

Standards-Based Grading at Legacy Prep



As you take a look at your child's progress report at Legacy Prep, chances are that it looks a little different than progress reports or report cards that you've seen in the past. We follow a standards-based grading approach at Legacy Prep.

STANDARDS-BASED GRADING 101

What is standards-based grading?

Standards-based grading communicates how students are performing on a set of clearly defined learning targets called standards. The purpose of standards-based grading is to identify what a student knows, or is able to do, in relation to pre-established learning targets, as opposed to simply averaging grades/scores over the course of a grading period, which can mask what a student has learned, or not learned, in a specific course.

How does standards-based grading differ from traditional grading?

Unlike with traditional grading systems, a standards-based grading system measures a student's mastery of grade-level standards by prioritizing the most recent, consistent level of performance. Thus a student who may have struggled at the beginning of a content area, when first encountering new material, may still be able to demonstrate mastery of key content/concepts by the end of a grading period.

Standards-based report cards separate academic performance from work habits and behavior in order to provide parents a more accurate view of a student's progress in both academic and behavioral areas. Variables such as effort, participation, timeliness, cooperation, attitude and attendance are reported separately, not as an indicator of a student's academic performance.

In a traditional grading system, a student's performance for an entire quarter is averaged together. Early quiz scores that were low would be averaged together with more proficient performance later in the course, resulting in a lower overall grade than current performance indicates.

How are my child's grades determined?

Standards-based grading does not separate out tests, homework, or projects. All of the work a student does is used to assess the student's mastery of the essential standards.

How should a student/parent view student grades now that the system of A-F has been replaced by a 4 point scale? What is considered to be an A in the new grading system?

You cannot really compare a traditional grading system to standards-based grading. It is like comparing "apples to oranges". Standards-based grading identifies a standard and indicates

whether or not a student is meeting the standard at a given point in the school year. A score of (3) is defined as meeting grade level standards and indicates that a student has demonstrated mastery of the skills that were expected to be learned by that point in the grading period

Is it possible to achieve a grade of 4?

Yes it is. However, a score of (4) indicates performance that is consistently above what is expected for mastery at that point in the school year. Level 4 work would indicate a much deeper understanding of a standard, the ability to apply that knowledge, make connections and extend learning beyond the targeted goal.

If a student is being accelerated in any grade level/subject area with above grade level standards or materials, is that student required to get a 4 on his report card?

By definition, level 4 work reflects higher order thinking, application, connection and extension of targeted goals. While being instructed above grade level is not required in order to achieve a (4), students who are taught above grade level have consistently shown mastery of a subject at their current grade level. Achieving a (4) does not preclude a teacher from suggesting areas for improvement in the comment section of the report card. Receiving a (4) does not guarantee that a students' performance would remain at that level across all reporting periods, or for all content standards.

UNDERSTANDING THE REPORTS

First, you will see the "Comprehensive Progress Report" in the upper left hand corner of your child's report. This report outlines all the activities that comprise the academic grade in each content area your child is studying. Under the "Average" column, you'll see your child's numeric percentage in that course. To the right, under "Levels," you will see either 1, 2, 3, or 4. This is our academic scale and you can reference the chart below to see what those levels mean.

Academic Scale	
Exceeding (Level 4)	Exceeds expectation for target
Proficient (Level 3)	Consistently demonstrates expectation for target
Approaching (Level 2)	Frequently shows understanding or can perform portion of the target with assistance
Below (Level 1)	Minimal understanding of the concept/skill, even with instructor assistance

The second report is listed as the "Standards Report Card" in the upper left hand corner. For each content area, your child has been working on specific standards for that content area. Guides have evaluated your child based on these standards and have given your child a score of 1-4 on each of these standards, with 1 indicating that your child has not yet achieved this standard, and 4 indicating that your child has exceeded mastery of this standard. It is our hope that knowing specific growth areas for your child will enable you to assist your child in these growth areas at home.