

## Required Asynchronous Grading Spring 2020: Webster City High School

With the uncertainty around each family's individual circumstances, rather than trying to assess learning in a conventional manner, we want to provide all students the opportunity to complete this semester and earn credits. We appreciate the passion and advocacy from the school and our community on the behalf of students. However, after hearing input from our staff and Building Leadership Team, our high school is moving forward with the decision that will serve our students in the most equitable way. While we are aware not everyone will agree with this decision, Mr. Farley and I believe that it will serve all of our students in the most equitable way.

Beginning April 27, 2020, Webster City High School will allow students and their parents to make a choice for spring semester grades.

1. Earn a letter grade (A,B,C,D) using the current scale set by the Webster City Board of Education. However, rather than a failing grade (F), an incomplete grade would be issued and students would have an opportunity to complete missing work in the fall.  
Or
2. Take a pass or Incomplete grade using 60% as passing, established in current board policy.

By allowing for student choice with the two grading options, we can help ensure that no student's Grade Point Average (GPA) is negatively affected during this unique semester. If a student ends the semester with an incomplete grade they would be able to earn a Pass during the fall of the 2020-2021 school year.

- For example, a student who currently has a 4.0 GPA and is earning a B in a class would want to take a **PASS** in order to maintain the 4.0 GPA. As staff, we will coach students to seek the answer that will provide them the best outcome.
- If staff is unsure which grading option the student should select, encourage students to talk with others (parents, staff members, the counselors, or administrators) related to the long- and short-term implications as they relate to GPA, college admissions, and scholarships.

This grading policy also allows grace to those students and families that have added responsibilities and burdens during this challenging time. Students will have to make the decision by the end of the current week to pursue a letter grade or the pass option:

All students: Decide on or before May 4, 2020

If mitigating circumstances would arise with a student or their family an opportunity to switch to the pass incomplete option would be allowed at the discretion of the high school administration.

We will not issue any failing grades at the conclusion of the 2020 school year. Students will have an opportunity to fix the incomplete grade when we return in the fall. We are still working on a timeline related to the completion of incomplete work and will be seeking input related to timelines as to what will best serve our students.

This temporary grading decision aligns more closely with what the majority of other high schools and colleges across the nation are offering with some form of choice of Pass/Fail grading system. Additionally, we've reached out to other high schools around the state who are doing the required learning and most have implemented the student choice model for grades this semester. This shift in grading has been discussed in several recent articles, most notably in [EdWeek](#), [EAB.com](#) and [PBS.org](#).