

## *Important Information to All Parents/Guardians and Students*

### 1. Semester 2 Start: Friday February 3, 2012 – Special Day 1 Schedule

### 2. Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

#### Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting Interim Policy:

#### Lower Limits on Report Cards

The Ministry document, *Growing Success* (the provincial document governing assessment and evaluation), includes the statement that *“individual boards will work collaboratively with their school communities to determine the lower limit of the range of percentage marks below 50 per cent that teachers may record on the report cards of students in grades 9 to 12”*.

After consulting with our community, HWDSB has developed an interim policy including the lower limit marks listed below.

**Schools will be using these lower limits beginning with the final report card in January 2012.** If your student has been unsuccessful in obtaining a course credit (a mark below 50%) you may see one of the following lower limits on your student’s report card.

- 40%** This mark will indicate to parents, students, and educators including guidance counsellors, administration, student success teams and the teacher that additional learning is required.  
If the mark is on a final report, the student may be eligible for Credit Recovery or the 2 week summer school course, based on teacher and principal recommendation.  
If the mark is on a mid-term report, the student and teacher, in consultation with parents, will plan next steps as to how learning can be improved and supported.
- 30%** This mark will indicate to parents, students, and educators including guidance counsellors, administration, student success teams and the teacher that **significant** additional learning is required. It could indicate a change in program may be necessary. At final report card time, this student may be recommended to repeat the course, or in a few circumstances may be eligible for Credit Recovery based on teacher and principal recommendation. The student will **not** be eligible for the 2 week summer school course.
- I** “I” is used in secondary school for Grades 9 and 10 only. It may also be used in ESL course levels 1-5. It is also used in grades 1 – 8 in elementary schools. This indicates insufficient evidence is available to determine a grade. Teachers will recommend when the use of “I” is appropriate and in the best interests of the student. Determining when to use “I” is to be done in consultation with Administration.
- 25%** This lower limit mark indicates the same circumstances as the “I” in grade 9 and 10. *Growing Success* does not allow grades 11 and 12 to receive an “I” because schools need full disclosure numerical marks in the senior levels. However, the reporting philosophy is the same as the grade 9 and 10 use of “I”; in other words, a lower limit mark indicates what direction a school can take to provide hope and support for all students.
- 0%** This indicates **no** evidence of learning through observations, conversations, or products.

Lower limits are put in place as a communication tool to promote student success. During reporting times, this is one more indicator to teachers, students, and parents that more work needs to be done and next steps need to be put in place giving the message that there is hope for the student to be successful.

**Please Turn Over**

