**Millsap ISD Teacher Grading/Progress Monitoring**

**Implemented Due to COVID-19 Health Crisis**

**Philosophy & Beliefs**

Millsap Bulldogs are strong, resilient, and have a great deal of love for students. During this crisis each of you have taken the opportunity to put your love in action and build upon the trust you have already established with our parents and community. Please consider this the chance to build upon our district core values!

**Millsap ISD Mission**

The Mission of Millsap ISD is to INSPIRE, DEVELOP, and EDUCATE every student in a safe environment to be productive, responsible citizen prepared for lifelong success.

**Millsap ISD Values**

* We value the development of the whole child.
* We value community/parental partnerships and mutual respect.
* We value positive relationships with students, staff, and parents.
* We believe student success is our ultimate measure.
* We practice ethical behavior and personal integrity.

**Teaching, Learning, and Evaluating**

Evaluating and reporting student progress during this time is difficult and will require skill, time, and attention. We’ve been working with districts across the region and state to create a system of grading that is fair and equitable. However, we concede that every available solution is imperfect. Please join us in the spirit of the work by modeling flexibility as you monitor student progress and provide student evaluations based on the ***Millsap ISD Pass/Fail Rubric***. This is a unique time when students do not have the same learning opportunity during this crisis.

Instruction and monitoring in this environment is complex because students have vast differences in their access to curriculum and instructional support. This is demonstrated by the fact that some students can use internet from home while others request paper packets. Still others have access to internet services only at certain times of the day. During this time, we will rely on parents as our partners to closely monitor and provide feedback to students. We will utilize new digital conferencing tools to conference with students and to assist them in their learning. Teachers will rely on brief observations and limited communication to make instructional decisions that benefit students. Because there are so many variables that cannot be controlled with distance learning, grading, assessment, and progress monitoring we will need to be extremely flexible and supportive with our students and parents – as we ask them to be for us!

Work completed and returned to teachers during this extended closure will be used to monitor student progress toward learning the TEKS. Students will learn through new experiences. While teachers will use a variety of information from students including online observations, assignment completion, and parent input to determine how the students are progressing. Due to the limited amount of direct instruction, and the decreased amount of direct student feedback, teachers should give careful consideration to what evaluations are used to measure student progress.

**As a teacher, should I be teaching new information or only review previously taught curriculum?**

Mike Morath, Texas Commissioner of Education, has continued to remind districts to ensure students are making progress toward mastery of the standards during this time. So, yes as a teacher you will continue to teach the TEKS but we asked that you analyze and streamline the standards to ensure students are learning the most essential content. Remember new content may be difficult to teach remotely. Be innovative, find and create videos, be flexible. Continue to spiral in previously taught standard and carefully scaffold in new information.

**How many assignments should we assign to students?**

Distance learning is not intended to replicate a traditional school day. To the meet the various needs of our students, please consider the thought that less is more. In this setting quality certainly trumps quantity. Be considerate of families all working from a small space at home with often limited resources. Due to these limitations it is common that students will not be able to log on at a standard time. Think of what you would typically require, adapt it to this environment and then drastically reduce the amount of work. The Grading Procedures have been written to help accommodate for these limitations. During the 6th six weeks, a teacher will only have to record a minimum of six progress measurements with zero major grades.

**How should we score student assignments?**

Teachers should utilize the ***Millsap ISD Pass/Fail Rubric*** for guidance on how to measure student progress. Remembering to be flexible in the student evaluations due to the extreme circumstances and limitations in accessing instruction and providing feedback.

**How do I report grades?**

The Resolution adopted by the Millsap ISD Board of Trustees redesigned the expectation and calculation of grades for both the 5th and 6th Six Weeks. Starting the 6th six weeks, teachers will evaluate students through the lens of Pass/Fail.

The TxEIS Gradebook will not accept Pass/Fail, but instead needs numerical assignments. During the 6th six weeks the teachers will keep their own “gradebook” of a minimum of 6 Pass/Fail grades – for example an old fashion paper spreadsheet or excel document. Therefore, for each student evaluation the teacher will keep documentation of the evaluation, the score (Pass or Fail), and why the score was selected according to the rubric.

Upon completion of the 6th six weeks and based on the preponderance of evidence of the student evaluations the teacher will determine if each student receives a Pass or Fail for the 6th six weeks grading cycle. If the student receives a Pass, the teacher will record in TxEIS the higher of a 75% or the student’s average of the 4th and the 5th six weeks. If the student fails, the teacher will record a 69% in the Gradebook for the 6th six weeks.

**Do I give tests of any kind?**

Per the resolution, there will not be any cumulative Six Weeks tests nor any Semester Exams. Additionally, all student measurements (evaluations) will count equally toward the final six weeks grade. There will be no weighted assignments.

**Will these new Grading Procedures change when/if we return to school?**

This resolution has been adopted for the remainder of the school year. Regardless of when or if we return to the traditional school setting, the ***Millsap ISD Pass/Fail Rubric*** will be utilized to evaluate students for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

**Will there be any EOC’s or STAAR Assessments?**

As per the March 18, 2020 TEA letter, all STAAR and EOC Assessments have been waived for the 2019-2020 school year. As long as the student passed the class aligned with the state assessment the student will not have to make up the missed assessment.

**How will elementary Promotion/Retention decisions be made?**

Promotion decisions for students in all grades at MES will be based on information from report cards, formative assessment data (such as MAP, iStation, Renaissance math, etc.), as well as parent and teacher input. TEA has waived the Student Success Initiative (SSI) promotion/retention requirement for 5th grade. Millsap will use local discretion, based on the previous criteria, to make the best decision for the 5th grade students who typically would fall under this state SSI requirement.

**How will Middle and High School students earn credit?**

The campuses will continue to utilize traditional grade calculations to determine a student’s yearly average. Students who took and passed a course aligned to an EOC will not have to take the EOC. TEA has waived the EOC requirement for Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History. Students will not have to make up this state assessment at any time during their high school career. Gradation determination for these students will be made by the Individual Gradation Committees.

**How will semester averages for spring 2020 be calculated?**

Because there will be no semester tests, the spring 2020 semester grade calculation will use a basic averaging model. The student’s semester average will be obtained by adding the 4th, 5th, and 6th Six Weeks together and dividing by three.

**How will the 2019-2020 year average be calculated?**

There will be no changes in how the year average is calculated for students.