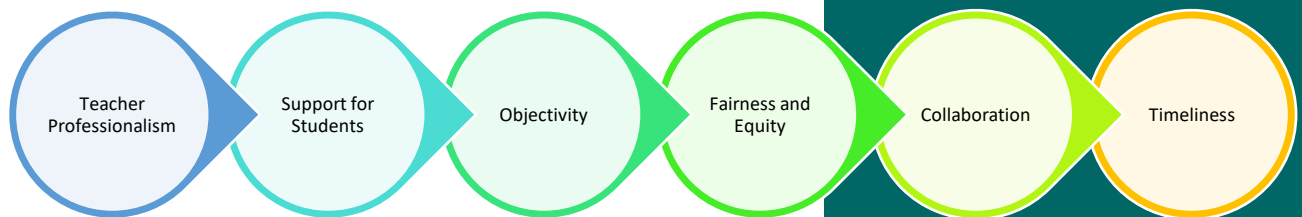




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Education and Training
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Coláiste Cois Siúire

Calculated Grades for Leaving Certificate Students 2020 Positioning Statement



Introduction

This Positioning Statement outlines the approach that Coláiste Cois Siúire will take in estimating the marks and the rank ordering of students, as part of the process for *Calculated Grade for Leaving Certificate students, 2020*.

The DES publications, *A Guide to calculated Grades for Leaving Certificate students* (DES 2020) and *Guidance to Teachers and Schools on Providing Estimated Percentage Marks and Rank Order* (DES 2020) have informed the approach outlined.

**Coláiste Cois Siúire will be responsible for Phase 1 and will not be involved in Phase 2.
The Department of Education & Skills will be responsible for Phase 2.**

Coláiste Cois Siúire commits to:

- completing the school-based phase in line with the DES Guidelines.
- completing the school-based phase of the process by 29/05/2020
- a collaborative approach between school management and teachers will apply.
- ensuring that estimated percentage marks will be awarded without bias.
- applying fairness in the process to ensure equity.
- using a range of evidence available up to 12th March 2020, as deemed appropriate for each subject, to inform the awarded percentage mark.
- managing all data in line with Kilkenny & Carlow ETB GDPR Policy

Key Steps in the Process for Calculated Grades for Leaving Certificate Students, 2020

There are two main phases of arriving at a calculated grade:

1. A school-based phase.
2. A national standardisation phase.

Phase 1: School-based Phase

Coláiste Cois Siúire system for Estimating the Percentage Mark for Leaving Certificate students, 2020, provide for the inclusion of the following components:

1. Subject Teacher's Estimation of Grades for each Leaving Certificate student and Class Ranking.
2. School Alignment of Marks.
3. Oversight by the Principal.

1. Sixth Year Subject Teacher's Estimation of Grades for each Leaving Certificate student and Class Ranking.

Only teachers teaching the subject at 6th year level, 2020, are involved in this Stage of the process.

Stage 1:

Teacher's Estimation of Grades, the subject teacher will estimate a percentage mark that a student would most likely have achieved in the sitting of the Leaving Certificate in the normal way. In estimating this percentage, the teacher will consider the following performance indicators:

- *Records of each student's performance over the course of study.*
- *Performance on any class assessments.*
- *Appropriately weight all components of the course i.e. oral/aural/practical/written.*
- *Performance on any coursework component, even if this has not been fully completed.*
- *Previous results in the school in this subject.*
- *The level of performance the teacher has observed in this year's students compared to those in previous years.*
- *Any other relevant information related to student performance.*

DES Guide for Schools on Providing Estimated Percentage Marks and Class Rank Orderings

It is important to note that:

- The inclusion of the above indicators will vary from **subject to subject**, in line with the course content and structure.
- The indicators used in a particular subject will be applied consistently across all subject groups as agreed by the 6th Year teachers of the subject.

Stage 2:

Class Rank Order, once the estimated percentage is awarded to each student, the teacher will then rank each student in the class group according to their estimated mark. A separate 'Rank Order Sheet' will be used to rank students taking Higher Level, Ordinary Level and Foundation Level.

Stage 3:

School Alignment of Marks, this stage of the process is to ensure that the process of estimating percentage marks and rank ordering students is correctly applied by each teacher.

It involves two stages:

- a) Once each individual subject teacher has completed the estimation mark and the subsequent rank ordering for each student in his/her class group and where there is more than one teacher teaching that subject at Leaving Certificate level, teachers will jointly review the marks awarded for each student. The discussion by this Subject Alignment Group will facilitate an assurance that the **process** of arriving at the estimated mark and the subsequent ranking was correctly applied.
- b) At the end of this process **each subject teacher will finalise** the estimated marks and rank order for the students in their own class.

Stage 4:

Oversight by the Principal, the role of the Principal in this part of the process is to ensure that uniformity of standard has been applied across all class groups entered for a subject and within the school.

The Principal will:

- a) Review the data sets submitted by the subject alignment groups.
- b) In the event of an anomaly or error, return the data set for further review to the Subject Alignment Group*, clearly stating the reason for such a decision.

Grounds for returning a data set for review:

- *A procedural error such as the misalignment of the estimated mark and the rank order applied.*
- *There is an unexplained inconsistency in the data sets submitted following the subject alignment stage.*
- *There is persuasive evidence that the estimated mark awarded to a student is inconsistent with the information available under the agreed performance indicators.*
- *There is evidence of lack of objectivity.*

DES Guide for Schools on Providing Estimated Percentage Marks and Class Rank Orderings

*The Principal does not have a role in altering the estimated mark or rank order of a student.

The Final Data Sets will be submitted to the DES by 31/05/2020 (or as soon as is logistically practicable)

LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2020

CALCULATED GRADES PROCESS

1 Subject Teacher uses professional judgement to estimate percentage mark for each student in subject area

2 Subject Teacher uses professional judgement to provide a rank order by class

3 Consultative engagement takes place with subject teachers to conduct school alignment of marks

4 Oversight of marking/ranking process conducted by school Principal

5 The finalised data sets are submitted to the DES by the principal (*ideally by end May*)

6 The school sourced data will be combined with historical data available from the SEC standardisation process to generate the calculated grade

7 The provisional results will issue as close as possible to original date (*date to be confirmed closer to the time*)

8 Results will be transmitted to the CAO system and certification will issue in due course

9 Appeal process will include a three stage process including internal checks, review of data and external verification

10 Candidates who remained unhappy with the outcome of the calculated grade awarded, have the opportunity to sit a normal Leaving Certificate as soon as it is safe to do so

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School Support Directorate - Education and Training Boards Ireland 2020

