

Standards-Based Scoring (SBS) Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why a Standards-Based Scoring system?

- A. Thompson School District is committed to providing an accurate reflection of each student's growth and achievement by giving clear, specific feedback on his/her growth toward the mastery of grade level content and standards.

Q. Will we still have GPA?

- A. Yes. A Grade Point Average (GPA) will be calculated for the academic scores. GPA will continue to be calculated by taking the total grade points and dividing them by the total credit hours.

Q. Will we still have awards?

- A. Yes. We will continue to recognize student excellence.

Q. I'm getting failing assignment notifications, what do I do?

- A. You shouldn't receive failing assignment notifications in standards-based scoring courses, please contact 613-5102.

Q. What are the benefits of Standards-Based Scoring?

- A. In a standards-based scoring system, learning outcomes are clearly articulated to students throughout instruction. Students are given numerous opportunities to demonstrate standard understanding and mastery. Other benefits include:
- **A single score represents many skills.** For example, a reading assignment may have items on it that require students to understand three separate skills, but the student gets one grade on the test. This makes it difficult for the student to reflect and improve his or her performance. Standards-based scoring allows the student to see how they did on each skill so they may advocate for and receive support on their individual areas of need.
 - **The incorporation of work ethic and participation in the academic grade.** In the past, we included other factors like attendance, behavior, homework completion, and participation in a student's overall grade. While it is important to monitor and provide feedback to students on these 21st century skills, it is critical to separate these from academic achievement.

Q. What happens as my student moves on to higher education?

- A. Higher education institutes accept a variety of transcripts from around the world. Thompson School District transcripts will still include GPA and all of the information higher education institutes need when accepting students. Please see the following link for a video where admission counselors from CSU, UNC and CU-Boulder met with administration and parents at Berthoud High School.


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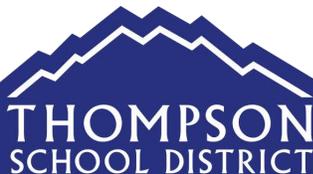
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Core Values:	Greater Emphasis:
Level of instruction	Shift in student ownership of learning
Strong student learning objectives	Increase in student self-advocacy
Standards being taught	More authentic measures of learning
Grade Point Average (GPA)	Focused feedback on student's achievement
Recognition of excellence	Reporting academic achievement independently from your student's work habits
High academic expectations	
21 st century skills	
Self-motivation and competitiveness	
Critical thinking and problem solving	
College, Career and Community Ready	



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