



# Grading Practice Information

The below information will help inform parents and students on the what and how standards based grading will look for the Interstate 35 Community School District. As our teachers begin using standards based grading to provide feedback to students and parents about a student's progress toward mastering the standards in each of our classes, we wanted to make sure parents had a clear understanding of what standards based grading is and how it will be used to create a clear understanding of a student's progress. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be sending out updates and bits of information to parents about the philosophy and practical application of standards based grading at I-35.

We will also be hosting informational nights on June 15, July 13 and August 5 in the Auditorium beginning at 6pm. There will be a presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions. All three nights will be the same information, so please make arrangements to join us for one of the opportunities to learn more about SBG.

## **What is the difference between total points and the 4 point scale? Is my students disadvantaged because they are in a class that uses one way versus another way?**

The difference here is in *how a teacher arrives as a score for an assignment or assessment*, not how the letter grade is calculated. There is no mathematical disadvantage in earning a grade in a classroom that uses one way versus another because all letter grades are calculated using the District Letter Grade Scale. The goal of our common is to ensure that Interstate 35's grading system is fair, accurate and consistent for all students. See the table below for more clarity.

Key Question	Total Points	4 Point Learning Scale
What does this mean?	Teachers assign specific assignments a point value. Assignments do not all have the same point value, typically based on the level of difficulty or importance placed on the assignment.	Teachers use a common scale to score all assignments against a common standard. Based on the student performance on the assessment, the teacher assigns a level of proficiency as the score.  4 = Exceeds Standard 3 = Meets the Standard 2 = Approaching Standard 1 = Below Standard M = No Evidence

How is the percentage calculated?	The percentage is calculated automatically in PowerSchool  Total points possible / total points earned = percentage	An assignment is given a score of 4 to 0 which is assigned a percentage using the District Letter Grade Scale.
How is the final grade in class calculated?	The overall percentage earned in a class is converted to a letter grade using the District Letter Grade Scale.	The overall percentage earned in a class is converted to a letter grade using the District Letter Grade Scale.

**What is the role of “practice” in grading?**

We do not penalize students for making mistakes when completing practice assignments. Some may have previously referred to a practice assignment as homework. Because learning occurs at different rates and in different ways for individual students, all students have multiple opportunities to practice key skills before they are assessed and graded. Teachers are still responsible for recording practice assignments in PowerSchool for parents to review and monitor throughout the semester. Practice, including homework, is still a key component of learning, and in most classrooms, students may be required to complete key practice assignments before they are able to retake an assessment. To see your student’s most recent grade, please view the “Current Grade” in PowerSchool.

**How does the district calculate letter grades? What are the percentages associated with a letter grade?**

The final (semester) letter grade for every secondary course at Interstate 35 is calculated using the District Letter Grade Scale in PowerSchool. Letter grade percentages are determined by averaging the power standard assessments for the semester. A letter grade is then assigned based on the total score.

Course letter grades are determined at semester using the following scale:

<u>Scale Score</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Descriptor</u>
4.0-3.5	A+	97-100%	Exceeds Standard
3.49-3.0	A	90-97%	Meets Standard
2.99-2.50	B	80-89	Meets Standard
2.49-2.0	C	70-79%	Approaching Standard
1.99-1.75	D	60-69%	Developing Standard
1.74-0	F	0-59%	Incomplete or No Evidence

### How does this impact my HS student's GPA?

The formula for calculating an Interstate 35 High School student's GPA is not changing. GPA is calculated on the basis of credits and grades earned in academic subjects and is reported on the student transcript. See the chart below:

A +	4.000	C	2.000
A	3.667	C	1.667
B+	3.333	D+	1.333
B	3.000	D	1.000
B	2.667	D	0.667
C+	2.333	F	0.000