

PLAINVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRADING FAQ

Q: What is standards-referenced grading?

A: Standards-referenced grading is a system of reporting grades focused on what a student knows and is able to do.

Q: What is the purpose of standards-referenced grading?

A: There are three main components to the teaching and learning process – curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Schools now teach to standards (Common Core Standards) as a matter of practice. The instruction in the classroom is driven by standards. The purpose of standards-referenced grading is to align the assessment of student learning with standards-referenced instruction and curricula.

Q: What is the goal of standards-referenced grading?

A: The goal of standards-referenced grading is to accurately measure a student's level of proficiency in the various content areas. Learner Quality areas such as effort and participation are reported separately in order to provide students and parents with information about what students know and are able to do. In addition, grading differences between teachers are minimized.

Q: How does standards-referenced grading work?

A: Standards-referenced grades depict a student's performance over a particular period of time. A proficient level of 4,3,2 or 1 is determined after analyzing all performance evidence as it relates to standards, rubrics and exemplars.

Q: How does this differ from traditional letter grades?

A: Standards-referenced grading reports the degree to which a student has mastered a specific standard. All measures of student learning are sources of evidence – from homework to final classroom assessments. Traditional grading,(i.e. 100-0 scale), reports a score that has content knowledge and other factors mixed into the grade. This affects the real measure of what a student knows about the content. Subjective factors like attendance, effort, and behavior are often included in a grade under many current grading systems. These areas are important, but in Standard-Based Referenced Grading, they are reported in a separate Learner Qualities Section of the report card. Therefore, a student is held accountable for both academic proficiency as well as learner qualities.

Q: What is next in the process?

A: The new K – 6 standards-referenced report cards will be implemented in the fall of 2015. A family curriculum guide for each grade level will be provided as well as an introductory letter, specifically explaining the new system.

Family information sessions on standards-referenced grading will be held SEPTEMBER 24 AT 10 A.M. AND 6 P.M. AT THE JACKSON SCHOOL.