

How Do Mastery Based Report Cards Work?

Principle: Grades should clearly communicate what students know and are able to do in each class or subject area.

Mastery based report cards measure student progress on individual, specific skills. This data helps teachers, students, and parents target specific skills to work on and to celebrate mastery of skills.

A mastery based report card does not take into account completion of work, participation points, or work corrected with assistance. It only reports whether the student can complete skills accurately and independently.

What is **Mastery**? The skill is completed **independently, efficiently, and correctly** (80%-100%). The letter grade represents the percentage earned on a mastery based test. The mastery based test assesses whether a student can complete the skill independently. In order to receive an A or a B, students must complete the skill work without assistance. Students who require one on one help to complete the work to demonstrate mastery of a skill would receive a C or lower as a grade on that skill.

Student who would get all A's and B's on a traditional report card may find themselves getting lower grades on a mastery based report card, perhaps even an F in certain skills. Many of the skills on the report card require time to acquire. Students are expected to be proficient in grade level skills by the **end that grade level.**

In the past an F reported failure. An F may still denote failure, but it might denote that the child just hasn't had enough time to learn the skill. If a student gives their best effort to learn a skill, but hasn't learned it yet, try to think of an F as 'Not there yet.'

Failure to learn a skill could be the result of many factors. Some students do not focus in class while the skill is being explained and modeled. Some students are off task during work time and therefore don't get enough practice. Some students have a low concern level about learning the skill. Some students are still "learning how to learn" and are still working to understand they are responsible for learning and mastering skills. Skills are only assessed after A LOT of instruction and practice.

Your child will continue to work on more math and reading targets not yet mastered either in the classroom lessons, small groups, or individually. Science and social studies standards are not generally retaught.

Absences affect grades and skill mastery. The skills we learn at school are based on the skills that we already learned and if you have missed some of those skills due to absences or effort, it becomes more difficult to attain the next level of the skill.