



UNDERSTANDING STANDARDS BASED GRADING

Updated for the 2025-2026 School Year



REPORT CARD

We believe student report card grades should be...

accurate

Report card reflects what a student knows in relation to the grade level standards as well as select habits and skills.

actionable

The student and family are able to know where action might need to be taken and have a sense of what to do next.

meaningful

When a report is accurate and provides direction for action steps, it becomes more meaningful for families and students.

WHY STANDARDS BASED GRADING

It's important that our grading practices reflect our instructional beliefs and current Illinois learning standards.

Report cards should reflect what students know and can do based on clearly established and communicated criteria or learning targets.

This will help students (and their families) understand if they are demonstrating the learning required at each grade level.

TRADITIONAL

VS

STANDARDS BASED

TRADITIONAL GRADING

87%



STANDARDS BASED GRADING

Quality of Food	Excellent!
Ambience	Excellent!
Service	Average
Price	Good

PROCESS

Student Learning Habits

LEARNING HABITS

Grades K-5

- **Asks and responds** to questions related to specific topics
- **Uses** feedback from others to make improvements
- **Completes** assessments with quality and punctuality
- **Takes risks** as a learner
- **Exhibits** effort and perseverance
- **Takes initiative** to learn
- **Accepts** responsibility for their own behavior
- **Demonstrates** effective social problem solving skills
- **Manages** stress by using coping strategies
- **Understands** the effects of one's behaviors on others
- **Identifies** and **communicates** feelings and needs
- **Respects** others' identity, rights, and feelings
- **Actively works** to establish and maintain positive relationships
- **Works collaboratively** with others

Grades 6-8

- **Prepares** to learn
- **Engages** in learning
- **Takes initiative** to learn
- Makes strong effort to **complete homework**

PRODUCT

Student Learning Measures

A(4)

Meeting Standard

Meets and applies the rigor of the end-of-term standard consistently and independently across a variety of contexts.

B(3)

Approaching Standard

Mostly meets the end-of-term standards consistently and independently across a variety of contexts.

C(2)

Partially Meeting

Making progress towards consistently and independently meeting the end-of-term standards across a variety of contexts.

D(1)

Beginning Learning of the Standard

Developing foundational skills needed to progress towards meeting the end-of-term standard consistently and independently

F(0)

Missing/Not There Yet

Does not show evidence of learning yet.

HOW

students approach learning

LEARNING HABIT MEASURES

C

Consistently

The student consistently and independently demonstrates the expectation



S

Sometimes

The student demonstrates the expectation with some consistency



R

Rarely

The student demonstrates the expectation with little consistency



WHAT

students know/do with standards

Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, all grades will follow this 4-point scale.

For **grades 6-8**, the 4-point scale will also align to a letter grade to ease students' transition into high school grading practices.