



Scarborough High School

Scarborough Public Schools

Proficiency Based Education Parent Guide

| Table of Contents | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| PbE: The Big Questions | 2 |
| Frequently Asked Questions | 3-4 |
| Grading | 4 |

Proficiency-based Education: The Big Questions

** What is Proficiency-based Education? **

Proficiency-based learning refers to systems of instruction, assessment, grading, and academic reporting that are based on students demonstrating that they have learned the knowledge and skills they are expected to learn as they progress through their education.

** Why is Scarborough making this change? **

Scarborough Public Schools is making the change to PbE because we believe that this system has the potential to revolutionize our schools. By focusing on student growth and mastery of specific skills, we can foster a sense of efficacy in students. Students educated in models that focus on growth show greater problem-solving skills and engagement in learning.

** What does this mean for our students? **

At Scarborough High School, we remain committed to providing a world-class educational experience for all students. For students in the class of 2021 and beyond, there will be a stronger focus on specific learning goals, particularly in the core content areas of English, Social Studies, Science, and Math, where students must demonstrate proficiency in addition to the traditional course grade for credit.

** What supports are in place at SHS for our students? **

As always, SHS will continue to offer support through teachers, administration, student services, and the study center. In addition, we will seek to help students that fall behind by offering remediation and alternate pathways for students to find success as they work toward earning their high school diploma.

Please note: Scarborough Public Schools and Scarborough High School have used the following resources to understand best practice as we work to implement solutions that work for our students. These resources may be quoted in this document.

[A Repair Kit for Grading: 15 Fixes for Broken Grades](#), by Ken O'Connor.

[The Art and Science of Teaching](#), by Robert J. Marzano

Scarborough High School
Proficiency-Based Education FAQs

1. Why has SHS adopted Proficiency Based Education?

Maine Law requires a Proficiency Based Education diploma beginning with the graduating class of 2021.

2. Is it true that by the end of the year all freshmen must achieve proficiency (3.0) in course-specific Learning Goals over the year to graduate?

Yes, in the four core courses of Math, Science, ELA, and Social Studies.

3. What about course grades? Will those disappear?

No. Scarborough High School will be using a three-part hybrid system comprised of a Course Content Grade (traditional percentage), HOWL scores, and Proficiency Scores based on course-specific Learning Goals (PbE graduation requirements).

4. What is HOWL?

Habits of Work and Learning is a tool to foster a mindset for lifelong success and growth. Scarborough Public Schools will teach, monitor, and provide feedback on effective habits of work and learning for each student. Specific feedback will be provided in the areas of Preparation for Learning, Engagement in Learning, and Respect for Self and Others.

5. How should a student proceed if he or she fails a test, an essay or other assignments this year?

Students are expected to take advantage of available supports, including direct support from the classroom teacher, AEAST, before and after school, study center, tutorials, etc.

6. What requirements does my student need in order to graduate?

For students in graduating years 2018-2020, graduation requirements can be found on the Scarborough Public Schools website under Board of Education -> Policies (link below). The document that outlines graduation requirements is titled "IKF-Graduation Requirements". Students graduating year 2021 and beyond will be transitioning into a PBE framework and therefore have their own requirements. These can also be found on the document described above.

IKF Graduation Requirements

(<http://www.scarboroughschools.org/board-of-education/policies>)

7. Is there a deadline for this - end of the semester, or end of the year?

Yes, SHS operates on a semester system.

8. How is my student going to be graded in each course?

We will adopt a hybrid model of grading that will include a traditional grading component, HOWL, and Proficiency-based grading model, which will be used to define the awarding of credit. As we are working within a hybrid grading model, please reference your child's classroom teacher regarding their specific grading parameters.

9. What about non-core courses like foreign languages, art, etc. for freshmen?

These courses will be assessed using traditional grading model framework, though some teachers may choose to attach HOWL and Proficiency scores to assessments.

10. How will I monitor my child's progress?

We will continue to use Powerschool as our Student Information System for monitoring traditional and proficiency based grading.

Grading

For any given course, a student will earn three types of grades.

- 1. Learning Goals:** There will be multiple large concepts that students will be assessed on throughout the year for a given course. These are called Learning Goals. Students should strive to score a 3 or higher when assessed on these learning goals (on a 1-4 scale) as a 3 would indicate that the student is proficient. Teachers will work their way up these Learning Goals so students feel ready prior to being assessed. Smaller targets called Learning Targets will be the focus of daily lessons and will build up in complexity until a Learning Goal is assessed.
- 2. Content Grade:** The content grade will be very similar to the traditional grades of years past. This will be a snapshot of a student's current performance level for a given subject. This grade will include grades for both learning goal assessments and learning target assessments and will be a quick reference for how your student is doing in a class.
- 3. HOWL (*Habits of Work and Learning*):** This score will be used to assess a student's ability to show up prepared to learn, engage with their learning, and respect for others. This score will be used to address work that may be past due or constant distractions that impact the learning environment for others.