



integritas felicitas aequitas

High School for Environmental Studies

444 West 56 Street, New York, NY 10019

Tel. 212.262.8113 • Fax 212.262.0702 • www.envirostudies.org

Amber Najmi, Principal

Home of the E.A.G.L.E.S. - Environmentally Aware Global Leaders and Enlightened Scholars

HSES Grading Policy

The administration and faculty, in consultation with the School Leadership Team, has established the scope and range for the grading categories below. Departments collaboratively set the grading policy for their own departments before the first day of school, and share their grading policies with students and families in their course syllabus.

- Assessments - 60 to 70%
- Classwork/Participation - 20 to 25%
- Homework/Activities - 10 to 15%

Note: All students with IEPs must meet the standard course criteria as long as the modification and accommodation mandates as set forth by their IEPs are met.

Note: Any student enrolled in a SUNY ESF course must pass all three marking periods to receive credit for the semester.

Grading Scale:

- Numerical passing grades can be any number from 65 to 99.
- A grade of 100 can only be given with pre-approval of an Assistant Principal.
- A grade of 100 cannot be given the 1st and 2nd marking periods.
- HSES's failing grade is a 55.
- During marking periods 1 and 2, a student can receive a failing grade of 60, which can help with their overall average for the end of the term.
- No grades between 55 and 65 are given as final grades.

Special Marks: The following special grades are used:

- NS - Student **never** attended the class.
- NX - When a student has a documented extenuating circumstance that has made them incapable of completed work during the term. Documentation **must** be on file.
- NL - Students was admitted to the class late in the marking period and the teacher was not able to adequately assess the student's level of proficiency.
- All students who receive an NX or an NL for a final semester grade have until the end of the following semester to **make up** the work and receive a credit for those courses.



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Credit for Courses:

- One term of a class will give 1 credit if the student passes the course, with the following exceptions: Physical Education (0.5 credit), Introduction to the Environment (0.5 credit), and College/Career Readiness (0.5 credit).
- Students cannot receive a credit for iZone if they have not completed 54 hours of classwork (45 hours over the summer) for that course.
- **Advanced Courses: All Honors courses are weighted using a factor of 1.05 towards the Weighted GPA. All Advanced Placement and ESF courses use a factor of 1.10 towards the Weighted GPA.** This means a student who passes all of their classes can have a Weighted GPA higher than 4.0, which may be an advantage in applying for colleges.

Absences:

- Students are encouraged to meet our school's goal of **90%** attendance to their courses.
- **There is no such thing as an excused absence**, only a documented absence. Absences may impact a student's grade if they are unable to demonstrate mastery of course content.
- Students who miss an assessment and provide **documentation** for their absence will be given an opportunity for a make-up. Teachers will work with students to schedule this.
- It is the policy of the NYC DOE and the Commissioner's Regulations that students who have been absent from class are to be given a **reasonable** opportunity to make up any missed work including classwork and examinations.

Feedback on Student Performance:

- Teachers update grades each week using Pupilpath. Parents can request digital access to Pupilpath from the Parent Coordinator. Freshmen can ask their Introduction to the Environment teacher; Sophomores can ask their College and Career Readiness teacher. Juniors and Seniors can ask the Technology Coordinator.
- Report cards are distributed at the end of each marking period. Students receive a comment for each course they are taking. Failing students receive two comments.
- Students will receive their number of lab minutes in the lab section of their Science course (only applies to Regents courses).

Semester-Based Grading Policy:

- At the end of each marking period, the next marking period begins, and students begin fresh on a new grade. The final grade for each semester is the average of the three marking period grades. The grading system allows students who fall behind in one marking period to not be penalized for the remainder of the semester.

Appealing a Final Grade:

- To appeal a teacher's final grade, students must present all documentation, including graded assignments, to the teachers to argue their case. If the teacher denies the appeal, the student may appeal to the department assistant principal who will make a determination for the final grade based on the evidence provided. The student may then appeal the decision of the assistant principal to the principal who has the option of changing the grade after notifying the teacher in writing of the reason(s) for the change.