



Impact of Covid-19 and Long-term School Closures on College Placement Agreement for 2019-20 Bridge to College Students (Updated May 2020)

Working within the framework of the OSPI's detailed guidance to schools ([Continuous Learning 2020](#)), the Bridge to College leadership team has provided the following guidance to all Bridge to College teachers and schools across the state:

- *Bridge to College teachers should assign final grades for students following the specific guidelines established by their local district or school for all courses based on the parameters defined by OSPI in the statewide guidance regarding [student learning and grading](#).*
- *Bridge to College English (BTCE): Students still need a B or above to be eligible for a college placement agreement for College Composition courses at participating Washington institutions of higher education.*
- *Bridge to College Math (BTCM): Due to the range of variations in district grading policies in the spring of 2020 in response to the Covid-19 crisis, local colleges may opt to use a B or better for placement but will be advised that they can use additional considerations in their placement decisions.*

Rationale and Implications for Colleges by Discipline

Washington school districts are making their own local decisions about specific grading schema within the broad parameters defined by the OSPI guidance on grading referenced above: basically, grades are required but no failing grades are allowed. We have provided support and guidance to Bridge to College teachers about continued learning in the course through the end of the school year, but given the ongoing disruption and challenges caused by school closures and the wide range of decisions districts are making regarding grading options, there is some uncertainty about what the "B or better" grade might mean this year in terms of college readiness in math.

Math: For the reason noted above, we are suspending the automatic placement agreement for Bridge to College Math and leaving the decision up to local colleges whether to accept a 2019-20 Bridge to College grade on its own for placement or to require additional information from the student for math placement--other transcript info, directed self-placement, regular placement test, etc.

English: The system-wide automatic placement agreement is still in place for Bridge to College English. The course grade reflects the student's performance status as of the end of the fall term or at the school closing date in March. Given the nature of the course curriculum, the "B or better" grade should still be a meaningful indicator of college readiness.

Questions?

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