

FAQs for COVID-19, Arlington ISD Parents

April 9, 2020

Are Friday and Monday holidays for AISD students and staff?

Friday, April 10 will be a student and staff holiday for the Arlington ISD. While we will not have online classes and all departments and virtual offices will be closed, we will still be feeding students at all 24 locations with our [Student Meal Plan](#).

Monday, April 13 is **not** a student or staff holiday; it is our first day of Phase 3 of our online instruction through the [At-Home Learning Hub](#). Starting Monday, all content areas and courses will be taught by Arlington ISD teachers using Seesaw and Canvas. Coursework will count for grades and credit from this time forward.

Can I enroll, transfer or withdraw my student during the COVID-19 closure?

We are accepting **enrollment** for the 19-20 (current) school year for students who have a valid Arlington ISD home address. [Click here for complete instructions](#).

Transfers for the 2020-2021 school year will open at a future date. Please check www.aisd.net/transfers for updates. Students currently enrolled in an Arlington ISD school who move within district boundaries will remain enrolled at their current school until schools reopen or they have the option to stay in their current school for the remainder of the school year.

To **withdraw** your student, [please follow the withdrawal instructions on this page](#).

Do you have any resources for counseling or someone to talk to for parents and students?

Our [Coping With Emergencies](#) page has many resources for students and their families, including a student counseling services hotline that is staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students can call 682-867-9416 during this time to conference with a school counselor. Also, Texas Health and Human Services has a [COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line](#) set up for people to call to speak with a mental health professional for help with dealing with anxiety, depression, stress, grief or worry 24/7. The toll-free COVID 19 Mental Health Support Line is 833-986-1919. Finally, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has a [Disaster Distress Helpline](#) that is available 24/7. Call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

Will graduation and prom for the senior Class of 2020 be rescheduled?

Arlington ISD Superintendent Dr. Marcelo Cavazos has met virtually with student leaders from each campus, high school principals and others to get feedback, and a survey is being developed to get feedback from the senior class. Once we gather all of the feedback, we will make those decisions and share that information with our families.

What are the expectations for my child – will they be on the computer learning all day?

We understand the disruption that this pandemic has caused to the routines of our families. To help our students continue their learning with as much flexibility as possible, our teachers are designing their at-home learning strategy where students can engage in their learning at any time during the day and complete the activities at their own pace.

We're assigning activities with a goal of approximately 30-45 minutes of total engagement time per period/content area, per day (depending on the student's grade level). So, for example, a 3rd-grade student who has English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies can expect to have about 2-to-3 hours worth of at-home learning assigned to them per day. It can be done in the morning or afternoon or broken up throughout the day.

Will my child be receiving live classroom instruction online from their teacher or teachers?

Some – but not necessarily all – teachers will want to conduct a live classroom on occasion with their students. In this case, there will be a set day/time where the student would need to join the online class. If your child's teacher is going to host a live classroom, we have required that they limit them to one per week per period/content area. We've also created a schedule to help ensure two or more of your student's teachers are not offering live events at the same time. The live event schedule can be found on the [At-Home Learning Hub](#) by clicking on the student's grade level button. If your student is not able to participate their teacher's live event, please contact the teacher directly.

How will my student be graded during the closure from April 13 forward?

Pre-K through 2nd-grade students:

- While the students may receive multiple weekly assignments, teachers will continue to record no more than 1-2 weekly grades per content area based on work submitted through Seesaw and through individual communication with parents who are doing paper-based learning packets. The purpose of these grades is to communicate how your student is progressing academically.
- Grades will reflect one of the following levels of mastery that your student has demonstrated:
 - Mastery of Standard
 - Approaching Mastery of Standard
 - Beginning Progress Toward Standard

Grades 3-12:

- Teachers will provide feedback to students directly on Canvas and use the gradebook there to record a complete or incomplete for students as they submit their assignments. There will be no final recording of numeric grades. Any numeric grades automatically scored in Canvas will be converted to a complete or incomplete by the teacher. There will be no more than 1-2 final complete or incomplete grades per week per content or course recorded by the teacher.

- Students who receive an incomplete in the Canvas gradebook will have unlimited opportunities to resubmit their work to demonstrate proficiency. Teachers will adjust the grade to complete accordingly when work has been completed.
- Once per week the teacher will record one grade for each content area/course in the formal Frontline/TEAMS gradebook indicating your child's progress. This grade will be recorded as a PR for progress or an NP for no progress. Grades in the formal gradebook will be used to assist teachers in making decisions regarding awarding credit at the end of the semester.

Will I get a report card for the 5th six weeks and/or 6th six weeks?

- **5th six weeks:** Due to the lack of grades recorded, report cards will not be distributed districtwide. Teachers are not to assign work to make up what was missed during the first two phases of the closure period. Assignments provided by the district in the At-Home Learning Hub during the 5th six weeks are not graded.
- In alignment with state law, students who were not making satisfactory progress in a foundational course (a core content area) during the first three weeks of the 5th six-week grading period will receive notification indicating their lack of progress to the parent/guardian. Teachers will personally contact parents of these students directly during the week of April 13, 2020.
- **6th six weeks:** A progress report will be published for all students on May 6, 2020, and a final report card will be distributed by May 28, 2020, for all students. Numeric grades will not be used on these report cards.
 - **Pre-K**
 - Because Pre-K students are not typically retained and Pre-K students will be unable to complete the face to face End-of-Year assessment needed to finalize report cards, parents of Pre-K students will receive a standardized letter from the district articulating their child's promotion to kindergarten.
 - **Kindergarten-2nd Grade**
 - All K-2 students will be issued a final standards-based report card.
 - **Grades 3-8:**
 - Progress reports and report cards will indicate PR for "progress" or NP for "no progress" for each course.
 - Final report cards will indicate a PS for "pass" or an INC for "incomplete."
 - Should a student not participate in the coursework provided, an INC for incomplete will be recorded as the final grade on the student's transcript and credit will not be awarded.
 - **Grades 9-12 (and grades 7 & 8 participating in high school courses):**
 - Progress reports and report cards will indicate PR for "progress" or NP for "no progress" for each course.
 - Final report cards will indicate CRD for "credit" or INC for "incomplete" for each course thereby awarding credit or not awarding credit on the student's transcript.

- Should a student not participate in the coursework provided, an INC for “incomplete” will be recorded as the final grade on the student’s transcript and credit will not be awarded.
- Parents of students who are assigned an incomplete will be contacted by the school.
- Parents/guardians of special education students will receive IEP progress notifications in accordance with the law.
- The district is working with the NCAA to determine how semester grades will be represented on student transcripts. Additional guidance will be provided once decisions are finalized.

How will grade point average be calculated?

Grades earned during the COVID-19 closure and prior to closure during the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year will not be used in a student’s GPA calculation. Grades for courses and classes completed during the second semester will have no weight and will be recorded as credit or incomplete. GPA for all students, including junior high students participating in high school courses, will be calculated for 2019-2020 using only the grades from semester one.

Students who participate in credit recovery for a course initiated in a semester prior to the COVID-19 closure will receive a numeric grade for that course, and it will be included in the calculation of the student’s GPA.

What about my student who takes dual credit courses through UT OnRamps or TCC/UTA in their specialized program?

Tarrant County College (TCC) and UTA Dual credit courses taken by AISD students including those enrolled at Arlington Collegiate High School, Arlington College and Career High School and the STEM Academy at Martin High School during the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year will not be weighted as honors classes and will count as credit or incomplete in alignment with all other courses. Students participating in these programs will receive a transcript at TCC or UTA, respectively, that will include a numeric grade in alignment with each of the respective organization’s policies. These numeric grades earned during the COVID-19 closure, however, will not impact or be reflected numerically on the student’s AISD high school transcript. This also applies to students participating in the UT OnRamps program who choose to accept a transcribed grade from that institution.

How will teachers decide to award credit/promote a student to the next grade level?

During this challenging time, our goal is to ensure our students are as successful as possible. With that, teachers and principals will be using the following considerations to make final decisions:

- A student’s progress toward proficiency of state standards in the course or grade level;
- A student’s effort and persistence in completing the assignments provided; and

- A student's effort to master concepts taught.

Pre-K: Parents of students in Pre-K will be promoted and receive a general letter from the District regarding enrollment into kindergarten.

Grades K-2: Students will be promoted based on evidence of proficiency of the grade-level standards taught, especially in language arts and mathematics.

Grades 3-8: Students will be promoted based on evidence of overall proficiency in each core subject area.

Grades 9-12: Students will be awarded credit based on evidence of overall proficiency in each course.

Any decision to retain a student or to not award credit for a course (being assigned an INC for incomplete) must be made collaboratively between the teacher of record and the principal or his/her designee. Parents of students in this situation will be contacted by the school.

How will my student take final exams at the end of the semester?

Final exams will not be administered during the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year.

How will seniors for the class of 2020 be ranked?

Rankings will be determined using the first semester of the 2019-2020 school year as the final cut point. Student ranking as of the first semester will be final and be used to establish graduation honors. Final grade point averages transcribed for seniors will include all courses taken prior to closure or the second semester. This includes all credits recovered by students during the second semester for courses that were attempted in earlier semesters but where credit was not earned.

How will these grades count toward future rankings for current underclassmen during their senior year?

For current underclassmen, grades from the second semester of 2019-2020 will not be part of their future GPA averages and will have no implications on their respective graduation honor rankings in the future. This includes all 7th and 8th grades students participating in high school courses during this semester.

What is the difference between the GPA used to determine Graduation Honors for seniors and a student's final GPA?

Each year, the school district calculates an initial GPA using a pre-determined cut date to identify the Top 10% of the graduating class including the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. This year, that cut date will be the end of the 2019-2020 first semester.

At the end of the school year, when all grades have been submitted for completed courses, a final GPA is calculated for all seniors. This GPA is the final GPA that is recorded on the students' transcripts. This GPA will include all courses completed, included any previously failed courses that were recovered in credit recovery.

What if my student needs credit recovery to meet graduation requirements?

Students who participate in credit recovery for a course initially attempted in a semester prior to the COVID-19 closure will receive a numeric grade for that course, and it will be included in the calculation of the student's GPA. The following information is provided pertaining to specific circumstances including GPA implications for each:

- **Due to lack of attendance:** The state has not removed the 90% attendance requirement for courses attempted prior to the COVID-19 closure. If a student failed to receive credit in a prior semester due to lack of attendance, they will be identified and enrolled in Edgenuity by April 13 to complete modules needed to recover seat time. The original grade earned for the course will be awarded and included in the student's final GPA.
- **Due to a failed grade for senior students:** Seniors who did not receive credit for a prior semester due to receiving a grade of less than 70 will be identified and enrolled in Edgenuity by April 13 to complete required modules and regain credit and meet graduation requirements. Numeric grades will be awarded and included in the student's final GPA.
- **Due to a failed grade for grades 9-11:** Students in grades 9-11 who need to recover credit for a failed course attempted prior to closure (including students in grades 7 & 8 who failed a high school course attempted) will have the opportunity to recover credit starting in summer 2020 unless they are currently enrolled in an Edgenuity course. If a student is currently enrolled in Edgenuity, the student will be permitted to finish the course on Edgenuity for credit. Numeric grades will be awarded and included in the student's final GPA.
- **Due to failing the first semester of a STAAR EOC course taken this school year (English 1, English II, Biology, Algebra I or US History):** Students in the fall of 2019 who failed the first half of a course that is connected to a high school STAAR EOC exam will be enrolled in Edgenuity by April 27 to recover credit for the portion of the course previously failed. This also includes 8th grade students enrolled in a STAAR EOC related course. Numeric grades will be awarded and included in the student's final GPA.
- **Due to a failed grade for grades 7-8:** Students in 7th and 8th grade who failed a junior high school course in the first semester of 2019-2020 will be identified and enrolled in Edgenuity by April 20, 2020, to recover grade recovery. Numeric grades will be awarded in this situation.
- **Due to failed grade for TCC or UTA course for Seniors in the 2nd semester of 2019-2020 OR for any seniors lacking additional credits needed to meet graduation requirements:** These students will have the opportunity to recapture credit by participating in assigned modules in Edgenuity May 18-31. Grades pertaining to the courses initially attempted during the closure period (2nd semester) will be recorded as a complete or incomplete and not included in the student's GPA. Credits recovered for courses initially attempted prior to the second semester will receive numeric grades and be included in the student's GPA
- **Due to an INC for incomplete for the current semester (during closure) due to inadequate progress or failure to participate for non-seniors:** Students will have an opportunity to recover credit at a future date. Credit recovered at a future date for

courses initially attempted in the 2nd semester of 2019-2020 will not be included in a student's overall GPA or implicated in his/her class rank in future years.