



Date: September 22, 2021

Dear TUSD Families,

Friendly reminder, TUSD has transitioned away from letter grade reporting in grades 4 and 5 to only Standards based grading and reporting beginning in the current 2021-22 school year.

TRACY

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"The future belongs
to the educated"*

Dr. Brian R. Stephens

Superintendent

(209) 830-3201

(209) 830-3204 Fax

Dr. Rob Pecot

Associate Superintendent

of Business Services

(209) 830-3230

(209) 830-3259 Fax

Julianna Stocking

Associate Superintendent

of Educational Services

(209) 830-3202

(209) 830-3209 Fax

Tammy Jaliqie

Associate Superintendent

of Human Resources

(209) 830-3260

(209) 830-3264 Fax

1875 W. Lowell Ave.

Tracy, CA 95376

www.tracy.k12.ca.us

[Facebook.com/TracyUnifiedSD](https://www.facebook.com/TracyUnifiedSD)

Background:

During the 2020-21 school year, a group of dedicated 4th and 5th grade teachers from TUSD piloted the use of standards-based grades for 4th and 5th grade. This pilot highlighted a great number of benefits to shifting away from letter-based grading to standards-based grading. Some of the benefits from the pilot include supporting student growth mindset, increased opportunities to explore metacognition with students, the celebration of learning instead of celebrating a letter grade, a focus on essential standards, and many more. This grading practice allows for teachers and students to have meaningful conversations about the learning taking place and allows for student to have additional opportunities to show their mastery of standards. The grading practice was reported to increase fairness and equity in the learning process. The piloting teachers also report parents being very supportive of the grading practice. The pilot of this grading practice was discussed at Curriculum Council and the Curriculum Council made a recommendation to the TUSD Cabinet for approval. TUSD Cabinet approved the recommendation and a presentation was proved to the TUSD School Board for this practice to be adopted district-wide for grades 4 and 5. The TUSD School Board received a presentation from the piloting group that can be viewed here <https://www.loom.com/share/bf8d0e147c4946239452d49371aee6ac>. After providing this presentation to the board and the recommendation from Curriculum Council, and TUSD Cabinet approval, this practice is to begin for the 2021-22 school year district-wide for 4th and 5th grade.

What does the change mean? This means that teachers will continue reporting a standards format as they have used below for all components of the report card and letter grades will no longer be assigned.

Grades 4-5: Standards based report cards

- 1 beginning
- 2 progressing
- 3 proficient
- 4 exceeding proficient

Sincerely,

Julianna Stocking

Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

Tracy Unified School District