

## The “Below Grade Level Comment” (To Use It or Not to Use It, Now That Is the Question!)

<p>Student’s grades reflect independent performance on grade-level content</p>	<p><b>Below grade level</b> comment should not be used—numerical grade is an accurate indicator of student performance.</p>	<p><i>Caution:</i> Failing grades are often an indicator that instruction has not been differentiated to meet student need.</p>
<p>Students receiving special education services whose IEP’s document modifications to content.</p>	<p>The IEP report card that accompanies the report card communicates student progress toward enrolled grade level standards. Grades are reported as earned and below grade level comment is not used.</p>	<p>Refer to exhibit 13, “<i>Grading Requirements Worksheet,</i>” for an example of how grades can be determined.</p>
<p>The student’s recorded grade average reflects work on below grade level TEKS (to accelerate progress or to remedy gaps) and the student does not receive Special Education services.</p>	<p>Grades are reported as earned, accompanied by <b>Below grade level</b> comment to indicate that the child is not working on grade level.</p>	<p><i>Caution #1:</i> Grades higher than 75 accompanied by <b>Below grade level</b> comment send confusing message to parent and indicate that student is capable of more difficult work. <i>Caution #2:</i> Instruction on below-level TEKS for students who have not met Special Education eligibility is appropriate only in the short term. An SSC should follow. <i>Caution #3:</i> Using this format for more than one reporting period will complicate promotion/retention conversations.</p>
<p>Student grades reflect independent work on-grade level TEKS, but instructional format has been differentiated to include some below-level materials.</p>	<p>Grades are reported as earned, and <b>Below grade level</b> comment is not used.</p>	<p>The differentiation of format/ input/materials in response to student need is good instruction.</p>
<p>Student is capable of on-grade level work, but low grades are a result of poor behavior/work habits, attention, or attendance.</p>	<p>Grades are reported as earned, and <b>Below grade level</b> comment is not used. Policies that regulate make-up work following absences are followed.</p>	