

Falls City ISD



District Grading Guidelines

2026-2027

Falls City Independent School District

Grading Policy 2026-2027

GRADING GUIDELINES

Grading guidelines for each grade level or course will be communicated and distributed to students and their parents by the classroom teacher through a course syllabus. These guidelines establish the minimum number of assignments, projects, and examinations required for each grading period. In addition, these guidelines establish how the student's mastery of concepts and achievement will be communicated (i.e., letter grades, numerical averages, checklist of required skills, etc.).

GRADING SYSTEM

Students are graded on a scale from 0-100, with the lowest passing grade being a 70. Listed below are the numerical equivalents of letter grades:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	75-79
D	70-74
F	69 and below

An optional grading assessment system may be utilized by teachers who have obtained prior approval from the principal. A minimum of 15 daily grades and a minimum of 3 major grades are to be recorded each nine-week grading period to determine a valid measure of student performance. A class syllabus with policy and procedures are to be given, in writing, to students. A minimum of 2 grades will be updated weekly in the on-line gradebook.

NINE - WEEK GRADE AVERAGES

Nine-week cycle grades shall be determined according to the following guidelines:

- Kindergarten: Nine-week, mastery/non-mastery checklist of skill progression sent home.
- Elementary, grades 1-6: More weight may be given to mastery tests, major projects, and other similar type assessments than is given to daily work in determining the nine-week cycle grade. In Elective and PE classes, students will be given- E, S, N, U. Students will also receive a Conduct grade of an E, S, N, U based on Nine Weeks Conduct Sheets.
- Secondary, grades 7-12: A nine-week examination is not required. The daily work component shall account for no more than 50% of the nine-week cycle grade; the major grade component shall account for no more than 60% of the Nine-week cycle grade.

SEMESTER GRADE AVERAGES

The semester grade shall be calculated as follows:

- Kindergarten: Nine-week, mastery/non-mastery checklist of skill progression sent home.
- Grades 1-6: Semester grade shall be the average of the two nine-week grade cycles.
- Grades 7-8 and 9-12: Semester grade shall be calculated with each nine-week grade cycle counting as 45% and the semester exam counting as 10% for the final semester

grade. If a student earns an exemption, their semester grade will be the average of the two nine-weeks grades.

SEMESTER EXAMS

Semester exams will be comprehensive and representative of content covered in the semester. Thorough semester exam reviews will be given. It is the student's responsibility to have in his/her possession all appropriate material from which to study effectively for semester exams.

HOMEWORK

The purpose of homework should be to enrich lessons taught during the class period. It is to be given to develop independent work habits, organizational and study skills, and, of course, to allow students to better comprehend subject matter. Teachers are to use good judgment regarding the justification of homework and the length/amount of homework given. Teachers are also asked to be cognizant of student activities (i.e. club events, UIL Literary and Athletic events, etc) when considering which evenings to assign homework and/or tests. It should be noted that assignments should be discussed and explained in class. If feasible, allow students time at the end of the class period to start on homework. This will allow tutorials by the teacher if needed.

SENDING WORK HOME

Sending graded papers home is the best way to keep parents informed of their child's academic progress and/or failures. If there is a question regarding this effective communication tactic, it is advised to have the parent sign and return appropriate documentation, or contact the parent directly by phone.

GRADEBOOKS AND GRADE SHEETS

Students' grades should be posted weekly in the on-line portal; 2 grades minimum per week for grades 1-12. (In grades 1 and 2, students must have a minimum of 12 grades each for a 9-week grading period in the subjects of Science and Social Studies ONLY.) Due dates and assignments should be labeled so that parents and students can easily view pertinent information. Grade changes can be made only within the first week after report cards have been printed. You must record the change on a separate form, and have it approved by the principal. Incomplete course grades must be completed by the end of the fifth school day of the next grading period. An "I" is considered a failing grade for eligibility purposes.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are posted on the Wednesday following the last day of each nine-week reporting period. Teachers are to have all grades verified by noon (12:00) of the designated day.

MAKEUP WORK

For any class missed, the teacher may assign the student makeup 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. A student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. A student is encouraged to speak with his or her teacher if the student knows of an absence ahead of time, including absences for extracurricular activities, so that the teacher and student may plan any work that can be completed before or shortly after the absence. Please remember the importance of student attendance at school and that, even though absences may be excused or unexcused, all absences account for the 90 percent threshold in regard to the state laws surrounding “attendance for credit or final grade.” A student involved in an extracurricular activity must notify his or her teachers ahead of time about any absences. A student will be permitted to make up tests and to turn in projects due in any class missed because of absence. Teachers may assign a late penalty to any long-term project in accordance with time lines approved by the principal and previously communicated to students.

REPORT CARDS / PROGRESS REPORTS

Report cards with each student’s performance and absences in each class or subject are issued at least once every *nine* weeks.

At the end of the first three weeks and six weeks of a grading period, parents will receive a paper progress report or be contacted by the teacher if their child’s performance in any course/subject area is below 75 or is below the expected level of performance. For Elementary students, parent signature is required and be returned to the teacher. At the elementary level, paper report cards will be sent home, for secondary, report cards will be posted to Parent Portal.

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the principal or superintendent pursuant to the board-adopted policy and are designed to reflect each student’s relative mastery of each assignment for the grading period, semester, or course. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the superintendent determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the district’s grading policy.

Questions about grade calculation should first be discussed with the teacher; if the question is not resolved, the student or parent may request a conference with the principal; in accordance with FNG(LOCAL).

ELEMENTARY & HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

- Honor Roll- Students in grades 1-12 are eligible for the honor roll. Honor Roll students are announced at the end of each nine-week period. Those students who have all grades from 93-100 will be named to the superior honor roll, students who have all grades from 90-100 will be named to the all A honor roll, and those students who have all grades from 85-100 will be named to the regular honor roll.

Semester Exam Exemptions

Participation Criteria for Exemption of Semester Exams (Grades 9 – 12)

Semester exams will be given at the end of each semester in each course and will count as 10% of the semester grade. All students will take semester exams for the first semester, no exemptions will be granted.

The following areas outline the initial exemption criteria for exemptions on second semester exams:

Students first have to meet attendance, grades, discipline, fines/dues requirements to receive and gain exemptions. All students may become eligible to exempt up to two semester exams if they meet one of these criteria for each exam they wish to exempt:

Attendance:

Students cannot have more than 5 excused absences in any course during either semester. Also, students cannot have any unexcused absences.

Grades:

To meet the grade requirement for exemptions, students must be passing the particular course(s) at the time of exemption request, as well as, they had to have passed the previous grading cycles for this course(s).

Discipline:

Any student assigned to ISS or DAEP during the school year will not be eligible for exemptions.

Dues/Fines:

No student may be exempt from any exam if they owe any money to the school district including overdue/lost library books, cafeteria, lost/damaged textbooks, uniforms, etc.

Earning Additional Exemptions

Students can earn additional exemptions beyond the 2 allowed based on attendance, EOC performance and academic UIL success as described below:

EOC exemptions

Any student who receives a "Masters" level performance on the EOC may exempt that course semester exam if they meet the initial exemption requirements. If results are available the exemption is valid for that year only. If results are not available before exams, the exemption

may be claimed for the following school year second semester exam in a corresponding content course.

UIL Exemptions

Students who participate in the UIL academic events and have met initial exemption requirements, will be able to exempt additional semester exams in accordance with the following:

Individual UIL Events

- Exempt 1 final for each event a student scores points at the District UIL meet
- Exempt 1 final for each event a student competes at the Regional UIL meet
- Exempt 1 final for scoring points at the Regional UIL Meet
- Exempt 1 final for each event a student competes at the State UIL meet

Team Academic Events:

- Exempt 1 final as a member of a team that competes and scores points at the District UIL meet
- Exempt 1 final as a member of a team that competes and scores points at the Regional UIL meet
- Exempt 1 final as a member of a team that competes and scores points at the State UIL meet

*Students are only eligible for either an individual or a team point; students cannot earn in both areas in the same event.

*One Act Play will be considered a team event for the cast and crew. Members of the cast and crew can exempt a semester exam for each level of competition above District.

*UIL and One Act Play exemptions can be applied to any course except courses that do not meet initial exemption requirements. UIL and One Act Play exemptions may not be carried over to future years.

Extracurricular absences such as stock shows and UIL competitions as well as documented medical absences in which a doctor's note was presented to the attendance secretary will not count against students as part of the excused absences. For the purposes of exemptions, three (3) tardies in a course will count as an unexcused absence. Any course with an unexcused absence cannot be exempted. An exemption form must be obtained from the school office prior to the exam and must be completely filled out and signed by the teacher and school secretary before an exemption is approved.