

**Kingsway Regional School District
Retake FAQs
(Parents/Students)**

* *We will continue to monitor our practice as we implement year one district-wide in 2019-2020.*

1. Is this a District policy or practice? Do teachers have to implement it?

- a. This is a district practice that supports district policy.
- b. Yes, all teachers will be required to implement the practice according to the set guidelines. There is teacher choice in choosing the learning demonstration activities as well as how they choose to reassess the students.

2. Why an 83 and not higher?

- a. As we go into the 2019-2020 school year with a uniform practice, our focus is to engage our students in learning with the goal of at least strong proficiency on the skills and content being taught. As an 83 or higher reflects high-proficiency and/or mastery on assessed skills, students who receive lower than an 83 on a secondary assessment will be able to retake the assessment for up to an 83. This signifies that a student has a strong foundation and is ready to move forward instructionally. Any student who originally receives an 83 or higher has already demonstrated this strong foundation. The objective is to focus on what the grade represents, not just the grade itself.

3. Will this be all encompassing - primary, secondary AND supportive or just secondary?

- a. As we look to implement a uniform retake procedure as a district, we will implement only for secondary assessments. As secondary (formative) assessments typically focus on the discrete skills and understandings students need to acquire prior to demonstrating what they know on primary (summative) assessments, we believe retakes are best implemented within this category. We will continue to monitor as we implement year one of this practice.

4. How many times will a student be permitted to retake an assessment?

- a. Students will be able to retake the secondary assessment only once within 1-2 weeks of receiving the assessment back to know what they did wrong and engaging in the additional learning to rectify these mistakes. This is a suggested guideline in order to prevent reliance on retakes. For classified students with IEPs who note retakes as an accommodation, the practice is to be implemented in accordance with what is stated in the IEP.

5. How do we continue to help our students understand the importance of deadlines, timelines, time management, and proper preparation while allowing them to do re-assessments?

- a. The implementation of this practice does not undermine the importance of deadlines, timelines, and time management. Students are still expected to prepare and take the assessment or complete the assignment in a timely manner. In fact, emphasis on these work-study habits are built into the practice (i.e. 1-2 week timeline, learning demonstration activities, self-advocacy, etc.). One of the goals of the practice is to build upon study skills and accountability for their own learning. We have to ensure that the focus of the reassessment conversation is on the ability to understand mistakes, re-engage and/or continue the learning, and then demonstrate that growth through the reassessment.

6. If kids are provided chances to reassess, aren't we setting them up for failure? They don't get redos in college or "real life."

- a. The practice of providing opportunities for students to reassess is meant to ensure students take the opportunity to learn from their mistakes as well as be proactive with their own learning. There are many examples of the ability to redo learning-based assessments in both college and "real life." For example,

doctorial students have the opportunity to go back and adjust their dissertation if needed. Below are other examples: SATs (In fact, some colleges use *superscoring*, which means they consider your highest section scores across multiple test dates), teacher license, driver's license, pilot license, LSATs, MCATs, etc.

7. Can students retake CSAs?

- a. CSAs fall in the primary category, so they are not able to be retaken.

8. What is the grading turn around expected with this new practice?

- a. Same as all others. Teachers are expected to update their gradebooks every 2-weeks.

9. If the student gets a lower grade on the retake, what grade does the teacher assign?

- a. The student would receive the higher of the two grades and should never receive the lower grade. This would be a good opportunity for the teacher and student to reflect on why they got a lower grade on the second (i.e. *How did the student prep for the retake? How was the retake different from the original? Is he/she still having difficulty with concepts/skills? etc.*)

10. How does the district handle students who may “abuse” the retake procedure? For example, a student states that he isn’t going to take the test seriously because he can retake it anyway.

- a. If a teacher feels a student is taking advantage of the retake procedure, the teacher has discretion to not offer the opportunity for a retake. If this occurs, the teacher must call home and inform the parent(s) of the situation prior to implementing.

11. Can class time be used for students to complete re-takes?

- a. Absolutely. There are various ways teachers can implement reassessments as part of their classroom routine. In fact, this is where we’d encourage teachers to implement reassessments – especially if they are shorter. Also, keep in mind, that teachers can offer an abridged version of the assessment. For example, while other students are working on the warm-up and/or reviewing homework, students can take the reassessment. Or, use typical flexible grouping methods based on readiness, with one group dedicated to the reassessment of material.

12. Some students with IEPs have retakes noted as an accommodation. How will this procedure be implemented for those students?

- a. As with all classified students, the IEP dictates how accommodations and modifications are to be implemented for that particular student. So, for students who have retakes as an accommodation in their IEP, they will have an opportunity to retake assessments outside the guidelines of this practice (i.e. on multiple assessments/assignment, multiple times, without time limits, etc.).

13. Can teachers move forward with instruction and other assessments before a student reassesses?

- a. Yes, they will continue class instruction and assessment as usual, and students are expected to continue as usual as well.