

Proficiency-Based Learning at Killingly Intermediate School

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. Proficiency-based learning systems use adopted state learning standards to determine academic expectations and define “proficiency” in each course, subject area, or grade level. The goal of proficiency-based learning is to ensure that students are acquiring the knowledge and skills that are essential for success in school, college, career, and life.

Proficiency-based learning systems more accurately reflect and communicate a student’s learning progress and achievement, including situations in which students struggled early in the school year, but then put in the effort and hard work needed to meet expected standards. Proficiency-based learning systems are designed to identify specific academic needs, which we can use to inform our instruction, interventions, and curriculum. That is why we assess and report Habits of Work, including perseverance, organization, and collaboration, separately from academic achievement.

Now more than ever before, it is vitally important that our assessment and grading system accurately reflect our students’ progress toward a defined set of learning goals. Our learning models and learning environments need to be flexible and adaptable. Long-held debates around seat time and required school days as a criterion for course credit have quickly evolved to the power of equitable educational systems and using evidence of student learning separate from habits of work and student behavior to determine proficiency of performance indicators. **Parents can access student progress through JumpRope, our new Grading and Reporting Family Portal, and students’ academic progress will be reported as both progress toward individual learning goals and traditional grades. Habits of Work will continue to be reported separately from academic progress in all courses.** Please review the Killingly Intermediate School Proficiency-Based Learning Parent Guide to learn more.