



**Griswold Public Schools**  
**Assessment and Grading Guidance for the Covid-19 Pandemic Period**

**Universal Pass/Fail grading: Effective March 16, - June 17, 2020 (Spring Grading Marking Period)**

For the Spring Marking Period, Griswold Public Schools has considered the severe impact of the pandemic on students and families and will take the steps stated below to prioritize ongoing learning while safeguarding against unintended consequences as students pursue secondary and postsecondary opportunities.

Our Spring Marking Period policy is based on the recommendation from the Connecticut Department of Education on April 7, 2020.

*“Given the availability of online teaching and learning models, and issues of access and equity, it is appropriate to view the second half of the 2020 school year as a special case in terms of grading, GPA’s and transcripts. All students and staff are working under challenging conditions and, therefore we encourage districts to focus priorities on student engagement and learning. We suggest that schools adopt a locally guided Pass/Fail protocol for grading while providing continued educational opportunities. All such “pass” markings shall constitute confirmation that the student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-221a. We anticipate that these uniform grading policies across the state will create a consistent grading scheme for evaluating all Connecticut students by post-secondary institutions within and outside Connecticut.”*

In addition, universities across the country, including our Connecticut state universities, have made it clear that students will not be penalized for missing traditional standardized tests or for posting Pass/Fail transcripts for the spring 2020 semester/trimester(s). One of the clearest explanations of the assurances our students should expect comes from Harvard University that

states plainly that students “will not be disadvantaged as a result.....(of) the current coronavirus outbreak”.

Based on the recommendation of the Connecticut Department of Education and Higher Educational institutions, for the Spring grading Marking Period of 2020, Griswold Public Schools will adopt the delineation of universal Pass/Fail (or Meets Expectations/Does Not Meet Expectations) with a provision for teachers to provide narrative commendations, just as they can now. This maintains Griswold’s high standard of 24 credits for every high school student while providing a clear path to graduation for all students and reduces barriers that may result from extended school closure.

**Revised Griswold Grading Marking Periods (Effective April 28, 2020)**

	Grading Marking Period	Spring Marking Period
Griswold Elementary School	Second Trimester: December 2, 2019 - March 13, 2020	Third Trimester: March 16 - June 17, 2020
Griswold Middle School	Third Quarter: January 27 - March 13, 2020	Fourth Quarter: March 16 - June 17, 2020
Griswold High School	Third Quarter: January 27 - March 13, 2020	Fourth Quarter: March 16 - June 17, 2020

**Griswold Public Schools Academic Expectations - Spring Grading Marking Period (March 16, 2020 - June 17, 2020)**

Academic grading practices communicate learning progress and achievement to students and families and are used to facilitate and improve the learning process. Griswold is adopting a Pass/Fail (Meets expectations/Does Not Meet Expectations) grading system for the Spring marking period while providing continued educational opportunities to all students. Although synonyms, Griswold High School will use the delineation of Pass/Fail on report cards and transcripts while Griswold Elementary and Middle Schools will utilize the moniker Meets Expectations/Does Not Meet Expectations on the report cards. All “passing” markings shall constitute confirmation that the student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to C.G.S Section 10-221a. While pass/fail protocols may address learning and alleviate the associated pressures on students and their families, Griswold Public Schools will continue to provide meaningful feedback to students to support student progress and foster academic growth.

Continued education opportunities, task completion and student engagement are included in the computation of the student's Pass/Fail grade. By means of the report card, Meets

Expectations/Does Not Meet Expectations grades will be reported for the third trimester for Elementary school students and for the fourth quarter of the Middle school students. Pass/Fail grades, in addition to a Pass with Distinction designation, will be reported for the fourth quarter for High school students by means of the report card.

### **Goal of Continued Educational Opportunities**

The goal of our continued educational opportunities is to create opportunities for students and teachers to stay connected and continue engaging in learning while remaining flexible and sensitive to the evolving and uncertain needs of students, staff and families during this time.

- To provide new learning and skill development as part of continued educational opportunities for students in the digital environment.
- To ensure connection and communication amongst staff and students.
- To maintain the requirements of the State department of Education as it relates to remote learning.

### **Definition of Essential Learning**

Essential learning is learning that is proximal to the students' current knowledge and skills and can help them move toward the next level of learning. Evidence of essential learning will act as a means of assessing student learning during the Spring Grading Marking Period. Educators will be assessing students essential learning based on:

- Knowledge and skills aligned to Connecticut Core Standards and /or other appropriate content standards as evident by engagement in continued educational opportunities.
- Development of student cognitive engagement over time as evident in continued educational opportunities.

Pass/Meets/Credit	Fail/Does Not Meet/No Credit
Student demonstrates evidence of essential learning through engagement in Continued Educational Opportunities by the end of spring term 2020.	Student does not engage in and/or demonstrates evidence of essential learning as part of Continued Educational Opportunities by the end of spring term 2020.

### **Criteria for Pass/Meets Expectation/Credit**

Students who demonstrate evidence of essential learning through engagement by the end of the 2019-2020 school year, shall receive a "Pass/Meets Expectation" on their report card and transcript and be awarded the corresponding credit at the end of the term.

- Consistent engagement in continued educational opportunities
- Evidence of learning progress made as part of the district's Continuous Learning Plan implemented during the extended school closure.

**Criteria for Fail/Does Not Meet Expectation/No Credit**

- No engagement in continued education opportunities.
- No evidence of learning progress made as part of the district's Continuous Learning Plan implemented during the extended school closure.

**Extenuating Circumstances - Covid-19 Related: Providing Opportunities for Students to Learn and Earn Credits**

Griswold Public Schools understand the individual needs of our students and parents. Partnering with students and families to create a plan for credit earning assurance that aligns to educational success and graduation requirements is our top priority during this school closure.