



To: Dr. Riggle

From: Rosanne Williamson
Ryan Bretag

Date: April 11, 2017

Re: Strategic Planning Update – **Student Assessment**

Three-year (2016-2019) Strategic Planning Goal:

Identify areas for focus and growth in curriculum and student wellness *to further enhance a meaningful student experience*. Identify, review, develop and implement changes to practices, procedures, policies and structures that promote or hinder meaningful student work and student social/emotional wellness.

Semester Weighting and Grade Reporting

Background

Currently, each 9-week quarter accounts for 40% of the semester grade with the final exam comprising 20%. This structure impacts both student work and wellness at the end of the quarter as students often have multiple assessments/assignments due when teachers attempt to equalize the work between each quarter.

Rationale & Recommendation

In an effort to reduce student stress and address the quantity of work in multiple courses that often comes due at the end of each quarter, the administration recommends weighting each semester at 80% with no artificial 9-week divisions and the final exam remaining at 20% for the 2017-2018 school year.

Final Exams

In conjunction with the above recommended change, there is interest in reviewing the role of final exams as we consider other logistical factors such as weighting (currently 20%) and calendar-related considerations. This will require further study and discussion, so no change is being recommended at this time to the final exam weighting.

DRAFT - Frequently Asked Questions: 80/20 Grading System

Why did the district change from the previous 40/40/20 grading system to the 80/20 grading system?

- Strategic planning identified the following as key themes: meaningful work and student wellness. This change positively addresses both.

What are the **potential** benefits to students?

- Reduction of student stress due to removal of former “arbitrary” 9-week quarter deadlines
- With the removal of quarter grading periods, there is a potential for...
 - Better distribution of student workload (assignments, quizzes, tests)
 - Long-term assignments can be done when best suited for student learning of the course content
 - Reduction of assignments across multiple courses coming due at the same time
- Allows students and teachers to focus on growth and see changes in performance over time
- More accurately aligns with collegiate experience

What is the difference between the previous 40/40/20 grading system and the 80/20 grading system?

- There will be no impact on student grades

Are there any potential challenges for students?

- Based upon student and teacher focus groups, no student-wide negative effects were identified; however, there will be an adjustment period to a modified grade reporting timeline.

How often will parents receive progress reports?

What	When	How
Progress Check	5 week mark 13 week mark	District office pulls data and mailing occurs for students at 70% or below. No teacher action required - teacher choice on comments Automated contact via School Messenger encouraging parents to monitor the progress of their student.
Parental MidTerm Notification	9 week mark	Electronic report of actual grades to all so nobody can say they had no idea how student was doing. No teacher action required.
Semester Report Card	18 Weeks	Mailed

How will the change to the proposed 80/20 grading system affect athletic eligibility?

- There is no impact on the athletic eligibility system.