

# Grading: The move to standards-based reporting

Standards-based reporting focuses on student learning rather than the earning of points or a single grade based on an overall average. In a classroom using standards-based reporting, student work is evaluated as evidence of learning, and teachers and students use established criteria to determine what level of learning is evident from the student work.

The shift to standards based grading is occurring in a three-phase process across the content areas.

## What do the numbers mean for a student?

### 4 I have mastered the learning!

I know the material so well I can teach other students and can apply material with a high degree of sophistication.

### 3 I understand it!

I know the material and can apply my expertise on multiple pieces of evidence (tests, projects, etc.)

### 2 I get the basics, but could improve.

I know the vocabulary and foundational skills, but sometimes I make mistakes on the harder concepts.

### 1 I can do it with help.

I am really lost but I understand some of the material when I get extra help from the teacher or another student to show my understanding.

### 0 I don't get it at all even with help.

I am really lost and I need extra help to show my understanding.

IE

### Insufficient evidence.

If no material is turned in, this IE could become a 0.

## The gradebook: what does it all mean?

### First, the report card is not changing.

When students and parents look at the report card they will still see A's, B's, etc.

That said, teachers using a standards-based reporting system will use a grade book that focuses on the most important standards/benchmarks (called "priority standards/benchmarks"). Rather than a list of assignments and points earned, student knowledge will be evaluated using a 4, 3.5, 3, 2.5, 2, 1.5, 1, .5, 0 proficiency scale that will allow parents, students, and others to determine exactly what the student knows and is able to do on a specific standard. Then, at the end of each trimester, students will receive a letter grade based on the average of these priority standard scores.

## Did you know?

- Moving to the standards-based mindset in grading is a change led by teachers, and comes with years of foundational work.
- This grading shift is not new, and reflects the direction the district has been moving instructionally for more than nine years.
- Standards based reporting will allow for more consistency in grading from site to site within specific courses.
- Standards based reporting allows teachers to grade students based on where they are now in their educational journey, not where they were when they first began learning material.
- The report card is not changing, but the gradebook will offer more detail on how a student is performing on each standard.

## For more information

Visit [ahschools.us/sbr](https://ahschools.us/sbr), or contact your student's teacher directly as they're the best source of information about your student's achievement.