



Walla Walla High School



Distance Learning Grading Guidance for Students and Parents

The Walla Walla High School *Distance Learning* Grading Guidance supports [OSPI's Student Learning and Grading Guidance](#) and subsequent [FAQ](#) in implementing equity-informed grading practices for high school students.

Walla Walla Public School's model for Walla Walla High School exercises grace and provides students with the "benefit of the doubt", while continuing to expect students to engage in high levels of learning to the best of their ability.

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General School-Wide Expectations

- Staff will make every attempt for students, particularly seniors, to earn credit this semester.
- Students, particularly seniors, are called to make every attempt to earn credit this semester. Classes can not be “dropped” from student schedules during Distance Learning.
- Per OSPI guidance, students will earn a final semester letter grade that is either:
 - (1) equal to or higher than the grade they were earning on March 17th, their *Pre-Distance Learning* grade (i.e. their grade may “carry through” or “improve”);
 - or
 - (2) an *Incomplete*, in cases where a student does not engage in high levels of learning to the best of their ability. **(Note: Credit is not earned if an *Incomplete* is issued).**
- Students will earn a final semester letter grade in the range of A through D (including + and - grades), or an *Incomplete (I)*.
- Per OSPI guidance, students can not be issued a Failing (F) semester grade.
- Per guidance, students also can not be issued a Pass (P) semester grade, except in these cases:
 - Students may be issued a P semester grade (or an *Incomplete*) for TAs, Credit Retrieval classes, and Work Site Learning.
 - Students may earn a P semester grade **if** this is specified in the student’s IEP or 504 plan.
- Students will see scores continuing to be entered into Skyward as teachers assign work during Distance Learning, in order to provide students and parents with a clear picture of the student’s continued progress in class. This means a student’s grade that is displayed in Skyward may increase or decrease as work is assessed, including going up or down by a letter grade or more. However, the student’s final semester grade that is issued will not be reduced as long as the student continues to engage in high levels of learning to the best of their ability during *Distance Learning*.
- For students whose level of learning and work completion improves during Distance Learning, teachers have the authority to adjust a student’s grade up as they deem appropriate for the individual student situation, to provide the student with “the benefit of the doubt”.

- Students may have tests and assessments focused on essential standards in their classes during Distance Learning, however students will **not** have a comprehensive final exam in their classes at the end of the semester.

Student Engagement Expectations

This section will provide clarity to teachers, students, and parents regarding

Expected Engagement and Academic Progress of Students during Distance Learning:

We expect each student to engage in high levels of learning to the best of their ability, which includes:

- A. Student makes regular connections with their teachers and staff such that their weekly “Connection” score is “3”, at least every other week (i.e no consecutive weeks with just 0, 1 or 2 connections in Distance Learning activities-see [page 4](#)).
- B. Student makes sufficient academic progress in their class, such that their overall semester grade in the class remains *no more than 20% below* their March 17 *Pre-Distance Learning* Grade.

Student Engagement Expectations

In Student-Friendly Language:

A. Connect with each of your teachers/classes 3+ times per week.

B. Don't let your grade go down more than 20% (two full letter grades).

- Students who **are successful in meeting both A and B** above through the end of the semester have their March 17th *Pre-Distance Learning* grade either (1) “carry through” to the end of semester; or (2) improve to a higher grade.
- Students who **are NOT successful in meeting either A or B** above during Distance Learning will be identified as students with *Potential Incomplete* status, with a Skyward Gradebook entry indicating this.

Students with Potential Incomplete status - General Notes & Guidance

- Each teacher's Skyward gradebook is updated with three new assignments to help students and parents know more about the student's progress in class during *Distance Learning*. This is particularly helpful if the progress of the student is at the *Potential Incomplete* status.
 - A new assignment titled *March 17 Grade* will show the score/grade the student was earning in the class when school closed, also referred to as the student's *Pre-Distance Learning* grade. This is the grade to view and compare to the student's overall semester grade.
 - A new assignment titled *Potential Incomplete* will display a ✓ if a student is falling short of expectations to learn at high levels and engage to the best of their ability .
 - A new assignment titled *Connection* will be entered in Skyward each week to indicate the level of connectedness the student had in the class and with the teacher over the past week.
 - A score of 3 indicates the student connected 3 or more times during the week; a score of 2 indicates just 1 or 2 connections during the week; and a score of 1 indicates no connections with the class/teacher during the week.
- When a student's progress puts them in *Potential Incomplete* status, the teacher & school staff will:
 - Proactively contact the student by phone to connect, encourage, provide hope, identify any barriers or the existence of a *Distance Learning Impact** issue, and make a plan for improvement to include:
 - Creating an individualized success plan with and for the student that may be unique to helping that particular student successfully earn credit. (i.e. "Here's the bottom line of what you need to learn and complete.")
 - Identifying key previous missing work for the student to complete that may significantly improve the student's grade. (i.e. "You need to go back and take the Chapter 7 test from last February that you missed.")
 - Identifying the availability of other ways for the student to demonstrate proficiency of the most essential standards in the class for this semester.
- If the connection with the student outlined above doesn't result in resolving the *Potential Incomplete* status, and an *Incomplete* is to be issued, per OSPI, the teacher will identify which specific essential standard(s) the student did not meet so that a plan to 'Complete the *Incomplete*' can be created.
- If a student or parent believe that a unique ***Distance Learning Impact Issue**** exists and is significantly impacting the student's ability to be successful in *Distance Learning*, then the student or parent should alert a staff member- a teacher, counselor, case manager, administrator, or another trusted staff member. The issue will be reviewed, and if it is deemed that a significant *Distance Learning Impact Issue* is present, there are two grading options:

- If the student has a March 17 *Pre-DL* grade that **is** passing, the *Pre-DL* passing grade will “carry through” or may improve. An *Incomplete* will **not** be issued.
- If the student has a March 17 *Pre-DL* grade that **is not** passing, an *Incomplete* will be issued.

**Distance Learning Impact Issues* are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Important Dates

- Previous Missing Work: Students have the opportunity to make up previous missing work from the beginning of the second semester, both *Pre-Distance Learning* assignments and *Distance Learning* assignments. Teachers will provide students until *at least* May 22nd to complete previous missing work.
- Key *Distance Learning* Dates for Seniors:
 - June 1st: This is the last date for new grades from assignments “that count” to be entered into Skyward and affect a senior’s final semester grade.
 - June 2nd through June 5th: This week teachers will continue *Distance Learning* instructional activities and teaching; however, these will be “no count” assignments that will not affect the senior’s semester grade.
 - June 8th through June 12th “Class of 2020 Blue Devil BEYOND WA-HI week”. This week counselors, college & career staff, and admin will lead a continuation of *Distance Learning*, focusing on *Beyond Wa-Hi* topics, including “Financial Literacy 101: Money & Adulting”, “Living & Transporting - housing, buying/leasing/maintaining vehicles”, “Jobs 101: Resumes, Applications, Interviews, Transcripts”, instructional activities and teaching; however, these will be “no count” assignments that will not affect the senior’s semester grade.
 - June 12th: Seniors will return chromebooks, hotspots, textbooks, library books, and any other school-issued resources they have.
- Key *Distance Learning* Dates for Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen:
 - June 15th: This is the last date for new grades from assignments “that count” to be entered into Skyward and affect a student’s final semester grade.
 - June 16th through June 19th: This week teachers will continue *Distance Learning* instructional activities and teaching; however, these will be “no count” assignments that will not affect the student’s semester grade.
 - June 19th: Students will return chromebooks, hotspots, textbooks, library books, and any other school-issued resources they have.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. I heard that my grade can't go down, no matter what. Is that correct?

A: Not exactly. If you do not continue to engage in learning to the best of your ability a grade of *Incomplete* could be issued. (See the chart on page 3 - parts A and B - for a description of minimum engagement expectations), So, while you can't receive a lower grade than what you had on March 17, you can receive an *Incomplete*, which does not earn you credit. However, if you do engage at the minimum levels outlined, your final grade will not be lower than your March 17 grade.

2. Does an *Incomplete* grade impact my ability to graduate?

A: For seniors: It depends, so we encourage that seniors do everything you can to still earn a grade in the class and avoid taking an *Incomplete* whenever possible. Since an *Incomplete* does not provide credit, you must still have earned sufficient credit totals to graduate. If you do have sufficient credit totals, then you may still graduate with an *Incomplete* grade in a class and on your transcript. Students and parents concerned about the senior's ability to graduate should contact their counselor.

A: For freshmen, sophomores, and juniors: Since most underclass students are enrolled in classes they need for graduation, having an *Incomplete* will negatively impact your ability to graduate if you do not 'Complete your *Incomplete*', or you do not happen to need the *Incomplete* course/credit to graduate, which is fairly rare.. Without question, the easiest thing to do is put forth enough effort NOW to pass the class as you are more than likely going to have to come back and complete the course in the future anyway.

3. How will all this potentially impact my admission into college?

A: All students in Washington State will have a COVID-19 designation on their transcript. For specifics on how this could impact your college admission, review Washington universities admission guidance and/or the COVID-19 information at the colleges you plan to apply to. Incompletes on a transcript could adversely impact your consideration into selective programs in the future and that may vary from school to school. Please check with your potential college(s) on this to make sure that you make an informed decision about having an *Incomplete* on your transcript.

4. How does an *Incomplete* differ from an F?

A: An F grade on a student's transcript cannot be replaced, but *Incompletes* can be replaced with a letter grade once you have completed the necessary work to demonstrate that you have met the standards for that course. You will have additional opportunities to show that you

know the standards. Neither an F grade nor an Incomplete earn credit, however, an *Incomplete* does not impact your GPA, whereas an F grade does.

5. If I do not successfully finish or resolve the *Incomplete*, does it stay on my transcript?

A: Yes.

6. Will my high school transcripts contain any reference to COVID-19?

A: Yes. Your transcript will have a COVID 2019-2020 Second Semester indicator.

7. How long do I have to finish the Incomplete?

A: You will be given multiple opportunities to resolve an *Incomplete*. You have until you graduate high school. If you do not resolve the Incomplete, it will stay on your transcript.

8. How can I resolve an Incomplete grade for a class?

A: You will have multiple opportunities to 'Complete your *Incomplete*', including but not limited to: retaking the class, completing the missing work in summer school, independent study, online course, competency-based course, or backfilling with the letter grade obtained in the next course taken in sequence in the subject area. Frankly, as noted before, it will be easier to spend the time completing what you need to get done NOW, rather than later.

9. What if I haven't engaged very much in Distance Learning so far? Is it too late for me to re-engage and earn credit in my classes this semester?

A: No. If you have not been engaging, you need to contact your teacher ASAP and create a plan to get caught up in your class(es). In order to earn credit in your classes you need to: not let your grade go down more than 20% (two full letter grades) or get it up to a passing grade if you weren't passing a class(es) on March 17. You also need to connect with each of your teachers/classes 3+ times per week between now and the end of school.

10. How is my Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 impacted by OSPI's grading guidance, particularly those that specify a Pass/Fail grading system?

A: You may earn a P semester grade **if** this is specified in your IEP or 504 plan. If you have IEP or 504 grading accommodations or modifications and might not pass a course, you need to talk with your counselor and teacher.

11. Please explain it to me in simple terms- what's the bottom line on what I need to do to make sure my March 17 grade carries through to become my semester grade?

A: Student Engagement Expectations identify two things to assure that your March 17 carries through to the end of the semester: (1) Be sure to connect with your teachers/classes at least 3 times per week; (2) Don't let your overall semester grade that displays in Skyward go down by

more than 20% (2 letter grades) as compared to your March 17 grade. You need to make sure that you pay attention to BOTH of these things. You can do it!

Student and Parent Support and Resources

- Walla Walla High School Grading Scales →
- OSPI’s Student Learning and Grading Guidance [CLICK HERE](#)
- OSPI Student Learning & Grading Guidance FAQ [CLICK HERE](#)
- OSPI IEP Distance Learning Guidance FAQ [CLICK HERE](#)

WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL GRADING SCALES						
Grade Mark	TRADITIONAL 90-80-70-60		STANDARDS BASED 0-5		STANDARDS BASED 0-4	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
A	100.00%	92.50%	5	4.25	4	3.8
A-	92.49%	89.50%	4.24	3.95	3.79	3.6
B+	89.49%	86.50%	3.94	3.65	3.59	3.2
B	86.49%	82.50%	3.64	3.25	3.19	3.0
B-	82.49%	79.50%	3.24	2.95	2.99	2.6
C+	79.49%	76.50%	2.94	2.65	2.59	2.4
C	76.49%	72.50%	2.64	2.25	2.39	2.0
C-	72.49%	69.50%	2.24	1.95	1.99	1.8
D+	69.49%	66.50%	1.94	1.65	1.79	1.6
D	66.49%	59.50%	1.64	0.95	1.59	1.2
F	59.49%	0.00%	0.94	0.00	1.19	0.0

Questions? Please email, call, or text Walla Walla High School Principal, Ron Higgins:
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