

# PREP ACADEMY

## Grading Policy

### What is Grading for Equity?

Grading for Equity is a shift away from the traditional high school 0-100 scale and a shift to the 1-4 scale used by most colleges, though final grades for each course will still be A,B,C,F or Incomplete. It emphasizes demonstrations of learning and de-emphasizes awarding grades for behaviors such as bringing in supplies, participation, and compliance. DPS' College Ready on Track team encourages schools to adopt these practices, stating, "The Grading for Equity change idea supports schools in adopting grading practices that are Accurate, Bias Resistant, and Motivational."

### How are we grading?

PREP Academy is following Denver Public School's grading system which includes the following:

#### Denver Public Schools Grading System

Effective secondary grading practices should support grades based on the achievement of academic standards and/or competencies. Grading practices should be consistent across the district. The primary purposes of student grades in DPS are to:

- Communicate what a student knows and is able to do in a course to appropriate and interested parties (e.g., students, families, and school and district administration)
- Serve as the basis for awarding unit credit in secondary schools
- Serve as part of a body of evidence for program placement (e.g., intervention or acceleration programs)

#### Components of a Grade

Grades assigned in secondary schools will be comprised of Product and Process\*:

- Academic performance that reflects evidence of learning of the standards and competencies (Product).
- The intentional academic behaviors that support the Essential Skills Competencies: entrepreneurial, personal, civic/interpersonal, and professional skills (Process).
- The Product component of a grade comprises 80% of the grade and the Process component comprises the remaining 20%.
- Classroom behavior, attendance, participation, or extra credit will not be included in grades.

### Grading for Equity Practices at PREP

Grading Practice	Why it Matters
<b>Minimum grading and the use of 1-4 scale</b>	On the traditional 0-100 grading scale, there are three times as many chances to fail than to pass. The 1-4 scale, used by colleges, is more

	equitable in that every letter grade is equally distributed.
Only <b>summative and benchmark assessments</b> count towards a student's grade	Students are not penalized for making mistakes as they practice because making mistakes is how we learn. Classwork and homework assignments are the practice before the summative assessment and are not included in the grade. Summative assessments are tests, projects, essays, presentations, and other similar demonstrations of learning.
Use of 4-point <b>competency rubrics</b> , addressing the necessary skills and content for each class, to assess	Rubrics de-mystify learning expectations and reflect the learning targets of the class. Rubrics are used to determine what a student needs to understand to pass the class, as well as what they can do to improve their grade. When students understand the rubrics, they are clear on what they need to do to improve their grade.
<b>Regular feedback</b> and <b>student tracking</b> of progress toward competencies	Based on frequent feedback, students can understand and communicate their progress according to the rubrics and learning targets for the class.
Mandatory <b>retake/redo</b> opportunities	Feedback is critical, but it only matters if students are given the opportunity to act on it! Everyone can improve, which is why retakes and redos are mandatory for all students. Feedback cycles ensure every student meets the rigorous requirements of the standards. <b>Students must engage in all summative opportunities and feedback cycles before earning credit for the course.</b>

## Understanding Student Grades

Description	Value on 4-point scale	Letter Grade
The student <b>consistently</b> and <b>independently</b> demonstrates <b>proficient</b> and <b>advanced</b> understanding in <b>course competencies, concepts</b> and <b>skills</b> in a variety of contexts and assessment opportunities.	4.0	A
	3.67	A-
The student <b>independently</b> demonstrates <b>proficiency</b> in <b>course competencies, concepts</b> and <b>skills</b> in a variety of assessment opportunities.	3.33	B+
	3.0	B
	2.67	B-
The student demonstrates <b>proficiency</b> in <b>course competencies, concepts</b> and <b>skills with limited teacher support</b> in order to complete tasks.	2.33	C+
	2.0	C
	1.67	C-
The student demonstrates <b>basic knowledge</b> and <b>skills with support</b> but <b>does not yet demonstrate</b> concepts and skills <b>independently</b> .	1.0	D
<b>Lack of evidence</b> and/or <b>unsatisfactory work performance</b> on assessment opportunities.	0	F
A student is eligible for semester recovery (units within a course) based on <b>teacher recommendation</b> . The <a href="#">Contract for Incomplete</a>	NA	I

<p><a href="#">Grade</a> should be completed between student and teacher prior to the end of term to reflect what is expected to successfully pass/receive credit for the class. Make-up work must be submitted within the <a href="#">Grade Change Window</a> to Transcript Support.</p>		
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## How you can help your child succeed!

- Here are some things that PREP Academy has implemented to support your student:
  - This year we are implementing office hours into our day. If your student is falling behind in their class(es) parents will be contacted about their student's status and the student will be invited to office hours for an opportunity to catch up.
  - If your student is still at the incomplete level at week 5 or later of the trimester, parent(s) and student will be invited to a meeting to make a plan for improvement.
- Ask your student which assignments they need to focus on to demonstrate competency. Do they need to start, complete, or revise the assignment?
- [Check Schoology](#) with your student weekly and ask them to explain what their current grades show. Every parent who has a parent portal account can also access Schoology.
- Reach out to your student's teachers with any questions!