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Message from Superintendent Nelson

April 9, 2020

Good Evening Fresno Unified Family!

After much thought, collaboration, and planning – we are officially releasing our grading policies for second semester. We've vetted these policies amongst our Board, district leadership, site leadership and our Fresno Teachers Association to come to what we believe to be the best opportunity for our students.

In formulating our strategy, we considered guidance from the California Department of Education, the California State University system, and the University of California system. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond stated, "We are thinking of our students and the impact that the current COVID-19 public health emergency and subsequent physical closure of schools has had on them, and we hope that this update will help relieve some stress and anxiety."

Here's what parents and students need to know:

- The quarter 3 grade will be a student's final second semester grade unless a student chooses to improve their grade
- Students will be given multiple opportunities to improve their grades between now and end of our traditional grading period—Seniors May 22, all other students June 1
- No future grade will drop below the grade issued for quarter 3 (which ended March 13)
- Teachers will issue letter grades of A, B, C, and F while D grades will be replaced with 'Pass' in the final second semester grade

This grading option was outlined in the guidance provided by the California Department of Education and we believe this decision gives the widest set of students the opportunity and incentive to connect through distance learning and to improve their grades during this unprecedented time.

Our seniors who are on track for graduation, will graduate. If they need credit recovery in order to continue to make progress towards graduation, they will have that opportunity. We are still actively working to determine what graduation will look like this year, but seniors will get their gowns, medals, and diplomas, and we will celebrate them.

District staff will return from spring break on Tuesday, April 14 and parents and students will begin to hear more from teachers and counselors regarding next steps. In the meantime, if you have questions or want to provide feedback on this new fourth quarter grading, you can complete an [electronic feedback form](#) on our website at fresnounified.org.

I hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday weekend.