

Fairfield CT High School Grading Guidelines
2011-2012

JUN 14 2011

Following the work of a joint high school committee formed to develop common grading guidelines across both schools, it was decided to work towards a practice that is more consistent with a performance based assessment and grading model. All grading rationale will distinguish between formative assessment, summative assessment, and behavioral characteristics. In addition, the weighting of these various types of assessments towards a student's grade will weigh summative assessments a minimum of 70% and behavioral characteristics a maximum of 10%. However, each department will determine the weighting for each category of assessment and may increase the weighting assigned to summative assessments. It is recognized that this process is evolving and, to that end; the district will provide additional professional development regarding assessment and grading practices and facilitate further discussion about this topic across both schools during the 2011-2012 school year.

Below are 3 working definitions for use in interpreting the guidelines:

- Formative Assessment is a process used by teachers and students during instruction that provides feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students' achievement of intended instructional outcomes. This "assessment for learning" provides information about student progress and direction for improvement and / or adjustment to a program for individual students or whole class. Formative assessment addresses the question, "Are the students learning the intended outcomes?"
- Summative Assessment is "assessment of learning" and provides information to make judgments about student achievement at the end of a period of instruction and for determining an achievement grade. Summative assessment addresses the question, "Have the students achieved the intended outcomes?" These assessments measure learning at the end of a period of instruction after students have had a chance to practice learning.
- Behavioral characteristics include things like homework completion, participation, attitude, completeness of notebooks, preparedness for class and the like.