

What Is Standards-Based Grading?

Standards-based grading, sometimes called proficiency grading, is a method for teachers to measure how students are doing in meeting the learning goals for their grade as determined by their state's standards. Learning goals, sometimes called learning standards, are the academic skills your child should know or be able to do for his grade level by the end of the school year.

There are four essential components of a standards-based system:

1. The standards (as outlined by the state of California Common Core Standards) that describe what a student should know and be able to do at a given grade level,
2. The standards-based curriculum or roadmap a teacher uses to ensure that they teach to these standards,
3. The assessments that a teacher uses along the way to measure the extent to which a student has met the standards, and finally,
4. The reporting tool that allows a teacher to communicate accurately a student's progress towards meeting standards at critical junctures throughout the school year. The Standards-Based Report Card (SBRC) completes our standards-based System.

We are transitioning to a Standards Based Report Card for 2014-15. This year we will be grading students progressively on their ability to meet end of the year grade level standards in Math and ELA. We will also provide information on your child's progress in Physical Education, Science, Social Studies and Work Habits. We will also provide you with reports from our online instruction and assessment systems, Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills(DIBELS) Reports, Lexia Reading Intervention Reports, and Stride Academy Reports. Stride Academy Reports will provide you with information on how your child is progressing towards meeting grade level standards.

What do the Indicators Mean?

Earning a "4" means the student has advanced understanding and exceeds grade-level expectations. A student receiving a "4" demonstrates academically superior skills in that specific area. This student shows initiative, challenges himself or herself, and demonstrates this advanced knowledge at school. A "4" is difficult to obtain and indicates unusually high achievement.

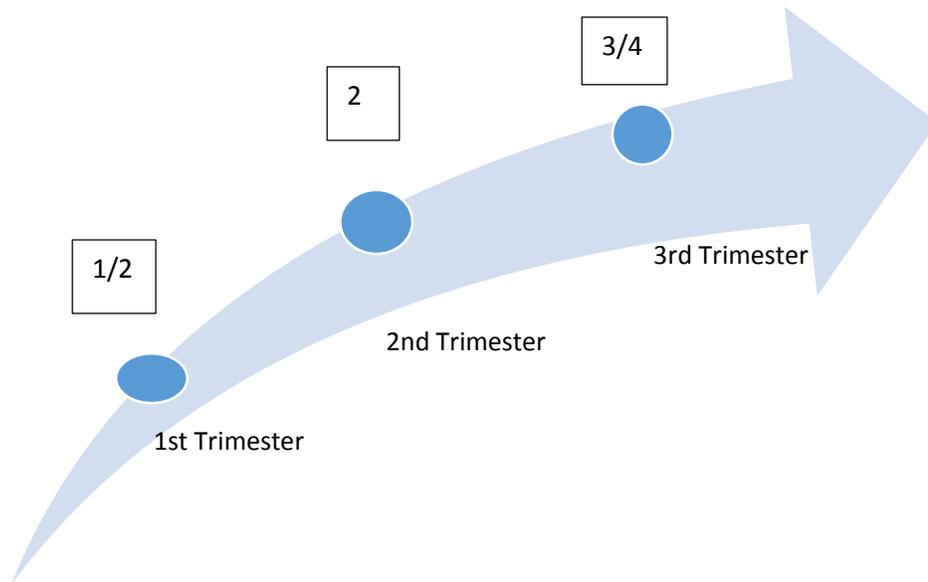
Earning a "3" means the student has proficient understanding and meets grade-level expectations. We want all of our students to reach a level "3." A student receiving a "3" is right on track with our high academic expectations. A "3" is something to be celebrated!

Earning a "2" means the student has basic understanding and partially meets grade-level expectations. A student receiving a "2" understands the basic concept or skill, but has not yet reached the proficient level. A "2" should indicate to parents that their child is still working on mastering the standard and/or the teacher is still instructing on that standard.

Earning a "1" means the student has minimal understanding and does not meet grade-level expectations. A student receiving a "1" is having difficulty meeting the grade level standard and needs intervention and close monitoring.

What is normal progression?

This is just an example of normal progression. Students can certainly display knowledge level earlier than third trimester, which would be reflected on their report card.



Students may begin the year off as a 1 or 2 as learning is just beginning. As the year progresses and students have more instruction they begin to progress in their mastery of their grade level standards. Teachers monitor how students are meeting the identified priority and supporting standards in each subject area and provide instruction focused on those areas of need. We have an online, adaptive platform, Stride Academy that provides teachers with up to date and live data on each students' areas of need in Math and English Language Arts. Stride Academy will also provide online instruction to students based on their identified instructional needs in Math and English Language Arts.

Keep in mind that a 3 is mastery of the standards and that is the goal for all students. We want them to leave their grade level prepared to tackle the next year's standards.