

January 12, 2021

Call to the Audience – Governing Board Policy

I am writing as a representative of CARE to inform the Board that teachers are frustrated with the changes in the grading policy that was implemented two weeks before the end of the semester. A change occurred in a grading policy that was never voted on and should have been. Implementing a change in the grading policy should not have happened at the end of the quarter. * It is not fair to teachers, to students and to parents. It goes without saying that teaching in a Zoom situation is difficult for teachers, difficult for students, but lowering the academic standards to accommodate online teaching is not preparing students for life beyond high school.

The district needs to be supporting teachers, not burdening teachers with a modification in the grading policy at the last minute. This modification is intended to help students who for whatever reason are not participating daily in Zoom classes and are not taking advantage of asynchronous time or teachers' office hours. This modification is supposed to help students who are failing at a higher rate than normally. For example, when a student earns a 17% with 16 absences and is given an I that student must "...work with a teacher on which assignments are needed to complete the course." ** A student with such a low percentage would have to have a teacher reteach and give and grade the work missed for the entire semester. This is a huge burden on teachers.

If a student has earned an F, teachers are being discouraged to fail them if they do not have the "supporting documentation." This supporting documentation does occur with progress, quarter, and semester grades; attendance and missing assignments that can be viewed on Synergy. There should not be any more added responsibility put on teachers if such documentation already occurs.

What TUSD needs to be doing is helping teachers call parents of students who are not attending Zoom classes and are failing. Parents need someone calling home daily to let them know that their child is not attending school. Teachers cannot call home for every student who is absent with the high number of absences that are occurring. This could happen daily with the help of school staff members. If students are not attending classes, they cannot achieve academically. Teachers need help to help students, not another duty put on their shoulders.

Do not disregard the efforts of those students who have been attending Zoom regularly and have been completing assignments in a timely manner. Academic standards were not lower for those students and should not be for any student.

*Regulation Code: IKA-R

Grading System Guidelines

The following should be observed in implementing a grading system:

The grading system should be consistent within the class for the entire year.

**Grading Options for this semester letter sent out 12/16/2020

When applicable to give an “F”

- Documented outreach from school and supporting documentation, “artifacts”, that identifies supports prior to issuing F
- It is the teacher’s responsibility to maintain the supporting documentation.

CARE 4 TUSD

www.care4tUSD.org

