

## ASD Uniform Grading Policy

The ASD is continuously evaluating our policies and researching ways we can improve student achievement for each child in our district. The process of implementing SAMS6i /Active Parent has highlighted the need for a uniform system of calculating student grades. Research has shown that high performing school districts have uniform grading policies. A new uniform grading policy will assist parents' understanding of how averages are calculated in SAMS6i /Active Parent. A uniform grading policy promotes a "level playing field" for all students. Additionally, it will provide a correlation between reported grades and student achievement as measured by Mississippi Department of Education state mandated assessments. This policy applies to grades 3-12. Kindergarten -2 will maintain their current grading system.

Assessment is a key component in student achievement. Students should have multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of an objective. The need for mastery and retention of knowledge is vital. The practice of reteaching and review will reinforce and strengthen skills once they have been mastered. It will also increase retention and provide a scaffold for future knowledge.

With all these things in mind ASD's uniform grading policy will ensure:

- Each test is composed of a minimum of 10% objectives from previous tests.(Beginning of the year assessments should be over the previous year's objectives.)
- A comprehensive/cumulative 6 weeks exam will be 20% of the overall 6 weeks average. The 6 weeks exam will assess the objectives taught during that 6 weeks as well as previous 6 weeks.
- The questions on the 6 weeks exam are to be coded by competency and objective and appropriate DOK level as outlined by the Mississippi Framework.
- A copy and key of each 6 weeks exam will be turned into the principal who will forward the exams by grade level to the superintendent's office.
- The pacing of each 6 weeks should align with the district pacing guide found in Curriculum Designer (Gradebook) on the ASD website and loaded on each of the principal's computers. *The science pacing guide is being updated and aligned according to the 2010 Mississippi Science Framework. It will be added to Curriculum Designer as soon as possible.*

During the 2007-2008 school year the Alcorn Curriculum Team developed, copied and distributed notebooks filled with test items which were aligned to Mississippi Competency/Objective and DOK level for grades 3-8 language arts and mathematics. These test item banks are a great resource. Teachers planning for grades 3-8 language arts and mathematics are to utilize this item bank as one of the resources in the development of assessments.

All children can learn. While they may not learn in the same ways or at the same pace, they will learn the desired content. It is this fundamental belief that drives us to discover who knows what, when they know it, and if they can convey that knowledge in multiple assessment situations. We must continually encourage our students to accept the challenge of more rigorous coursework. Your expectations in the classroom will determine the level of success our children will experience.

# Alcorn School District

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## District Uniform Grading Policy

2009

### Daily Grades – Must have a minimum of 10 grades

30%

- Class work
- Homework
- Quizzes

### Tests - Must have a minimum of 3 tests not including Exam

50%

- Contain a minimum of 10% prior objectives
- Tested areas should design tests with MCT2/SATP format in mind
- Non Tested areas should format tests similar to MCT2/SATP that assess the content specified in the Mississippi Framework. Non Tested areas should also support overall student achievement in tested areas.

### 6 Week Exam

20%

- Will be comprehensive of objectives taught previously
- Labeled with appropriate objective and competency
- Labeled with appropriate DOK level
- Tested and non tested areas should format exams similar to MCT/SATP
- A copy of the exam and key will be submitted to principal
- Principal will forward to central office by grade level