



MABANK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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To: MISD Parents

Subject: MISD Moves to Nine Week Grading Periods and Standardized Grading System

Please be advised that Mabank ISD has moved to a nine-week grading period for the 2010-2011 school year. Note that progress reports will still be issued at the mid-way point for all students (approximately 4 ½ weeks). Additionally, progress reports will be issued at the three-week mark for any student who is failing early in the grading period. This will allow parents and students extra time to seek resolution. Parents are encouraged to check grades on-line through *Family Access* 24-hours a day. If you are not currently set up to view the grade book, please contact the campus attendance clerk to establish a new account.

For the past two school years, the instructional leadership team of Mabank ISD has been examining the value of the traditional grading system. Across the district we use common curriculum and assessments based on clearly defined academic standards of knowledge, understanding, and skills. We continue to move toward instruction that incorporates clear communication of learning targets, quality feedback, and relevant practice with multiple re-attempts to increase understanding. The final step in this process is to provide a grading system that conveys only what students know and are able to do in regards to the academic standards.

A student’s grade will be comprised of both formative and summative assessments.

Formative assessment is done while students are still learning. Formative assessments are instructional activities designed to allow students to develop content knowledge and/or practice content skills. This may include homework and daily practice but it can also be as simple as the teacher observing and interacting with the student.

Summative assessment is the process of evaluating and grading the learning of students at the end of a unit or instructional period. This may include tests, research papers, essays, projects, or portfolios. The summative assessment should reflect the formative assessments that precede it. The following chart denotes how formative and summative grades will be weighted for term averages.

Campus	Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
Mabank High	30%	70%
Mabank Junior High	30%	70%
Mabank Intermediate	40%	60%
Central, Lakeview, and Southside Elementary		100%

On each campus, students will be accountable to complete all assignments. Supports are in place to ensure students are provided ample opportunities to reach and demonstrate mastery of academic standards. Re-assessment opportunities will be provided on identified summative assessments. Prior to any re-assessment, it is expected that students will complete additional learning activities. The purpose of a re-assessment shall not be based solely for the purpose of bringing up a grade, but rather, is intended to provide additional opportunity to demonstrate understanding.

As we are challenged to balance a standardized testing environment with customized instruction for individual students, we must not forget our over arching goal is not that 100% of our students achieve met standard on TAKS or STAR but that 100% of our students become confident in their ability to acquire, comprehend and apply new knowledge.

We welcome your input as we continue our journey towards standards based grading. Additional information is located at www.mabankisd.net.

Sincerely,

Dena C. Mojica

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Mabank Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability in its employment, practices, activities and programs. El distrito independiente de la escuela de Mabank no discrimina de la raza, del color, del origen nacional, de la edad, del sexo, or de la inhabilidad en su empleo, prácticas, actividades y programas.