



Date: 21/05/2020

Circular Number: 0037/2020

To: Boards of Management, Principal Teachers and Teaching Staff of Post-Primary Schools, Special Schools and Chief Executives of ETBs

Implementation of Calculated Grades Model For Leaving Certificate 2020 - Guide for Schools on Providing Estimated Percentage Marks and Class Rank Orderings

1. Postponement of Leaving Certificate 2020 examinations

1.1. The Minister for Education and Skills announced on 08 May 2020 that the Leaving Certificate 2020 examinations, previously rescheduled to commence on 29 July 2020, have been postponed. The Minister took this decision following an assessment of public health advice and the implications for holding the examinations in the period commencing on 29 July 2020 and having regard to the views of an Advisory Group of stakeholders that he established in April 2020, and which included representatives of students, teachers, school management bodies, school leaders, the State Examinations Commission, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and the Department of Education and Skills. Further information about the background to this decision is available from the www.gov.ie website under Leaving Certificate 2020.

1.2. The Minister has established the Calculated Grades model in order to allow Leaving Certificate students to receive State certification for their learning achievements and to progress to third-level education or to the world of work in Autumn 2020.

1.3. All students will be offered the option of accepting Calculated Grades for the subjects they are studying. Students will also have the opportunity to sit all or some of the Leaving Certificate examinations at a date in the future when it is considered safe to hold the examinations.

1.4. The design of the Calculated Grades model was informed by advice from a Technical Working Group comprising experts drawn from the State Examinations Commission, the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Skills, the Educational Research Centre, and international external expertise.

2. Responsibilities of teachers, principals and leaders of centres for education

2.1. The collaboration of teachers and school principals is essential in the implementation of the calculated grades model.

2.2. The responsibilities of teachers, school principals and leaders of centres of education in the calculated grades model are set out in Calculated Grades for Leaving Certificate 2020: Guide for Schools on Providing Estimated Percentage Marks and Class Rank Orderings (May 2020), a copy of which is appended to this circular.

2.3. This Guide has been developed following extensive consultation with representatives of teachers, principals and school management authorities. The Minister is most grateful for the cooperation and contribution of those involved.

2.4. Teachers, schools and centres for education will carry out the duties described in Calculated Grades for Leaving Certificate 2020: Guide for Schools on Providing Estimated Percentage Marks and Class Rank Orderings (May 2020) on behalf of the Minister. This means that all of the tasks being undertaken by teachers, principals and schools are being done on behalf of the Minister and further to the exercise by him of his Executive powers in establishing and operating the calculated grades model.

2.5. The responsibilities of personnel set out in Calculated Grades for Leaving Certificate 2020: Guide for Schools on Providing Estimated Percentage Marks and Class Rank Orderings (May 2020) that are specific to giving effect to the Calculated Grades model will not be regarded as a precedent or as agreement by teachers, principals or schools to carry out such tasks in future years.

3. Next steps

3.1. Principals and leaders of centres for education are asked to bring the contents of this circular to the immediate attention of teachers of students who are entered for the Leaving Certificate examinations 2020. This includes the established Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and Leaving Certificate Applied Programme.

3.2. Principals and leaders of centres for education are asked to ensure that the processes described in the attached Guide are carried out in respect of students in the school. The publication of the Guide facilitates schools in proceeding with this important work.

3.3. To support the technical administration of the Calculated Grades model, the following is being established:

- An on-line system for students to personally confirm their final entry level for each subject in which they are entered. This will be launched shortly.
- An electronic system for the return of data to the Department. Details of this system will be circulated separately to school management in due course.

3.4. The management of the school may appoint an Examination Aide to assist the Principal in carrying out the school-based processes involved in the Calculated Grades model. Details of role of the Examinations Aide, the quantum of time available and payment arrangements will be the subject of a separate circular.

3.5. To support teachers and principals in the implementation of the Calculated Grades model, an instructional video is being provided by the Calculated Grades Executive Office. This sets out the practical steps in the implementation of the school-based part of the model. A link to this video will be published on www.gov.ie/leavingcertificate

3.6. Information for students and parents/guardians on Calculated Grades for Leaving Certificate 2020 is being prepared and when available, will be published on the website www.gov.ie/leavingcertificate

4. Further information

The circular is available on www.gov.ie/en/circular/85700c-calculated-grades-for-leaving-certificate-2020/ The Guide and the related forms are also published as separate documents.

Enquiries on foot of this circular should be addressed to calculatedgradessupport@education.gov.ie.

Calculated Grades Executive Office 2020
Department of Education and Skills