

We are Hilhi!

**Back to School Night 2026
September 10, 2026**

**What is Standards-based
Grading?**



Hilhi School Improvement Plan Goals

- **Raise the Four-year Graduation rate from 86.2% to 88%, and the Five-year completion rate from 88.4% to 90%.**
- **Increase the percentage of students meeting core academic standards from 54.5% to 62%.**
- **Increase the use of Academic Language strategies in our classrooms.**
- **Increase student belonging at Hilhi, as measured by student attendance and the Belonging survey.**

Standards-Based Grading

Standards-based grading is a way of evaluating student learning that focuses on what students know and can do in relation to specific learning targets. While students will continue to receive an overall letter grade for the course, they will also receive scores on individual skills and concepts, which are mapped to state and national standards. This approach provides a clear picture of a student's strengths and areas where they may need more support.

Key Principles of Standards-Based Grading

- **Focus on Learning:** The primary goal is to measure a student's mastery of essential learning standards, not their behavior, effort, or homework completion.
- **Clear Expectations:** Parents, students, and teachers all know exactly what is expected. The learning standards are specific statements that outline what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level, in each course.
- **Multiple Attempts:** Students are often given multiple opportunities to show their understanding and improve their scores. This encourages learning from mistakes and shows that progress is valued over perfection.
- **Separation of Academic and Non-Academic Factors:** Grades on report cards reflect only academic achievement. Other factors like effort, participation, and responsibility are reported separately, providing a more complete view of a student's performance.

Standards-Based Grading and Course Outcomes in HSD

Standards-based grading (SBG) focuses on a student's proficiency of specific learning goals, which determines their overall letter grade for the course. To make this approach clear and effective, the Hillsboro School District has developed Course Outcomes (COs) for every course in high school.

These COs are concise statements that describe the most essential knowledge and skills a student must demonstrate to be proficient in a course. HSD teachers worked collaboratively to write these outcomes, often combining several state or national standards into one, clear, manageable outcome. This approach provides a much clearer picture of your student's strengths and identifies the specific areas where they might need more support.

High School courses throughout the Hillsboro School District have anywhere from two or three COs to as many as ten COs. Each course differs in the number of Course Outcomes when considering the frequency with which students will be assessed, the length of the course, and the depth of knowledge to be covered.

What is Changing This Year?

In Hillsboro School District high schools, standards-based grading has been a two year roll out over the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school year. In the 2025-2026 school year, nearly 200 high school educators across the district piloted standards-based grading. Through this process, feedback was gathered from students and school staff in order to refine our practices and determine decisions around communicating student learning through a standards-based gradebook.

During the 2026-2027 school year, **all of our high schools will implement standards-based grading across all courses offered.** All teachers at Hilhi are using standards-based grading beginning this school year.

HSD Rubric Language for 26-27 CO-Based Rubrics

	Title	Description
4	Advanced/ Avanzado	Student demonstrates superior performance; advanced understanding <i>and/or</i> application <i>and/or</i> analysis of the knowledge and skills of the course outcome. / El estudiante demuestra un desempeño superior, además de comprensión avanzada o aplicación/análisis de los conocimientos y las destrezas con base en los objetivos del curso.
3	Proficient/ Competente	Student demonstrates solid academic performance; proficient knowledge and skills of the course outcome. / El estudiante demuestra un desempeño académico sólido, además de conocimientos y destrezas competentes con base en los objetivos del curso.
2	Basic/ Básico	Student demonstrates partial proficiency of knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work of course outcome. / El estudiante demuestra un dominio parcial de los conocimientos y las destrezas fundamentales para alcanzar los objetivos del curso de una manera competente.
1	Minimal Understanding/ Comprensión mínima	Student demonstrates minimal understanding of the knowledge and skills of the course outcome but evidence is incomplete <i>and/or</i> contains significant errors; student may need additional support. / El estudiante demuestra una comprensión mínima de los conocimientos y las destrezas con base en los objetivos del curso, sin embargo, la evidencia es insuficiente, incompleta o contiene errores significativos; es probable que el estudiante necesite apoyo adicional.
0	No Evidence/ Sin evidencia	Student work does not demonstrate knowledge and skills of the course outcome, or no evidence has been submitted. / Los trabajos del estudiante no demuestran los conocimientos y las destrezas mínimas con base en los objetivos del curso o el estudiante no ha presentado ninguna evidencia.

Calculating Final Grades

All high school students' final grades for each course will be calculated as an average of all their final Course Outcome scores.

- A course that has 4 Course Outcomes, for example, would average the final CO scores to determine the final average. For example,
 $(2.67+3.00+2.5+3.33)/4=2.88$

This final average then determines the **final letter grade**, as shown in the table below. For example, a final average of 2.88 would be an "B". A 3.50 would be an "A", while an average of 2.10 would be a "C". This system provides a clear picture of a student's growth over time and their final level of proficiency in the course.

3.20 - 4.00	A
2.40 - 3.19	B
1.60 - 2.39	C
0.80 - 1.59	D
0.00 - 0.79	F / I

The balanced grading scale to determine a course final letter grade is not a GPA. A student's overall GPA is still determined the same as always - an average of all their course letter grades from 9-12 grade.

ParentVUE and StudentVUE

With our Standards-Based Grading approach, ParentVue and StudentVue will now default to Standards View. Standards View shows your student's summative scores on their Course Outcomes. This video will walk you through how to navigate these platforms, so you can easily monitor your student's performance on Course Outcomes and understand how their final grades are calculated.

Watch this video to learn more about how to find the information you need. This resource is also available in **English/Spanish**.

Final Semester Grades

With the move to standards-based grading, we are also finalizing grades at the end of each semester. This means that students who do not pass a class will receive an 'F' on their transcript instead of an 'I'. Incompletes will be only used for extenuating circumstances at the end of a semester.

Student may still seek grade changes once a semester ends, but will need to work directly with the teacher to plan for those.

All students are expected to complete their work within each grading term, either quarter or semester.

How you can help

Check in with your Spartan regularly about how their classes are going. Look at ParentVue/StudentVue together throughout each term.

Reach out directly to teachers when you have questions. Teacher email addresses are available in ParentVue or you can message them via ParentSquare.

Support your child in asking for and getting the help they need. After school tutoring starts on September 29 and will meet each Tuesday and Thursday from 3:45-5:00 in the Library. Students may register to take a bus home at the end of tutoring.

Students may also access teachers during Spartan Academy on Thursdays and Fridays during the school day.



Thank you!

**Your partnership is key to your
child's success in high school.**