



Standards-Based Grading 3rd-6th Grade Parent Guide

What is Standards-based Grading?

Standards-based grading is a system which focuses on student learning and provides grades based on demonstrated understanding of identified concepts. It is based on a specific set of standards (priority standards) that are identified for each grade/content area. Scores are not a comparison of one student to another, but rather a way to measure how well students are performing on grade-level/content area standards. A standards-based approach allows parents, students and teachers to understand more clearly what is expected of students and how to help them be successful.

Students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate their progress toward each priority standard. Students will have different types of assessment opportunities and will be assessed in a variety of ways. An assessment is any method in which a student's performance is measured in comparison to a learning target.

The goal of standards-based grading is to provide better communication to students, parents, teachers and administrators on what each student knows and is able to do according to performance on priority standards. Positive and consistent work habits in regards to student learning will be assessed and reported separately.

Why is the district using standards-based grading?

Campbell County School district is committed to improving student learning by reporting grades that are meaningful, promote accountability, provide feedback for improvement, support differentiated instruction, increase student motivation, and show mastery of standards. Standards-based grading is aligned with these goals and will provide a grading system to:

- Provide context to grades - Students and parents understand why they receive each grade and the progression of learning on each standard.
- Support teacher and student accountability - With specific learning standards defined from the beginning of the class, the teacher knows what is expected and what each student understands throughout instruction within the unit. Students are able to receive support throughout a unit of instruction to help ensure proficient understanding is achieved by the end of the unit.
- Improve feedback for improvement - With grades categorized into different learning outcomes, students and parents can immediately see in which areas of learning they need additional support. Teachers can also use this information to provide interventions and reflect on instruction for reteaching and enrichment opportunities.
- Support student learning - Teachers can use assessment data from within each unit to differentiate instruction and support students.
- Increase student motivation - With a focus on mastery of skills versus best grades on tests and assignments, students become motivated to reach mastery of learning standards in order to demonstrate proficiency.

What does grading look like on a standards-based report card?

In traditional grading, students are primarily measured by the percentage of work successfully completed. The assumption is that the higher completion rates reflect greater mastery and in turn, earn higher grades. In standards-based grading, grading is based on demonstration of mastery. Teachers assess the students' performance within a unit and choose the appropriate mastery level that was demonstrated based on the proficiency scale description. These scale scores are then used to calculate a letter grade for that content area for each reporting period. A standards-based report card will include the standards and level of mastery on each standard as well as the overall grade for that group of standards in a content area. The tables below show the difference between a traditional report card and a standards-based report card.

Traditional Report Card

Class	Quarter 1
Mathematics	95% = A

Standards-based Report Card

Class/Standard	Quarter 1
I can solve number sentences that have brackets.	3
I can estimate the answers of number sentences.	2
I can find the sum of two 2-digit numbers.	4
I can find the difference between two 2-digit numbers.	3
I can find the product of two 2-digit numbers.	2

Converted Grade	
A	3.0 - 4.0
B	2.5-2.9
C	2.0-2.4
D	1.6-1.9
F	1.0-1.5

What is a proficiency scale?

A proficiency scale is a tool used to show students, parents and teachers what proficiency looks like within a grade level standard. The table below is an example of a 3rd Grade proficiency scale.

Standard: RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events		
Level 4 (Enrichment)	In addition to score 3.0 performance, the student demonstrates in-depth inferences and applications that go beyond what was taught.	
	3.5	In addition to scoring 3.0, demonstrations of in-depth inferences and applications that go beyond what the standard requires with <i>partial success</i> .
Level 3 (Standard)	The student will: Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	
	2.5	In addition to scoring 2.0, demonstrates partial knowledge of 3.0 content.
Level 2 (Prerequisite/ Foundational)	The student will recognize or recall specific vocabulary, such as: - characters, sequence of events, traits, motivations The student will perform basic processes, such as: - Describe a character's emotions/ feelings. - Describe the actions a character made in the story. - Identify a character and plot.	
	1.5	Partial knowledge of the 2.0 content, but major errors or omissions regarding the 3.0 content.
Level 1	With help , a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes and some of the more complex ideas and processes can be performed.	

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What are the district expectations with standards-based grading?

Campbell County School district will work with each elementary school to provide support and guidance to ensure consistent expectations are being met across all schools.

What grade levels and content areas use standards-based grading?

Campbell County School district will utilize standards-based grading in third grade. Only mathematics and English language arts will report standards-based grading.