



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Updates Regarding High School Grades

This news applies to high school students in the Classes of 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

August 12, 2021

CRPUSD High School Families,

On Thursday, July 1, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 104 into law and we would like to provide you with important information on how this legislation may relate to your student.

Changing Letter Grades to Pass/No Pass

Per AB104, parents/guardians of students who were enrolled in high school during the 2020-21 school year may request to have a letter grade earned for a course changed to a Pass or No Pass on the student's transcript.

- **An official form to submit a grade change for Pass/No Pass will be sent to CRPUSD families on August 17, 2021. Once it is sent, parents/guardians will have 15 calendar days to turn it in on behalf of their student, the last day to submit the request is August 31, 2021.** Per the legislation, districts may not accept requests for a grade change after that date. Once a form is received by CRPUSD, the District then has 15 days to make the change on the student's transcript and notify the family. *Please note: Students who are currently over the age of 18 may submit a grade change to Pass/No Pass independently from their parent/guardian.*
- **The course requested for a Pass/No Pass must have been taken during the 2020-21 school year.** There is no restriction on which courses or which letter grades can be changed.
- **The change cannot negatively impact a student's GPA.** When an "F" is converted to a "No Pass," the zero credits are no longer factored into the GPA. Similarly, changing a "D" or even a "C" letter grade to a "Pass" will likely increase a student's GPA, depending on the GPA the student had prior to the grade change. No grade changes will be made that lower a student's GPA.
- **CDE will post a list of universities who will accept a Pass/No Pass** - UC colleges and private universities are encouraged, but not required, to notify the CDE over the next two weeks about whether they will accept Pass/No Pass marks for purposes of admission. CRPUSD has included a link in this document to this list of universities accepting the Pass or No Pass grade change.

Please note that the official application to submit a grade change to pass/no pass will be sent within the next week.

Sincerely,

Dr. LuzElena Perez
Assistant Superintendent
Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District

Postsecondary Institutions Accepting Pass/No Pass

Click here for a list <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/ps/ab104surveyresults.asp> from the California Department of Education. If your college or university is not listed, we encourage you to reach out to their admissions office directly. Please note that this only includes California colleges or universities and no out-of-state locations.

QUESTIONS REGARDING SWITCHING TO PASS/NO PASS FROM A LETTER GRADE

Important Note: While the option for high school students to convert letter grades to Pass/No Pass has been made available through AB 104, it is unclear how college/university admissions officials will view transcripts with one or many Pass/No Pass grades attributed to the 2020-2021 school year. This is a question the Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District cannot answer. We highly recommend engaging in a conversation with officials at the schools you wish to attend before converting grades in an effort to address pandemic performance issues. Once converted to Pass/No Pass, you will not be able to reverse your decision.

What is the deadline for submitting a grade change request?

The deadline for students to submit a grade change request is fifteen (15) calendar days from the date the district provided them with access to the grade change form. That information was provided to the community on July 28, 2021. Students have until 5:00 PM on _____ to complete the grade change request form.

Will UC schools accept Pass/No Pass grades?

A full list of postsecondary institutions - including UC and CSU schools - that will accept, for admission purposes, a transcript with a Pass or No Pass grade instead of a letter grade for an applicant pursuant to Education Code Section 49066.5(b) can be found at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/ps/ab104surveyresults.asp>

Are colleges and universities accepting a Pass/No Pass mark for purposes of admission?

Colleges and private universities are encouraged, but not required, to notify the California Department of Education about whether they will accept Pass/No Pass marks for purposes of admission. A full list of postsecondary institutions - including UC and CSU schools - that will accept, for admission purposes, a transcript with a Pass or No Pass grade instead of a letter grade for an applicant pursuant to Education Code Section 49066.5(b) can be found at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/ps/ab104surveyresults.asp>

Can I change my summer school grade to Pass/No Pass? Students may change summer school grades to Pass/No Pass for courses taken at CRPUSD during summer 2021, but not summer 2020 or earlier. Once they are listed on the transcript, you can make a request to change the grade to Pass/No Pass. For courses taken at other institutions (SRJC, BYU, National University, etc.), you'll need to contact those institutions directly to see if they are able to convert grades to Pass/No Pass.

Can Universities factor in Pass/No Pass courses when determining admissions? For example, if two students had a similar GPA and extra-curriculars but one of them had more Pass/No Pass classes on their transcript, would admissions officers be allowed to favor the student who had less Pass/No Pass classes?

The district is not privy to the admissions process for each university and cannot provide an answer to this question. Some postsecondary institutions, including those in other states, may not accept a Pass/No Pass grade in lieu of a letter grade for admission purposes. You would need to contact the admissions of each university directly.

Does a Pass/No Pass grades affect the ability to get into medical schools, scholarships, or competitive colleges?

The district is not privy to the admissions process for each university and cannot provide an answer to this question. Some postsecondary institutions, including those in other states, may not accept a Pass/No Pass grade in lieu of a letter grade for admission purposes. You would need to contact the admissions of each university directly.

How will students be considered against each other during admissions when having a Pass/No Pass as a grade as we know some colleges and universities consider GPA as part of the admissions? Does this impact the students' opportunity to enroll in those colleges?

The district is not privy to the admissions process for each university and cannot provide an answer to this question. Some postsecondary institutions, including those in other states, may not accept a Pass or No Pass grade in lieu of a letter grade for admission purposes which would then potentially put your child at a disadvantage. You would need to contact the admissions of each university directly.

Will the GPA score be provided along with pass or no pass?

The GPA on your high school transcript will reflect the results of all classes receiving a letter grade. Pass/No Pass results will indicate competency (or lack thereof) in a subject, but will have no impact on GPA.

Does this ruling mean we can replace all class grades or do we only get to select one class to change to Pass/No Pass?

You may choose to change all letter grades to Pass/No Pass or only select individual courses. Please note that a request form will need to be submitted for each course that you'd like to change to a Pass/No Pass.

How can the GPA be positively impacted by using Pass/No Pass. For example, when I get an A in a class it comes with 4 grade points, is that the same value that we will get with a pass grade?

The GPA is calculated by taking the total number of grade points awarded for all classes and dividing that number by the total number of graded classes taken. With a Pass/No Pass mark for a course, the course is not factored into the GPA at all. The GPA can be positively impacted by using the Pass/No Pass option if the student earns a letter grade in a course that is lower than their GPA. In other words, if a student has a 3.0 GPA and then earns a "C" grade in a class worth 2 grade points, factoring that "C" into the GPA will lower it below the 3.0. If the student chooses the Pass/No Pass option, the class in which the student earned a "C" will not be factored into the GPA calculation.

Will changing a "B" letter grade to a "Pass" be beneficial for a student's GPA?

A student's GPA might be increased by changing a "B" letter grade to a "Pass" if the student has mostly "A" grades on their transcript.

How is the GPA positively impacted by selecting a Pass/No Pass on a course?

Changing a "D" or even a "C" letter grade to a "Pass" will likely increase a student's GPA, depending on the GPA the student had prior to the grade change. In the case of a student who

has an F that is converted to a No Pass, the zero credits are no longer factored into the GPA. No grade changes will be made that lowers a student's GPA.

Are all Pass/No Pass grades not going to be counted towards our cumulative GPA?

Pass/No Pass grades are not going to be counted toward the cumulative GPA.

If I had a B in a class, and I switch that grade to the Pass/No Pass category, my GPA will not include that value in my average GPA at all, correct?

Correct.

Are students able to switch a Pass/No Pass from the 2020-21 school year to a letter grade?

The new law does not allow students/parents to request a change from a Pass/Fail to a letter grade.

Is there a limit to the number of courses we can change to a Pass/No Pass?

There is no limit on the number of courses you can submit a request form for as long as the course was taken by a high school student during the 2020-21 school year.

Will submitting an official form replace all of our class letter grades or do we only get to select one course to change to Pass/No Pass?

A request form will need to be submitted for each course that you'd like to submit a Pass/No Pass request. Submitting only one request form does not cover all courses taken during the 2020-21 school year.

If the colleges do choose to accept Pass/No Pass grades, will they still see our letter grades?

No.

Is it a good idea to change C grades to a pass? My child will have to change about 7 of his grades from C/D to Pass for both semesters. I am wondering whether to keep the C grades or change them so that their GPA increases.

You may want to reach out to your child's counselor when they return at the beginning of August. Each student's circumstances are unique, and a counselor can discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this decision.

If we change the letter grades to Pass/No Pass for just 1 subject (for example Algebra 2 only), the other subjects will show the letter grades, right?

Yes.

If the university requires letter grades, will the student get another (later - optional) transcript with letter grades?

No.

If we change once, could that be reverted later to letter grades?

No