

# A GUIDE TO COMPETENCY BASED GRADING AT EPPING HIGH SCHOOL



The Epping High School community educates and empowers students within a safe environment to become respectful, involved and knowledgeable 21st century learners and citizens.

## ACADEMIC GRADES AND WORK STUDY PRACTICES

All completed courses are assigned a final grade that is generated from academic grades that are recorded throughout the course. Academic grades are communicated separately from Work Study Practices (academic behaviors) on the student achievement report.

**Academic Grades:** Each course at Epping High School has specific big ideas, known as competencies. Course competencies answer the question: *What is it we want our students to know and be able to do?* Each competency is broken down into a subset of specific skills and learning targets known as performance indicators. Teachers give assessments throughout the course that are linked to performance indicators which are then linked back to specific course competencies. Students must earn a passing grade in each competency in order to receive credit for a course.

**Work Study Practices:** As a complement to NH's competency based grading initiative, the state launched Work Study Practices to promote behavioral qualities or habits of mind that students need to be successful in college, career and life. In an effort to activate student ownership of their learning, Epping High School students are responsible for maintaining a digital portfolio of their growth related to their skills in *collaboration, communication, innovation* and *self direction*. Work Study Practice progress is communicated on the student achievement report each semester and is based on student self reflections and student-teacher conferences.

## FORMATIVE AND SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

**Formative Assessments** are considered *practice* as they capture a student's progress throughout the learning process. Examples may include classwork, guided practice and homework. These assessments are used to determine 10% of the final course grade.

**Summative Assessments** are a student's opportunity to demonstrate their learning and what they are able to do at the end of a sequence of instruction. Examples may include performance-based tasks, research projects, presentations, labs, or papers. These assessments are linked to one or more of the course competencies and comprise 90% of the final course grade.

## GRADING SCALE AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE

	STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT PERFORMANCE KEY			GPA POINTS BY CLASS TYPE		
	Symbol	Meaning	Range for Final Course Grades	Reg/CP	Honors/Dual	AP
Credit Earned	E	Exemplary	mean $\geq$ 3.60	4.0	4.5	5.0
	MC+	Meets Competence (Plus)	$3.15 \leq$ mean $<$ 3.60	3.5	4.0	4.5
	MC	Meets Competence	$2.70 \leq$ mean $<$ 3.15	3.0	3.5	4.0
	BC+	Basic Competence (Plus)	$2.25 \leq$ mean $<$ 2.70	2.5	3.0	3.5
	BC	Basic Competence	$1.81 \leq$ mean $<$ 2.25	2.0	2.5	3.0
No Credit Earned	N	Novice	mean $<$ 1.81	0	0	0
	IWS	Insufficient Work Submitted	N/A	0	0	0



Competency is the ability of a student to apply content knowledge and skills within and across content areas.



## RELEARNING AND REASSESSMENT

Students are encouraged to practice continuous improvement in their learning through reassessment.

Students must initiate this process after meeting with the teacher and developing a relearning and reassessment plan within three school days of having received the graded assessment. Late summatives are not eligible for reassessment.

The Relearning and Reassessment form will indicate a specific sequence of relearning activities and a timeline for completion that is strictly enforced.

If a higher grade is earned through reassessment, the new grade will be updated in PowerSchool. Students may reassess a summative assessment once.

## GRADE CALCULATIONS AND EARNING COURSE CREDIT

Over the course of the semester, competencies will be assessed multiple times through both formative and summative assessments. Rubrics will be used to score student work and provide feedback. Each semester course competency grade is calculated by averaging the summative assessments that pertain to that specific competency. The final course grade is calculated by:

Averaging each semester competency grade = 90% of the final course grade

Averaging each graded formative assessment = 10% of the final course grade

In order to receive credit in a course, a student must achieve Basic Competence (BC) in each competency for that class.

## STAGES OF GRADING

	STUDENT WORK	SEMESTER COURSE COMPETENCIES	COURSE GRADES & GPA
GRADE SCALE	SUMMATIVE: E, MC, BC, N, IWS FORMATIVE: 4, 3, 2, 1, 0	E, MC, BC, N, IWS	E, MC+, MC, BC+, BC, N, IWS
	<p>Student work is assessed using rubrics aligned to a 4-tiered scale.</p> <p>Work that is not submitted is marked IWS (0). If a student does not submit enough formative assessments to determine readiness for a summative, they may not be permitted to take the summative (marked IWS). This is determined by the teacher.</p>	<p>A final competency grade is calculated by finding the mean of all summative grades for that competency using values on a 4-point scale: E=4, MC=3, BC=2, N=1, IWS=0</p> <p>The range this mean falls within determines the final competency grade.</p>	<p>A final course grade is calculated using the mean of all course competency averages (90%) and the mean of all formative grades (10%).</p> <p>Cumulative GPA is calculated at the end of each semester or when credit is awarded.</p>

## CREDIT RECOVERY AND COMPETENCY RECOVERY

**Credit Recovery:** If a student does not earn a passing overall course grade, they will have to recover the credit for that course by repeating it at Epping High School or by registering for an approved online program.

**Competency Recovery:** If a student fails to meet competency for any course at the close of the semester, credit will not be earned. Meeting that competency then becomes the responsibility of the student, with assistance from the teacher. A course competency may be made up by creating and following a credit recovery plan, attending Summer School, utilizing the GradPoint Program, or another competency-based extended learning opportunity.

Grades are not about what a student earns,  
they are about what a student learns.

