



Learning and Grading Plan Changes

Yorkville CUSD 115 - Beginning August 2024

As we approach the new academic year, please review important updates to the Yorkville CUSD 115 Learning and Grading Plan, which will take effect starting August 2024. Below, please find detailed information on the revised grading categories, final exams/experiences, and the implementation timeline for Grades 9-12.

Grading Category Detail:

- **Summative Assessments (70% of the overall grade):** Summative assessments are given to measure student mastery of outcomes and skill acquisition at the conclusion of a defined instructional period. Possible examples may include unit quizzes, tests, projects, presentations, and labs.
- **Checkpoint Assessments (15% of the overall grade):** Checkpoint assessments identify student progress towards mastery of a skill, and include meaningful, descriptive feedback to students.
- **Assignments (15% of the overall grade):** Assignments are “homework” or “classwork” that provide opportunities for students to practice concepts, foster academic growth, develop essential skills, and cultivate independent study habits. Assignments are intended to hold students accountable for academic behaviors such as arriving ready to work, participating in class, and completing homework (*Farrington et al., 2012*). Teachers should incorporate authentic experiences for students that build skills related to academic behaviors, rather than awarding or taking off points for punitive measures.

Grades 9-12 Beginning August 2024	
Summative Assessments	70%
Checkpoint Assessments	15%
Assignments	15%
Formative Activities	0%

Retakes and Relearn Procedures: Retakes promote a growth mindset and continuous improvement, facilitate mastery learning, and support students in reaching their full academic potential. Students are offered one retake per summative assessment. The most recent assessment will count toward the student’s grade.

- Retakes are recommended for students earning below a 70% on any assessment.
- **Relearning Plans/Relearn (required):** Students must successfully complete assignments within the unit and any targeted relearning activities given by the teacher prior to any retake. The teacher can designate the required assignments for completion in order to take into account assignments such as a class discussion that is unable to be “recreated.”
- **Timeframe:**
 - Students must initiate the relearn process within one week of the assessment being entered or returned
 - Students must complete the retake 2 weeks from the time the grade/assessment is entered/returned

Final Exams/Experiences: Final exams and experiences should prioritize learning outcomes over punitive measures. Final exams/experiences will embrace diverse formats such as traditional exams, project-based assessments, presentations, portfolios, and performance evaluations.

2024-25 School Year

Some performance-based courses will contain a high-quality final exam or experience at the end of the semester that aligns to skills learned in the course. In August 2024, teachers will communicate to students if their course will provide a final exam or experience and will notify students in their course syllabus.

During 2024-25, final exams/experiences will count as a summative assessment grade, but retakes will not be permitted.

Grades 9-12 2024-25 School Year ONLY	
Summative Assessments (includes the final exam/experience for identified courses)	70%
Checkpoint Assessments	15%
Assignments	15%
Formative Activities	0%

2025-26 School Year

- All courses will have a final exam or experience.
- The final exam or experience will account for 10% of the final grade each semester.
- A final exam schedule is anticipated and will designed in tandem with the 2025-26 school calendar
- Retakes on the final exam/experience will not be permitted.

Grades 9-12 Beginning 2025-26 School Year	
Summative Assessments	70%
Checkpoint Assessments	15%
Assignments	15%
Formative Activities	0%
Categories noted above will be calculated to account for 90% of a student's grade. The final exam or experience will account for the remaining 10%.	
Final Exam/ Experience	10%

The implementation and outcomes of the Yorkville 115 CUSD Learning and Grading Plan will be monitored on an ongoing basis, and feedback opportunities will be provided for students, staff, and families.