

# ATHENS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## GRADING AND ASSESSMENT PHILOSOPHY and GUIDELINES 2023-24

The Athens Area School District recognized an issue with its current grading system and decided to form a grading and assessment committee made up of teachers and administrators to address the issue. The grading and assessment committee met on several occasions. The grading committee looked at how we should grade students and what a student's grade should consist of. The committee decided to improve upon the existing grading policy grounded in research and best practices. Both committees came to the same conclusion and together formed a new philosophy and mission statement which Athens Area School District has chosen to abide by. The following information is the new mission, guidelines, and practice that the district shall follow for the 2023-24 school year.

### **Grading and Assessment Committee Mission Statement:**

To foster a growth culture through a standards-based grading and assessment system that holds all stakeholders accountable.

#### **Beliefs:**

Meeting the needs of our students on an individual basis.

Timely and reflective feedback

Multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate success

### **Assessment Definitions and Guidelines:**

**Formative Assessment** - a classroom-based assessment that allows teachers to monitor and adjust their instructional practice in order to meet the individual needs of students. Formative assessment can consist of formal instruments or informal observations. Assessments are considered formative when the information garnered is used to adapt instructional practices to meet individual student needs as well as providing prescriptive and corrective feedback that allows them to reach set goals and targets.

**Homework** - is a formative task, intended to impact the learning curve, and used to preview, practice, and prepare a student to lead them to mastery of standards and concepts. It may count no more than 15% of the formative category in a student's overall assessment. Homework may be graded if it is based on previously learned material. Each class syllabus will describe the homework policy for that class including the purpose and focus of homework and how it will be assessed. Measures should be taken to ensure that the amount and type of homework is appropriate to the developmental level of the student and is differentiated based on individual student needs.

**Summative Assessment** - seeks to make an overall judgment of progress made at the end of a defined period of instruction. Assessments may occur at the end of a school level, grade, or course, or administered at certain grades for the purposes of state or local accountability. Summative assessment measures the extent to which students meet, fall short of or exceed the expected standards.

**Passing** - a minimum of 70% on any given task or assignment will be considered passing.

**Extra Credit** - Extra Credit may NOT be given; however, error analysis on assignments may be administered for a student to improve their score.

### **Requirements Per Grade Level**

- K - 2 Will Remain Standards-Based
- 3 - 12 Grade Set-Up will be 60% Summative and 40% Formative with formative assessments being used for an array of preparation.
- Teachers that teach the same course will also have the same percentages of homework etc. even though the number of points administered for that MP may differ. (Example: 4th Grade science would be the same in all classes.

**Below is the labeling of assignments that will fall into each of those categories.**

<b>Formative 40%</b>	<b>Summative 60%</b>
Homework (No More Than 15%) Classwork Quizzes Labs (Dependent on Class) Large Project Checkpoints	Tests Labs (Dependent on Class) Project-Based Assessments (Domain 3 or 4) Essays Research Paper (Based Projects) Benchmarks

The term “Class Participation” will no longer be used. Instead, Work-Study Habits may take the place of a class participation grade. It will count no more than 5% in the homework category.

### **What Work Study Habits Look Like vs What It Does NOT Look Like**

<b>Looks Like</b>	<b>Does NOT Look Like</b>
Homework Use of Classtime Time Management Actively Engaged Actively Working Towards Their Goal	On-Time For Class Being Prepared for Class Having Computer Charged/Having Charger Disruptive Behavior Punitive in Nature

## 2023-2024 DEPARTMENT GRADING PRACTICES

The AASD is asking that each department align their grading policies and practices with one another. Please complete the following document while working with your department. Upon completion, please share your department results to your building principal. (LB and SRU, please include Mr. Collum and Mrs. Rhodes).

Formative Assessments can be no more than 40% of the overall student grade. Homework can be a portion of your formative grade totaling no more than 15% of 40%. Will your department be counting homework? If yes, please include the percentage you plan on using.	
Work Study Habits can be a portion of your homework grade totaling no more than 5% of the possible 15%. Will your department be counting Work Study Habits? If yes, please include the percentage you plan on using.	
Please list/describe what you will be using as Formative Assessments.	
Please list/describe what you will be using as Summative Assessments.	
Please list/describe what you will be counting as homework.	
Please list/describe what you will be counting for Work Study Skills.	
The grading and assessment philosophy and guidelines state that students will be allowed "Multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate success". Please describe what this looks like within your department.	
How will you score the multiple opportunities for success? (For example, student completes error analysis on a mathematics test, will they earn back $\frac{1}{2}$ credit? Full credit?)	
Benchmarks are great opportunities for us as a school district to see what our students know. What benchmarks do your department plan on using this school year? (Please remember, these should not be graded).	
Do you have any questions for your administrator and/or members of the grading committee?	

