



FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT 79

Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Learning

February 1, 2023

Subject: Academic Levels of Progression - 3s and 4s

This is an installment to accompany a series of communications regarding our implementation of standards-based grading across the district. [Our District website](#) has prior communications and additional resources posted.

Dear Fremont School District 79 Families:

What does it mean if my child receives a 3? How do they get a 4? What is the difference between the two levels?

As families continue to grow in their understanding of our standards-based grading practices, a good understanding of the academic levels of progression used in our classes is important. We utilize a four-level scale that is aligned to the standards the student is expected to learn in each of their respective courses.

Academic Scale	
4	Extending
3	Meeting
2	Approaching
1	Beginning

Someone new to this approach may need further explanation to understand the difference between a 3 and a 4 on this scale. Here is a deeper dive into the meaning behind these levels:

Level 4 (Extending)

What does this level mean? The student extends grade level expectations by deeply and independently applying and utilizing concepts and skills.

How is this different from the other levels? A student at a level 4 independently uses and applies knowledge in ways that demonstrate higher level thinking skills. A student who is able to consistently perform at Level 4 is one who independently demonstrates extensions of their knowledge and/or mastery of some accelerated standards. The student is “advanced” in that they are performing at a level above where we would expect them to be at a given point in time. Students may not have the opportunity for a level 4 on every assignment or assessment, but they should have enough opportunities to demonstrate a level 4 on their measured strands each term.

What does this level not mean? This level is not the equivalent to an “A” in a traditional letter grade

system. While there is no direct comparison to a letter grade, any level 4 grades a student receives represents some deep and impressive understanding.

Level 3 (Meeting)

What does this level mean? The student demonstrates grade level expectations for concepts and skills.

How is this different from the other levels? A student at a Level 3 demonstrates understanding of grade level skills and concepts and requires minimal support. A level 3 throughout the school year indicates strong, excellent work at grade level. The 3 mark is the goal for the grade level and should be celebrated as "on grade level" or "right where we would expect them to be," yet students should continue to be pushed to strive for even further learning as appropriate. Level 3 represents those students who are independently able to meet the standards after instruction. Students receiving a mark of 3 are on track for college and career readiness for that subject.

What does this level not mean? This level is not the equivalent to an "A" (or a "B") in a traditional letter grade system. While there is no direct comparison to a letter grade, any level 3 grades a student receives should be recognized as commendable understanding and achievement.

You can read about our academic levels, including Level 2 (Approaching) and Level 1 (Beginning) in our [Standards-Based Grading Guidebook](#). Our goal is to use these levels to provide the most informative, objective, and clear reporting of achievement so that we may collectively promote continued student growth.

Thank you,

Dr. Brian Bullis
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Fremont School District 79