

AHISD Grading Guidelines (2024-2025)



The primary purpose of assessment and grading is to aid learning. Grades communicate content mastery to ensure that students, families, teachers, counselors, and support specialists have the accurate information they need to make important decisions about a student's education. Grading is an important component of student feedback and is essential in reaching the aims of the AHISD Profile of a Learner. The grading system is not used as a form of coercion or compliance. What matters most is where students end up—not where they started out. Meeting and exceeding rigorous learning standards define academic growth. The best grading systems motivate students to persevere, overcome failures, and excel academically.

Grades 3-12 Grading Symbols

| | |
|---|--|
| A 90-100 - Excellent | Student is doing superior work. A high degree of individual thinking is demonstrated. The student accepts challenges and works independently. |
| B 80-89 - Above Average | Student is performing above average. |
| C 75-79 - Average | Student's performance is average for the grade level in school. |
| D 70-74 - Below Average - Passing | State minimum standards have been achieved; however, the student is performing below the average expected for the grade level in Alamo Heights |
| F Below 70 - Failing | The level of work is unsatisfactory, and the student has not met the expected minimum standards for the grade level. |

Timeliness for Grading Assignments

- Teachers enter grades into the online grading system (TAC) within five school days for routine or daily grades.
- Grades are entered into TAC within 10 school days for major assessments that include a lengthy written or detailed component.
- Teachers will communicate with administrators, parents, and students if a specific assignment will require more than 10 school days to grade. This exception is reserved for very lengthy (greater than 10 pages) written work or highly detailed tasks that require significant time to grade and provide feedback.
- Grades in TAC should be current and viewable to parents.

Weights for Assignments

- No single grade should count as more than 20% of the overall nine-weeks average.
- In grades 3-12, there is a minimum of 9 grades per nine-weeks per academic subject.
- All summative assignments are weighted the same by teachers of the same course in TAC.
- Daily grades count as 60% of the 9-weeks average. This includes quizzes and graded daily practice.
- Homework, if graded, is included in daily grades.
- Assessments count as 40% of the 9-weeks average. This includes essays, projects and tests.
- Summative assessments may count as 60% of the 9-weeks average for college-level courses (Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, and On Ramps) taught at the AHHS to align with college expectations.
- World Languages uses standard-based grading with weighted categories that reflect national proficiency guidelines. (AHHS and high school-level courses at AHJS)
- Science courses may include lab work as a separate grading category.
- Final exams count as 20% of the semester average. (AHHS and high school-level courses at AHJS)

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Opportunity to Improve Upon Prior Performance

Providing students with additional learning opportunities throughout a unit supports best practices in student learning. Students have the opportunity to increase their level of understanding by receiving and acting on descriptive feedback. Purpose of reteaching is not to master an assignment but rather to demonstrate mastery of specific concepts; therefore, a redo may take varying formats. Full reteaching and reassessment guidelines can be found in the AHISD Grading Guidelines (ADD LINK).

Opportunities to improve over prior performance are identified by the teacher and provided equitably to all students, if they meet the following requirements:

- Completed original assignment
- There were no academic integrity issues
- Completed all reteaching/relearning activities, as determined by the teacher.

Reassessment Guidelines

- Semester exams are ineligible for reassessment.
- Long-term assignments (over a week, including checkpoints with teacher feedback prior to final due date) are ineligible for reassessment.
- Course pretests and final posttest are ineligible for reassessment.
- While reteaching occurs consistently, students are only provided two opportunities for reassessment per nine weeks per course or content area.
- The original grade will be replaced with the most recent grade even if it is lower than the original grade.
- Dual Credit and On Ramps courses are exempt for reassessment as they are bound by the college/university grading criteria. (AHHS Only)

Late Work

- Assignments turned in late are ineligible for reassessment.
- Late work will not be accepted after an instructional unit and summative assessment has ended.
- College level courses may penalize late work to align with AP College Board of college grading guidelines.

Missing Work

Work that is not turned in at all is recorded as an MSG. All MSGs are calculated as 0 for final average.

Using Electronic Devices

No student personal devices may be used for assessments.

Grades PK-2 Grading Symbols

Students in grades Pre-Kindergarten- Second Grade receive a standards-based checklist. Learning objectives in the areas of language arts, math, science, social studies, physical education and personal/social skills are all evaluated using a three-point scale. The symbols are listed below.

- | | |
|---|---|
| I | Skill is performed consistently and independently |
| D | Skill is developing as expected |
| R | Reinforcement of the skill is needed |

AHISD Homework Guidelines (2024-2025)



It is expected that all AHISD students in grades 1-12 will have regular homework. Homework is any activity or assignment directed by the teacher to be performed outside the classroom that may include practicing knowledge or skills learned in class. AHISD values family time and extracurricular involvement as well as academic achievement. The AHISD Homework Guidelines are intended to promote both meaningful and purposeful homework as well as school and family life balance.

- The amount of homework increases as students progress through grade levels, and advanced courses levels (AP, Dual Credit, Honors) have additional expectations for homework.
- Homework should be necessary and useful, appropriate to the ability and maturity level of students, well explained and motivational, and clearly understood by students and parents.
- Homework should have a clear purpose, be tied to current subject matter, assigned in amounts and levels of difficulty which students can complete successfully and should be checked, with feedback to students.
- All homework is *assessed* but not necessarily graded. Assessed means providing students with individual feedback so that students receive confirmation of what skills and content they have mastered and what areas need additional time and effort to master.
- The times listed are not weekly maximum times; they are averages over a unit of study. The exact amount of time needed to complete a homework assignment will vary according to each student.
- Courses not listed here should use course guidelines for similar courses. For example, the STEM course would follow target time allocations for science.
- Incomplete class assignments and make-up work are not included in the homework minutes below.
- In alignment with the expectation that class assignments represent a balance between paper and technology tasks, homework should reflect this same balance. Laptops and internet hot spots are available for check out for students without access to these resources at home. The campus counselors are the point of contact.

Elementary Homework Guidelines:

- In PK- K, the focus is on home connections with pre-literacy and numeracy activities and take-home book bags.
- In grades 1-5, the target amount of homework should be 10 mins per night per grade level. This equates to 10 minutes for 1st grade up to 50 minutes for 5th grade. This targeted time allocation includes assigned reading.
- If a child struggles to complete the homework within the allotted time, the parent should contact the teacher.

Junior School Homework Guidelines:

| | | Reading | Language Arts | Science | Social Std. | Math | World Lang. | Elective Courses |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------|---------------|---------|-------------|------|-------------|------------------|
| Grade Level | 6 th Grade | 80 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 100 | | 30 |
| | 7 th Grade | | 80 | 50 | 50 | 110 | 50 | 30 |
| | 8 th Grade | | 90 | 60 | 60 | 120 | 60 | 30 |
| Advanced Level | 6 th Grade | 80 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 100 | | |
| | 7 th Grade | | 90 | 60 | 60 | 120 | 60 | |
| | 8 th Grade | | 110 | 100 | 100 | 150 | 80 | |

High School Homework Guidelines:

| | | Language Arts | Science | Social Studies | Math | World Languages | Electives |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------|---------|----------------|------|-----------------|-----------|
| Grade Level | 9 th Grade | 110 | 110 | 110 | 120 | 90 | 30 |
| | 10 th Grade | 110 | 110 | 110 | 120 | 90 | 30 |
| | 11 th Grade | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 30 |
| | 12 th Grade | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 30 |
| Advanced Level | 9 th Grade | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | |
| | 10 th Grade | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | |
| | 11 th Grade | 210 | 210 | 210 | 210 | 210 | |
| | 12 th Grade | 210 | 210 | 210 | 210 | 210 | |
| College Level | | 240 | 240 | 240 | 240 | 240 | 240 |