



**EAST ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

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Ms. Anita Champagne

Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Deborah M. Harvest

May 13, 2020

Dear East Orange School District Parents/Guardians,

As of May 4, 2020, Governor Murphy has declared that all New Jersey schools will remain closed for in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019 – 2020 school year. Accordingly, the EOSD will continue with the virtual/remote learning platform adopted on March 12, 2020.

While assessing and reporting of student learning and academic performance remains critical to the education process, the variable nature of the Covid-19 pandemic has encouraged a need to temporarily modify guidelines to the 4th Quarter grading scale.

We understand that students, staff and even our parents are working under challenging conditions. In alignment with the District's Access & Equity Policy and consideration of these unique and disparate learning opportunities, we want to consider students' socioemotional needs while learning goals are being met.

With that in mind, it is still important that students continue to follow the virtual/remote learning that has been taking place. Teachers will continue to provide instruction, activities and support relative to the pacing guide of each subject and grade level. Teachers, guidance counselors and building principals will continue to work with families to mitigate any circumstances that may present challenges to students.

The following grade parameters were developed to ensure that all variables have been considered and that grade distribution is equitable across all students:

- There will be no grades lower than a **D** in Q4 for **grades PK – 12**
- For **grades K – 8**, Q1, Q2 & Q3 will be averaged for the End of Year final grade.
- For **grades PK – 8**, the indicators will state: EE, exceeds expectations; ME, meets expectations and/or LE, lacks evidence.
- For **grades 6 – 8**, the threshold will be 50%.
- For **grades 9 – 12**, grading will remain the same, with all marking periods weighted equally.

Indicator	Scale	Descriptors include but are not limited to:
Exceeds Expectations, EE	80 - 100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Completes all assignments → Participates fully → Stays on task with instructor → Puts forth best effort → Attends virtual/remote classes regularly → Participates in virtual/remote classrooms → 80 - 100% of work completed and submitted with understanding → Highly, active engagement in virtual/remote learning
Meets Expectations, ME	60 - 79	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 60-79% of assignments completed and submitted with good effort → Puts forth effort → Attends virtual/remote classes → Participates in virtual/remote learning most of the time. → Works cooperatively and independently on assignments → Maintains good working habits with virtual/remote learning → Stays on task
Lacking Evidence, LE	50 - 59	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Rarely attends virtual/remote learning → Limited to no participation in virtual/remote learning → Limited effort shown in attempting/ completing assignments. → Less than 60% of assignments submitted → Requires constant reminders of virtual/remote tasks → Inconsistent participation in virtual/remote classrooms → Restrictions due to Covid-19

We understand that this adjustment does not provide families with the detailed grading scale that they are use to. The temporary modification to the Q4 grading policy will ensure that while there is an impact of Covid-19, grading is equitable and fair to all of our students. Regular reporting will resume once we return to a more normalized school environment.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in teaching and learning.

Sincerely,

Ms. Anita Champagne
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction