



Grading Practices at Sullivan West MS/HS

Summary of What's New

November 2020

Grading Practices: Essential Questions

What grading practices do we believe will encourage all students to best demonstrate their learning to our teachers?

To what extent should our grading practices balance student learning with student compliance?

What value do we see in providing consistency in grading practices for our students?

What should a child's grade mean?

What's the Goal?

Grading Practices
Which:

Exemplify for students
the inherent value in
demonstrating their
learning

Provide consistency
for students in their
teachers' grading
philosophy

Maintain some
teacher autonomy
regarding grading
within each classroom

Current Practices: A Continuum



Some teachers:

Issue a “Zero” for any work which is late in being submitted or submitted without a name



Some teachers:

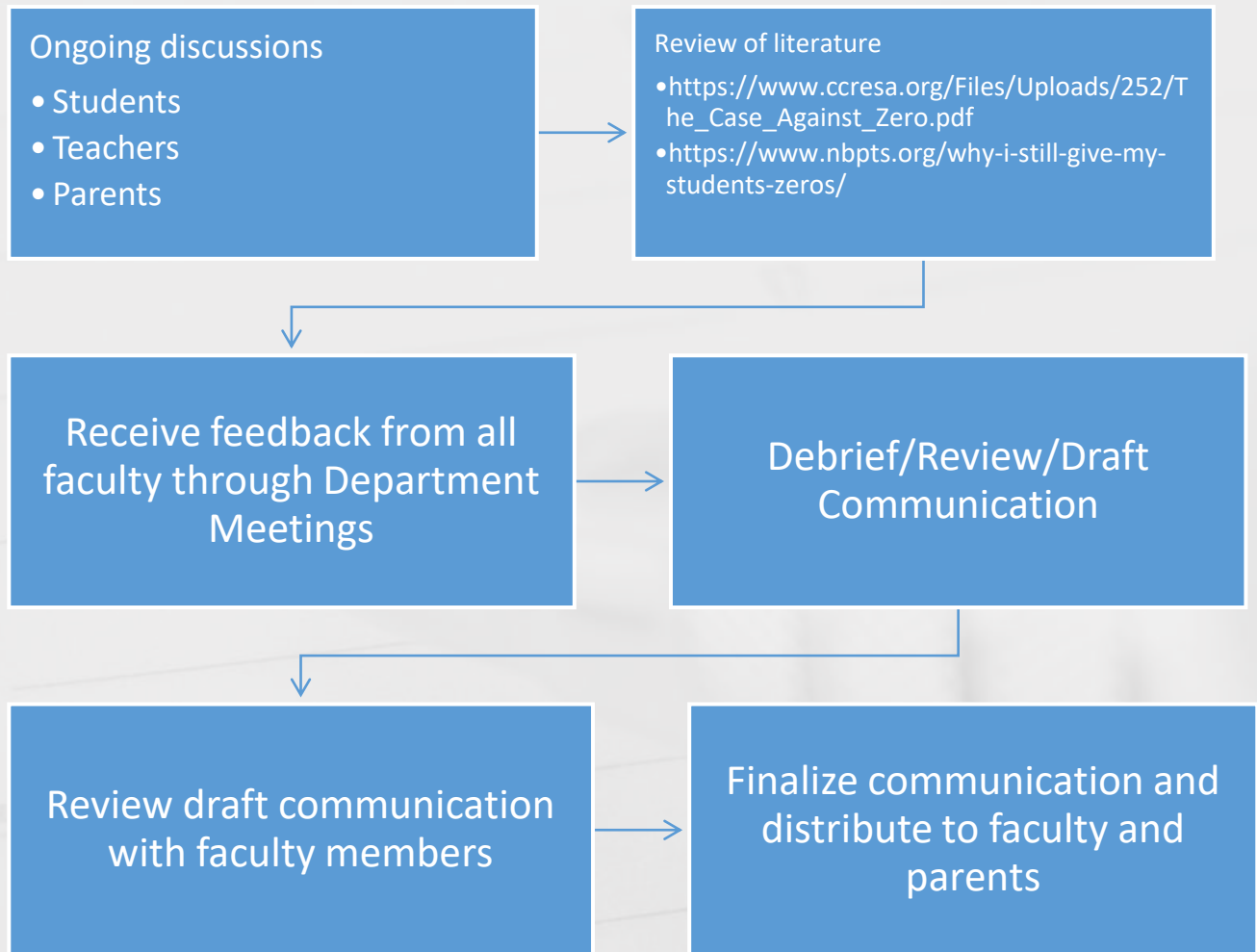
Accept late work on a regular basis, with a reduction in maximum score



Some teachers:

Accept late work on a regular basis, with no reduction in maximum score

Review Process



New Grading Practices

- Late work will be accepted by all faculty
- Students can receive a reduced grade for late work
 - Must be able to receive passing grade, if content knowledge demonstrates mastery
- Assignments not turned in are notated with a red “!” in the online gradebook (given the numerical weight of a “0”)
 - Grade is recorded as student completes assignment and demonstrates knowledge of content
- Teachers can still issue a “0” on an assignment, but must be prepared to document multiple attempts to encourage student completion

Anticipated Benefits



Students produce more evidence of learning



Fewer “0” grades

Student grades are a better reflection of their learning



Reduction in disproportionate impact of “0” grades on some students



Entry point for further discussion on homework, grading vs. assessment

The Impact of a “Zero”

- Which student has demonstrated greater mastery of the content?
 - Grades - Student A: 100, 100, 100, 100, 0
 - Grades - Student B: 75, 80, 75, 90, 85

Next Steps

- Implementation:
 - Start of Second Marking Period – November 16, 2020
- Review:
 - How is this change working for our students, teachers and parents?
 - What is the impact on student quarterly and final averages, assignment completion?