

The BSU Approach to Implementing Standards-Based Grading

Prepared for the Barre Town Curriculum and Teacher Support Committee

For today's meeting, we're using *standards-based grading* and *proficiency-based grading* interchangeably.

Overarching goal: To develop report cards that:

1. Are the same for BTMES and BCEMS
2. Are as common as reasonably possible between the K-8 schools and Spaulding.
3. Support high-quality communication between school and family.

There are four major elements to BSU's work in developing a standards-based report card:

Element	Who's doing the work
1. Identifying 4-6 "reporting standards" in each content area and grade level	All classroom teachers, with the support of the curriculum specialists and the Director of Curriculum
2. Developing the practices that will be in use in each school. Two examples are (1) the frequency of reporting and (2) the marking system to be used.	BSU-wide Report Card Task Force
3. Designing the layout of both a print and electronic report card	BSU-wide Report Card Task Force
4. Determining how to make this all work in Infinite Campus	Primarily Lauren Demers of Barre Town and Shannon Lessley of Spaulding

The Adopted Report Card Purpose: The purpose of this report card is to inform parents/guardians, students, and others about student achievement of specific learning goals and life-long habits of learning. It identifies a student's level of progress with regard to these goals and guides next steps for the student.

Key Points:

1. Barre City began doing this work several years ago.
2. The goal is to implement the new report card in fall of 2018 (though with a caveat for Barre Town).
3. Proficiency-based reporting is one component of the set of practices known as proficiency-based learning.
4. Product (defined as what students know and are able to do) and process (how they go about learning) are reported separately. Process is reflected as several "transferable skills." For instance, if a student turns in an assignment late, the assignment is scored without penalty, but the fact of its being late would be reflected within the student's transferable skill scores.