by the state as a regular, honors, and/or AP course in order to qualify for Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

Each ILTexas High School shall have a Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Candidates shall be in attendance at the awarding High School continuously, commencing with enrollment no later than the first day of the second six-week grading period of the student's junior year until graduation. The Valedictorian shall be the eligible graduate with the highest local GPA; the Salutatorian shall be the eligible graduate with the second highest local GPA.

Further, all senior Honors students are recognized at Graduation based on the following criteria:

Honor	Criteria
Highest Honors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 97.5+ Local GPA</li><li>• Completed a minimum of 15 community service hours per year (enrolled at ILTexas)</li><li>• Has successfully completed a min. of 5 dual credit and/or AP courses.</li><li>• Exemplifies the ILTexas Core Leadership Traits</li><li>• Demonstrated growth in language proficiency (English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese), as measured by ACTFL Guidelines</li></ul>

High Honors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 95+ Local GPA</li> <li>• Completed a minimum of 15 community service hours per year (enrolled at ILTexas)</li> <li>• Has successfully completed a min. of 3 dual credit and/or AP courses.</li> <li>• Exemplifies the ILTexas Core Leadership Traits</li> <li>• Demonstrated growth in language proficiency (English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese), as measured by ACTFL Guidelines</li> </ul>
-------------	---

**Graduation Honor Cords**

- Academic Success Program Recognition Navy and Silver
  - Chinese National Honor Society Purple
  - Spanish National Honor Society Red and Gold
  - Eagle Scout / Gold Award Red, White, Blue
  - Highest Honors Gold
  - High Honors Silver
  - Honors White
  - Leadership White and Maroon \*15 documented service hrs/yr
  - National Honor Society Gold and Blue
  - Red Cross Red \*donate at least 3 times
  - Top Ten Yellow and White
  - Tri-Literacy Red, Yellow, Blue \*intermediate proficiency
  - JROTC Scarlet, Gold, and Black
- For Discussion:
- JWAC Red, White, Blue

**GRADING SYSTEM AND GRADE REPORTING**

**Kindergarten and 1st Grade Standard Based Report Cards**

- E - Excellent** Progress towards mastering standard
- S - Satisfactory** Progress towards mastering standard
- N - Needs Support**
- U - Unsatisfactory** progress towards mastering standard
- M - Met** Standard

**Evaluation of Credits for Transfer Students**

ILTexas accepts credits from other schools accredited by the State of Texas and accredited schools from other states. Courses will be evaluated by a counselor to determine if the course meets the requirements for graduation from a Texas high school, as well as from ILTexas. All transfer grades earned in accredited schools will be converted to ILTexas grading scale and course designation consistent with ILTexas standards (though only courses taken at ILTexas count towards GPA class rank).

**Evaluation of Foreign Transcripts**

A transfer student who has been attending a non-US affiliated foreign school should have his/her transcript evaluated for appropriate placement at an ILTexas high school by the Principal or his/her designee. In most cases the student will not be placed higher than the eleventh grade and no more than eight credits will be awarded per school year.

Courses will be evaluated by a counselor to determine if the course meets the requirements for graduation from a Texas high school, as well as from ILTexas. All transfer grades earned will be converted to ILTexas grading scale and course designation consistent with ILTexas standards (though only courses taken at ILTexas count towards GPA class rank).

**Grade Conversion for Transcripts with Letter Grades**

Conversion of letter grades to numerical grades for students transferring in with letter grades from accredited schools will be based on numerical equivalents (reminder: only courses taken at ILTexas count towards GPA/class rank). Conversion of out-of-country students’ grade equivalency will be determined by evaluation of the students’ transcripts. A plus or a minus attached to a letter grade shall be converted as follows:

A+ = 98	B+ = 88	C+ = 78	D = 70
A = 95	B = 85	C = 75	F = 69
A- = 92	B- = 82	C- = 72	

Student academic evaluation is achieved through the use of a grading system. An average grade of 70 is required for successful completion of a course. The grading system of ILTexas shall be in accordance with the following scale:

<u>On 100 Scale</u>	<u>On 4.0 Scale</u>
A 90 – 100	4.0
B 80 – 89	3.0
C 70 – 79	2.0
*D 70	1.0 (for transfer of grades from <b>dual credit</b> courses)
F.....69 and below	0.0

To earn credit in a course, a student must receive a grade of 70 or higher based upon specific course or campus standards and meet minimum attendance requirements. Guidelines for grading must be in compliance with headquarters policy and shall be communicated to students and parents upon the student’s enrollment.

**Semester Average**

85% Average of the three grading periods 15% End of semester exam

**Six Weeks Averages and Weighting of Grades**

- Students will have a minimum of three grades per week per subject entered into the gradebook.\*
- Students will have a minimum of three exam or major project grades per grading cycle entered into the gradebook.
- Quizzes shall be weighted as exams

2-5: Exams and Major Projects- 50% Daily Assignments and Homework – 50%  
 6-8: Exams and Major Projects- 50% Daily Assignments and Homework – 50%  
 9-12: Exams and Major Projects- 50% Daily Assignments and Homework – 50%

\*Math, Reading Language Arts, Science and Social Studies

One-half credit may be earned in one semester. Students who fail either semester of a yearlong course may be permitted to continue the course and by cumulative grade average of 70 or higher for both

semesters to receive credit for both semesters. Grades from correspondence courses, credit by exam, summer school, online courses, dual credit courses or credit recovery may be averaged with regular session semester grades to earn credit for both semesters of a yearlong course.

## **END OF COURSE EXAMS**

### **End-of-Course (EOC's) Required for Graduation**

- English I (reading and writing on a single test and given one score)
- English II (reading and writing on a single test and given one score)
- Algebra I
- US History
- Biology

Satisfactory performance on the applicable assessments will be required for graduation, except in circumstances where a student may be eligible to graduate in accordance with a plan approved by an Individual Graduation Committee. (See “Individual Graduation Committee Decisions” below.)

There are three testing windows during the school year in which a student may take an EOC assessment, which will occur during the fall, spring, and summer months. If a student does not meet satisfactory performance, the student will have additional opportunities to retake the assessment.

**Texas Success Initiative Assessment:** Prior to enrollment in a Texas public college or university, most students must take a standardized test called the Texas Success Initiative (“TSI”) assessment. The purpose of the TSI assessment is to assess the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering freshmen-level students should have if they are to perform effectively in undergraduate certificate or degree programs in Texas public colleges and universities. This assessment may be required before a student enrolls in a dual- credit course offered through ILTexas as well.

### **Individual Graduation Committee Decisions**

A student who was enrolled in the 11th or 12th grade and who has failed the EOC assessment graduation requirements for no more than two courses may receive a high school diploma if the student has qualified to graduate by means of an individual graduation committee (“IGC”). A student may not graduate under an IGC if the student did not take each required EOC assessment or an approved substitute assessment for each course for which there is an EOC assessment.

Please see the Principal for more information on the makeup of an IGC and all other requirements for graduation.

## **ILTEXAS HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMICS**

### **Performance Labels**

The labels for the performance categories are:

[refer to next page]



**Accelerated Instruction**

Parents of students who do not perform satisfactorily on their STAAR or EOC assessments will be notified that their child will participate in an Accelerated Instructional Program designed to improve performance. A student in grade 5 or 8 will have two additional opportunities to take a failed assessment. If a student fails a second time, a grade placement committee, consisting of the Principal or designee, the student’s teacher, and the student’s parent will determine the additional special instruction the student will receive.

Students will also have multiple opportunities to retake EOC assessments.

If a student fails after a third attempt, the student will be retained at his or her current grade level. The parent, however, may appeal this decision to the grade placement committee. A decision to promote a student to the next grade level must be unanimous. Regardless of whether the student is retained or promoted, an educational plan for the student will be designed to enable the student to perform at grade level by the end of the next school year.

In addition to the requirements listed above for students in grades 5 and 8, a student may be considered for retention if they have met any of the following criteria:

1. failed one or more core subject areas;
2. failed one or more state assessments
3. is below level in one or more core subject areas;
4. missed more than 10% of instructional days in an academic year. The decision must be made by a committee, which is comprised of the child’s core subject area teachers, the counselor, and the Principal.

**Students with Disabilities:** Upon the recommendation of the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (“ARD”) Committee, a student with disabilities who is receiving special education services may be promoted and/or permitted to graduate under the provisions of his or her Individualized Education Program (“IEP”).

A student who receives special education services and has completed four years of high school, but has not met the requirements of his or her IEP, may participate in graduation ceremonies and receive a certificate of attendance. Even if the student participates in graduation ceremonies to receive the certificate of attendance, he or she may remain enrolled to complete the IEP and earn his or her high school diploma; however, the student will only be allowed to participate in one graduation ceremony.