



Tier 5 High School Grading Frequently-Asked Questions

1. Why are we using Pass/Fail course grades?

We cannot assign letter grades meant to assess student performance on course content covered in a typical marking period or semester since students cannot be taught the full course content under the current online circumstances. Letter grades meant for a full semester course would be unjustified in comparison to a fully completed course. The solution is to describe student learning more broadly with a "Pass," while awarding full course credit.

High school teachers may choose to grade each individual assignment with a grade during the 4th marking period, understanding that completion of all on-line assignments does not add up to the completion of a typical full semester course. Individual assignment grades must then be converted to a Pass/Fail Marking Period Four and semester grades.

2. How will my courses be graded?

- a. Semester-long courses that end in marking period 4: You will receive a course grade of Pass/Fail. Your course grade will not be factored into your cumulative grade point average GPA.
- b. AP courses that are 27 weeks in length and end in marking period 3: You will receive a letter grade (A, B, C, etc.) for your final course grade. Your grades from marking period 1 & marking period 2 will be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA). Your grades from marking period 3 will not be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA).
- c. AP courses that are 27 weeks in length and end in marking period 4: Your grade from marking period 2 will be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA). You will receive a course grade of Pass/Fail at the conclusion of marking period 4. Your grades from marking period 3 and marking period 4 will not be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA).

- d. Year-long courses: Your grades from marking period 1 & marking period 2 will be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA). You will receive a course grade of Pass/Fail at the conclusion of marking period 4. Your grades from marking period 3 & marking period 4 will not be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA).
- e. 9-week electives in marking period 3: You will receive a letter grade (A, B, C, etc.) for your course grade. Your cumulative grade point average (GPA) will remain unaffected by courses that end in marking period 3.
- f. 9-week electives in marking period 4: You will receive a course grade of Pass/Fail. Your cumulative grade point average (GPA) will remain unaffected by courses that end in marking period 4.

3. How will honor roll be impacted by Pass/Fail?

Honor roll will not be calculated for marking period 4.

4. Will second semester Honors/AP courses receive a weighted grade with the Pass/Fail grade?

No, second semester Honors/AP courses will not receive a weighted grade for courses ending marking period 4. All courses concluding in marking period 4 will not contribute to cumulative GPA.

5. Will a Pass/Fail grade on my transcript affect my college admissions?

All high schools, colleges, and universities across the country are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many high schools, colleges, and universities have adjusted their grading scales to Pass/Fail due to the school closure. As students apply to college in future years, college admission counselors will be very aware of the unique nature of this semester. If you have concerns about a specific university, we encourage you to contact the university's admissions office.

6. How will class rank be calculated?

Class rank for the 2019-2020 school year will be determined by cumulative grade point averages at the conclusion of semester one final grades.

7. Will there be exams at the end of marking period 4?

No, there will not be final exams at the conclusion of marking period 4.

8. I am a student-athlete, how with the NCAA Eligibility Center view a Pass/Fail in a course?

From NCAA.org, "In response to closings, cancellations and changes related to COVID-19, the Eligibility Center is closely monitoring the impact on students

and their ability to meet NCAA initial-eligibility requirements. The EC will be posting more information here in the coming days to assist our prospective student-athletes and the high school community. For information on COVID-19, please visit ncaa.org/COVID-19 and continue to monitor for more information from the Eligibility Center at on.ncaa.com/EC_COVID.

In response to questions regarding schools that have moved to **distance or e-learning environments**, the Eligibility Center has released guidance on this topic. [Click here](#) to read more.

The **ACT and SAT have modified their testing schedules**. [Click here](#) for ACT information. [Click here](#) for SAT information.”

9. I am enrolled at the Bethlehem Area Vocational Technical School. How will my BAVTS grade be calculated?

Your grades from marking period 1 & marking period 2 will be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA). You will receive a course grade of Pass/Fail at the conclusion of marking period 4. Your grades from marking period 3 & marking period 4 will not be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA).

10. I am enrolled in BASD Cyber Academy, how will cyber course grades be calculated?

You will receive a course grade of Pass/Fail. Your course grade will not be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA). Please contact Mr. Mark James (mjames@basdschools.org) with any questions.