

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2020 | El Dorado County, CA

Dear El Dorado Union High School Community,

The national health emergency caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has led to extended school closures across the nation. Continuing the education of California's students is deemed an essential service under the statewide shelter in place gubernatorial order. The Administration and staff of the El Dorado Union High School District understand that distance learning creates many challenges for families. Because students' futures are so important, the District shall strive to provide students the opportunity to continue to develop college and career ready skills.

The El Dorado Union High School District shall provide distance learning for students through June 2, 2020. Students are provided with two distance learning options for most courses:

1. Online
2. Printed packets

Students may choose to receive letter grades for the semester, or they may choose to receive a Pass/No Mark grade for the semester. The option for letter grades will be available to students who choose either distance learning option (online or paper packets). Universities and colleges are developing admissions policies for students earning pass marks instead of letter grades. While the District does not control college admissions processes, it is our belief that colleges will develop policies that do not discriminate against students who receive pass marks instead of letter grades during the closure. UC and CSU campuses will not require a letter grade for the mandatory a-g courses taken in high school this year (2020) in winter, spring or summer. Families may choose the Pass/No Mark option anytime during the semester up until May 22, 2020. By mid-May, the District will receive written notification from most colleges as to their updated admission criteria.

The Pass Mark may be issued for any grades earned for the semester from A to D. F grades will be awarded No Marks for the semester. Students receiving No Marks will not earn credit. The Pass or No Mark will not be averaged into the students' GPA. Counselors are finalizing the process by which families notify the District of their students' grading option choice by course (letter grade or Pass/No Mark).

To prevent undue academic harm during the school closures, the Board of Trustees is considering lowering the elective credit graduation requirement from 240 to 220 for the Class of 2020. Students in the Class of 2020 are expected to meet all graduation requirements, but would only need a total of 220 credits instead of 240 to earn a diploma. Special circumstances may exist for students with disabilities and Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Federal 504 plans, English learners, homeless youth, foster youth, pregnant and parenting students, migrant students, former juvenile court students, and children of military families that prevent them from succeeding in distance learning. Therefore, a Board waiver process is being developed to allow such students in the class of 2020 to waive local Board graduation requirements beyond the state mandated graduation requirements due to challenges presented with distance learning.

In addition, there may be situations where certain elective courses cannot be offered remotely, for example, a Teaching Assistant (TA). For any semester elective class that cannot be continued, students will earn 2.5 credits for the work completed for the third quarter at EDHS, ORHS, PHS, and IHS. UMHS is on a 4 x 4 block schedule, so the partial credit situation is not applicable because the UMHS second term first semester ended with students receiving full academic credit. Counselors will notify families of courses that will not be offered via distance learning.

Teachers will communicate with students and families the minimum requirements to earn a passing mark using both distance learning options (online and print packets). Teachers will also update their syllabi, as needed, to explain changes to their letter grading policies. It is the intent to provide students with flexibility and understanding during the closures.

School Administration and staff will work to the best of their abilities to support students and communicate effectively during the closures. Families should also work to the best of their abilities to support students with the distance learning options (online or print packets). The Pass/No Mark option takes into consideration that distance learning is difficult. For students in the 9th, 10th and 11th grades, the District will revisit the graduation requirements for those students at a later date, once the full impact of the school closures are realized.

For questions about course expectations, please email teachers directly. For questions about how to obtain print packets, please email or call school administration. Each school has developed a packet distribution plan for families, including those with hardships regarding transportation. For questions about college eligibility and grading, please email your guidance counselor.

During these unprecedented times, the District is striving to provide your student with the opportunity to progress academically and obtain college and career readiness skills needed for post-secondary transitions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ron Carruth
Superintendent
El Dorado Union High School District
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