Standards-Based Grading

Purpose & Vision

Standards-Based Grading (SBG) ensures grades reflect what students **know and can do** in relation to Georgia's K–3 academic standards.

This approach supports the **RCSS** mission of *"Empowering Every Learner Every Day"* and helps teachers, students, and families clearly understand progress toward mastery.

Understanding Standards-Based Grading

Definition:

SBG measures a student's progress toward **specific learning standards** rather than comparing performance to peers.

Focus:

- Isolates **academic mastery** from behaviors such as effort, participation, or homework completion.
- Clarifies what has been taught, learned, and demonstrated.
- Promotes consistent expectations across classrooms.

The 4-Point Grading Scale

SCORE	DESCRIPTOR	DESCRIPTION
4	**Distinguished Learner**	Makes applications and inferences beyond expectations
3	**Proficient Learner**	Meets standards consistently and independently
2	**Developing Learner**	Progressing toward meeting standards
1	**Beginning Learner**	Limited progress toward mastery of standards



BLANK Not Yet Taught

Standard has not been taught or assessed yet

TIP: "ND" and "N/A" are options in Infinite Campus but should **not** be used on report cards.
Leave blank if a standard has not yet been taught.

A student earning all correct answers on one task does not automatically earn a 4. A level 4 reflects consistent mastery beyond the standard, not a single strong performance.

Entering and Verifying Grades in Infinite Campus

- Use standards-based report card rubrics to determine proficiency levels.
- Enter at least five assignments during the 6 week grading period (does not have to be 5 per standard).
- Grades are calculated using the mode (most frequent score).
- If mode is not able to be calculated (e.g., 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3), teacher judgment based on student evidence determines the score which must be manually entered.
- Always review each standard before posting.
- Numeric scores and percentages must match exactly (e.g., 1 = 1%).

Infinite Campus

Communicating with Families

Purpose of SBG Report Cards

- Show how well students are mastering specific standards.
- Provide families with a clear picture of strengths and next steps.
- Encourage shared ownership in the learning process.

Family Communication Tips

- Send home the How to Read Your Child's Report Card flyer explaining what standards-based grading means.
- Reinforce that a "3" indicates meeting expectations—the goal for all students by the end of the year.
- Follow up after reports to celebrate growth or clarify next steps

Teacher Action Steps

1. Reflect on your understanding of SBG and identify personal areas for growth.
2. Collaborate during planning to align assessments with standards and scoring rubrics.
3. Use consistent language when discussing proficiency levels with students and families.
4. Collect varied evidence of learning (classwork, performance tasks, discussions, formative checks). Not all student work should be "graded". Students should be given risk-free practice opportunities.
5. Continue professional learning as needed to deepen understanding of standards-based grading practices.

Richmond County School System

For questions or support: Contact the
RCSS Teaching and Learning Department
for guidance on implementation, communication, and grading practices.

rcboe.org/teachingandlearning