

Standards Based Grading vs. Traditional Letter Grading

Standards Based	Traditional
Only achievement or learning evidence related to the standards is assessed	Grades are a combination of achievement, attitude, effort, and behavior
Individual performance in comparison to the standard is assessed	Grades may include a combination of individual performance and group grades
Uses assessments aligned to standards-based learning targets that are specific to a grade level	Variation in assessment quality; assessments do not align directly to the Common Core standards for the grade level
Learning expectations, targets, objectives are communicated to students prior to instruction and evaluation	Students are unfamiliar with the learning targets to be assessed or what mastery looks like
Assessment methods are concrete and reflect student performance toward the standard	Students are unsure about grading measures. Rubrics are not provided

The Benefits of Standards Based Grading

1. Based upon recognized standards for learning.
2. Defines the knowledge and skills students should master at each grade level.
3. Establishes clear learning goals for each school year.
4. Promotes consistent communication among teachers.
5. Uses a common language for instruction across all grade levels.
6. Identifies learning patterns and trends over the course of a student's school career.
7. Supports current educational and learning-based research.



A PARENT'S GUIDE TO STANDARDS BASED GRADING

*Glenwood R-VIII School
District*

Understanding Standards Based Grading

What are standards?

Standards are statements about what students should know and be able to do within each content area, at each grade level as defined by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Priority standards have been identified for each grade level based on the learning priorities of that grade.

What is Standards Based Grading?

The purpose of a Standards Based Grading system is to provide detailed feedback to parents, students, and teachers regarding the progress being made toward specific learning standards at a given grade level. A standards-based report provides parents and students with a clearer understanding of what is expected in school and how to partner with them to achieve maximum success.

The Principles of Standards Based Grading



1. Grades should be meaningful
2. Students should have multiple opportunities to demonstrate what they know about specific topics



3. Academic performance and behaviors should be separated

“Students can hit any target that they can see and doesn’t move.” – Rick Stiggins

Progress Reports

How frequently will Progress Reports be shared?

Quarterly

What will be evaluated in the report?

1. Academic Achievement
2. Student Learning Behaviors

What does the report tell me about my child’s academic achievement?

- 4---Student work demonstrates consistent, accurate and independent achievement above and beyond grade level standards; students are able to apply their learning across content areas and in new and creative ways. The student challenges him or herself to think deeply and make connections. Student work consistently exceeds standard expectations.

- 3---Student work demonstrates consistent achievement with minimal support on or at grade level standards; proficient or meets standard and grade level expectations. A student receiving a 3 is right on track with our academic standards.

- 2---Student work is not demonstrating the minimum standard level with additional support expected for the grade level; approaching the standard.

- 1---Student work demonstrates little evidence of knowledge and skill requiring additional teacher time and support for the grade level; below standard expectations.

