



What is standards-based grading?

Standards-based grading refers to the practice of determining a student's level of mastery of grade-level standards along a continuum of proficiency. It utilizes indicators that represent a student's progress toward mastery on priority learning standards in all core content areas.

While traditional grading focuses on numeric values or percentages correlated to the number of items a student correctly completes on a given assessment, standards-based grading focuses on a student's knowledge and skills as they relate to differing levels of complexity and rigor within each standard. A student who has mastered a given standard can consistently complete the skill or demonstrate the knowledge specified in the standard at the highest level of rigor and complexity required for a given quarter in the school year.

Why is standards-based grading used?

Focusing on the specific elements of a standard that a student has and has not mastered allows teachers, students, and families to better understand the best next steps to take to support student learning.

What information is provided to me on my student's report card?

The report card, available via Skyward, will provide a brief description of each priority, or "must know," standard for the grade level. Once a standard is introduced and assessed, it may be assessed again in each remaining quarter of the school year. A student's progress toward mastery is indicated using scores of LP, IP, AM, and SM. The key on the Report Card Skills document for your student's grade level provides clarification on the meaning of each score.

Do the standards and skills included on the report card represent everything my student will learn this year?

The standards and skills assessed do not represent everything your student will learn this year. The included standards and skills represent priority, or "must know," standards and skills. These standards and skills have been identified as the foundational knowledge that students will need for success in both their current grade level and in future grade levels. The Report Card Skills document provides a list of the skills that will be assessed.

Is my student expected to master each standard in the same quarter it is introduced?

No, the end of the year is the expected mastery date for all grade-level standards. However, it is common for many students to master some skills earlier than this date. Any standards that your student does not master in the quarter in which they are introduced will be re-taught and re-assessed throughout the year.

Is it possible for a student to regress in their progress toward mastery?

While it is possible for students to occasionally regress in their progress toward mastery, it is also important to recognize that, for some standards, the requirements for mastery increase in rigor and/or complexity across the course of the school year. For more information about the specific requirements for standards that adjust across two or more quarters, see page 2 of the Report Card Skills document. If you have any questions or concerns about your student's progress, please do not hesitate to reach out to your student's teacher.

Where can I get more information about my student's progress?

Reach out to your student's teacher with any questions or for specific information regarding your student's progress at school.