

**NATOMAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Resolution No. 21-02**

**IN THE MATTER OF:** A Temporary Modification of Board Policy / Administrative Regulation 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Trustees of the Natomas Unified School District, at a regular meeting held on January 20, 2021, by the following roll call vote:

Jag Bains	_____
Micah Grant	_____
Ericka Harden	_____
Susan Heredia	_____
Lisa Kaplan	_____

Signed and approved by me after its passage:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Heredia, President

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ericka Harden, Clerk

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a statewide emergency arising from the coronavirus (COVID-19).

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a State of Emergency due to the outbreak and spread of a coronavirus (COVID-19).

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the Board approved a resolution to temporarily close all District schools commencing March 13, 2020 in order to ensure and protect the welfare, safety and educational wellbeing of all students.

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a once in a generation, unprecedented student and family needs.

**WHEREAS**, responsibilities may have changed for students during these uncertain times creating difficulty for focusing on distance learning.

**WHEREAS**, there is a likelihood of inequities being exasperated during distance learning.

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic may impact a student’s performance during this time and must be taken into consideration when determining a final grade.

**WHEREAS**, one of Natomas Unified’s core beliefs states that “Every student can learn and succeed”.

**WHEREAS**, Article IX, section 14, of the California Constitution declares that “[t]he Legislature may authorize the governing boards of all school districts to initiate and carry on any programs, activities, or to otherwise act in any manner which is not in conflict with the laws and purposes for which school districts are established”.

**WHEREAS**, Education Code sections 35160 and 35160.1 endow schools districts and their governing boards with broad authority and wide discretion in initiating and carrying on programs and activities and otherwise creating unique solutions to meet their diverse needs.

**WHEREAS**, Board Policy 0100 - Theory of Action for Student Success states, in pertinent part that it will be the district’s practice that students are supported not as where they were or solely where they are academically, but where they can be; and that student access will be focused on where students can be and the support needed to help them get there.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the broad grant of authority under Education Code section 49076, the Board has adopted Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5121 to establish the District’s grading system.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Board Bylaws 9000 and 9310, the Board may adopt and evaluate, update policies, bylaws and administrative regulations consistent with the law and the District’s vision and goals.

**WHEREAS**, in its current form Board Policy / Administrative Regulation 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement narrowly defines how students can receive an incomplete grade and the manner in which they can remove the incomplete.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED**, given the circumstances surrounding the negative impacts to student learning during the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, and in the interest of giving students the opportunity to engage in rigorous course learning despite the obstacles they may be facing, the Board of Trustees of the Natomas Unified School District authorizes the Superintendent to temporarily modify Board Policy / Administrative Regulation 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement to allow teachers to use the designation of an “In Progress” grade in courses where students will be able to use extended time to complete specific learning tasks, or “No Credit” in courses that are significantly incomplete and will need to be recovered.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that under this temporary modification to Board Policy / Administrative Regulation 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement the Superintendent and his designee(s) shall immediately work with school sites of 9-12 grade students who receive letter grades for coursework to accomplish the following, to be utilized beginning with grade assignments for Semester 1 of the 2020-21 school year:

- Establish an equitable process for how students may receive markings of “No Credit” in courses that are significantly incomplete and will need to be recovered or “In Progress” in

courses where students will be able to use extended time to complete specific learning tasks instead of a D or F.

- Establish an equitable process for how these students can recover grades/complete work to achieve at least a C in the relevant courses, which may include a plan/agreement with the family and student.
- Determine the methodology to be used in calculating students' grade point average (GPA) during this temporary modification

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that the Board waives the second reading of the above-referenced Board Policies and Administrative Regulations, so as to make the revisions effective immediately upon approval of this Resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that the Superintendent shall have the authority to take any action in furtherance of the authority delegated herein, including but not limited to, notifying employees, students, and the community of the revised grading policy and to initiate the procedure to obtain any waiver from the State of California consistent with the intent of this Resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that, should any portion of this Resolution be held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are declared to be severable.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED**, this authorization will continue until a District-wide return to in-person instruction, or at the end of the 2020-21 school year, whichever occurs first.