A.3.2 COURSE OFFERINGS AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Southwest Leadership Academy's high school graduation requirements will meet the Arizona Department of Education requirements. Specifically, in order to receive a SLA diploma, students must complete 22 credits in accordance with the plan listed in Table 9 and the attached Exhibit, which includes the specific courses and number of courses in each content area.

Table 9: High School Graduation Requirements

Course Requirements	SLA Requirements	Arizona Credit Requirements
English	4	4
Mathematics	4	4
Science	3	3
Social Studies	3	3
CTE/Fine Arts	1	1
Electives	7	7
Total	**22**	**22**

Criteria and Process of Awarding Course Credit

SLA's high school students are expected to graduate by completing the 22 credits and a four year program of study. Freshmen, sophomores and juniors are expected to enroll in six courses. Seniors must be enrolled in at least four courses per semester and maintain progress toward high school graduation in four years.

Table 10: High School Grade Classifications

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Fewer than 6 credits when school opens in the fall.	Earned 6 credits when school opens in the fall.	Earned 11 credits when school opens in the fall.	Earned 16 credits when school opens in the fall.

Course Credit and Grades

Consistent with Strategy III of the Performance Management Plan, SLA will implement a plan for monitoring and documenting student learning. The criteria and process for awarding course credit shall be based on mastery of the Arizona Common Core Standards for subject areas and the Arizona Academic Standards in Science, Social Studies and Physical Education.

Grades will reflect mastery of content area state standards as follows:

A = mastery of 90-100% of Arizona state academic standards

B = mastery of 80-89% of Arizona state academic standards

C= mastery of 70-79% of Arizona state academic standards

D = mastery of 60-69% of Arizona state academic standards

F = mastery of 0-59% of Arizona state academic standards

For each course, Teachers will determine mastery of standards through informal classroom assessments and end-of-unit and quarterly summative assessments and through methods detailed

in the Performance Management Plan. Quarterly assessments will be developed by Teachers, and the staff as a whole will review them. Teachers will revise assessments as needed, eliminating bad test questions. As outlined in the Performance Management Plan (Strategy III, Action Step 14 in Math PMP; Strategy III, Action Step 15 in Reading PMP) Teachers and Administrators will analyze and compare quarterly assessment data, student grades, MAP data and state assessment data to ensure reliability and validity of assessments and grading procedures. For writing assessments, Teachers will align rubrics to the exemplars provided by the Common Core State Standards Initiative in Appendix C of the English Language Arts Standards.

All courses taught for credit receive a letter or a pass/fail grade and SLA will use the Powerschool student information system to maintain grades and generate transcripts. Grade point values and the percentages used to determine each grade are listed below.

Percentage Letter Grade	**Grade Point Value**
90-100 = A (Superior)	4.0
80-89 = B (Above Average)	3.0
70-79 = C (Average)	2.0
60-69 = D (Below Average)	1.0
D- = Minimum Progress (Teacher discretion)	0.5
0-59 = F (Failure)	0.0

P = Pass (reserved for designated pass/fail courses)
I = Incomplete (maximum length of time to make up a course is one semester) If not completed the incomplete turns to "F"
W = Withdraw

Withdrawals. If a student withdraws from SLA to enter another school, the transcript will reflect the grades earned at the date of withdrawal. Students requesting to withdraw from a course while remaining enrolled in SLA must receive Administrative approval. Approved withdrawals from courses will be posted on the student's transcript according to the following timeline:

- Schedule changes within first 10 days of the semester will not be reflected on transcript
- Withdrawals from the 11th day to the end of the quarter will be posted with a "W"
- No withdrawals are permitted within the last 20 days of the semester

*Attendance.*Attendance will also factor into grades. SLA recognizes the challenges of our population and will work to reduce attendance barriers. However, satisfactory attendance is essential to learning and regular attendance is critical to academic success. Any student who has unexcused absences or truancies that exceed 20% of the class periods may lead to withholding of credit and/or failure of the course. At the discretion of SLA, students may be given opportunities to make up time lost through attending before or after school class. Cases involving prolonged illness or unusual circumstances will be reviewed by the school administration.

Reporting Grades. Students will be expected to take ownership by monitoring their graduation criteria and course completion through their ECAP. The ECAP will be a tool for course planning, post-secondary goal setting and student scheduling.

In addition, student's grades will be available to him/her online as assignments and are scored and posted in Powerschool. By Tuesday of each week, Teachers will be expected to have grades updated from the previous week. Parents will also have real-time access to their son or

daughter's grades through a parent portal. For parents with no access to computers, they will have free access to school computers (in the school's main office) to access the parent portal. In some cases, they may access this information on their cell phones.

Grading periods will be consistent with SLA's calendar. Parents are encouraged to attend quarterly conferences with Teachers regarding student progress.

- **Five-week Progress Reports** are mailed/sent five weeks after the start of each quarter.
- **Mid-semester Report Cards** are passed out individually to parents during "Report Card Pick-up" sessions approximately five days after the end of the academic quarters.
- **Semester Report Cards** are issued as semester report cards at the end of the 2nd and 4th academic quarters.