



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**



**COMMUNITY AND  
TECHNICAL COLLEGES**  
*Washington State Board*

## **Joint Statement: Grading Policies for College in the High School and Running Start Courses**

We appreciate the strong partnerships among Washington's public four-year college and universities, community and technical colleges, and school districts to provide opportunities for students across the state to participate in dual credit programs. During this pandemic, our partnerships and clear communication continue to be critical to student success.

The Council of Presidents (COP), the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) continue to receive questions from both K-12 and college partners regarding how the emergency rules filed by OSPI impact College in the High School and Running Start grades. This joint statement reiterates the guidance provided to date to help school districts, colleges and universities finalize grading as the spring term concludes.

Grades and credit earned through Running Start and College in the High School courses are transcribed to both the high school and college transcript. School districts are responsible for ensuring student grades on the high school transcript reflect the district's grading practices and policies. Colleges and universities are responsible for ensuring student grades on the college transcript reflect the higher education institution's grading practices and policies. This has not been changed by the new policy and guidance from OSPI and is reinforced through the OSPI emergency rules enacted on April 29, 2020.

What has changed is the grading policy of school districts, which impacts how grades will be transcribed on a student's high school transcript. During school facility closures, districts have adopted various letter grading policies which continue to signal to students their progress on learning while trying to mitigate inequities in distance learning. This will impact grades on the student's high school transcript for courses completed during the school facilities closure.

Grades earned through completion of a Running Start or College in the High School course are determined by the college or university. Policies and practices for courses offered through these programs, including grades transcribed on the college transcript, are determined by the college or university offering the program. All Running Start and College in the High School courses must comply with college or university grading policies. The college or university grading policy - including the grading scale and grade options - is solely up to the college or university and cannot be altered or modified by the school district's grading policy.

If there is a difference in the grading policies between the college or university and the school district, the district must adhere to their local policies for the high school transcript while, when required, providing grading information to the college or university which adheres to the college or university's grading policy.

All of Washington's public colleges and universities are integrating flexibility into admissions processes to ease, to the extent possible, the disruption for fall 2020 and fall 2021 applicants. We recognize that while students must satisfy high school graduation requirements and meet minimum admission requirements, our institutions will not disadvantage 2020 fall applicants due to the pandemic's effects on education delivery.

**Example 1:**

A school district's grading policy allows grades of only A, B and Incomplete for the grade on a student's high school transcript. The district offers College in the High School courses in partnership with College Y. College Y's grading policy allows grades of A-D and Incompletes. When reporting the grade to College Y, the K-12 district must provide the grade in accordance with College Y's grading policy, including providing grades of C or D where appropriate. The district cannot limit the College in the High School grade reported to College Y to only those grades allowable under the district's policy. The grade on the high school transcript, however, must align with the district's A, B, or Incomplete policy.

**Example 2:**

Students enrolled in courses at University Y through Running Start have grades transcribed on their college transcript in accordance with University Y's grading policy. This same grade is reported to the K-12 district. The district's local grading policy must identify how grades which fall outside of the district's A, B, or Incomplete policy will be transcribed on the high school transcript.

Below are resources to support and provide additional information:

- OSPI Student Learning and Grading Guidance FAQ [Question 12](#)
- Washington's Public Four-Year College and Universities COVID-19 [FAQ](#)
- State Board for Community and Technical Colleges COVID-19 [FAQ](#)
- Washington Student Achievement Council COVID-19 [Resources](#)
- National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnership's Guidance [Last Bullet Point](#)

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