



COVID-19: YPICS Grading Policy Reminder

On Monday, April 13, 2020, LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner announced, “No students will receive failing grades on their spring report cards, taking an assertive step on student assessment decisions confronting school systems across California.

LAUSD is a large school district with a separate board and Superintendent of Schools. YPI Charter Schools (Y PICS) are completely operated by an independent School Board and Executive Director/Superintendent. The district's current school program was predominantly text-book-based and has a small percentage of students with access to both equipment and Wi-Fi access. At best LA USD will complete the year with conducting 6-7 weeks of instruction after the COVID-19 closures began; YPICS 10 weeks.

Technology Integration is core to the way that YPICS delivers instruction. Additionally, we have been committed to and have used computer assistive instructional programs since the adoption of the first charter petition, BCCS, in 2004. All BCCHS' scholars receive chrome books, which they are allowed to take home, at the beginning of the school year. BCCS' scholars have had access to technology since week 2 of our Distance Learning Program and MORCS's scholars will have access to equipment and Wi-Fi by April 27, 2020. All YPICS' scholars have had access to curriculum and support through technology or learning packets at both middle schools.

The YPICS', Board adopted, Grading Policy has not changed. YPICS' School courses are graded using a Standards-Based A-F grading scale. The system of assessment is Standards-Based Grading for Mastery (based on Robert Marzano's Standards based assessment research), which allows for greater flexibility in determining what students have learned. During this time we have directed teachers to focus on essential standards and upon the quality, not the quantity of assignments. Modified assignments and multiple opportunities for students to reassess is how we will adjust for students working through any academic challenge. The expectation is that all high school teachers will strictly adhere to the policy as it is written. We want to ensure that our scholars are college ready when they graduate high school. Their diplomas have to mean something, and currently our scholars are stepping up to that expectation. Middle school teachers can follow the additional guidance outlined by their Executive Administrator. We agreed that guidance, not a change in policy, is what we will use to account for any specific site or student needs during this time.