



Standard

Benchmark

Learning Target

Instruction

**Practice a
Skill**

**Make
Mistakes**

**Fix
Mistakes**

**Assess
Skill**

**Intervention/
Extension**

**Assess
Skill**

**Intervention
/Extension**

**Assess
Skill**

Mastery



What is the purpose of grading?

The purpose of grading is to accurately and meaningfully describe a student's current performance.

What is the purpose of Report Cards?

The purpose of our report card is to communicate a student's academic progress toward expected standards, as well as behaviors that impact learning.



What is standards based grading?

- Standards-based grading communicates how students are performing on a set of clearly defined expectations called standards.
- Our teachers have spent considerable time working together across the district to evaluate state standards in every subject area and determining which standards are most essential for future academic success.
- Standards based grading identifies what a student truly knows and is able to do in relation to those essential standards.



How should a parent/student view grades now that the system of A-F is being replaced by a 4-point, standards-based scale? What is an A in the new grading system?

- You cannot compare a 'traditional' grading system to standards based grading. Standards based grading identifies a standard and indicates whether or not a student is meeting that standard at any given point in the school year.



How should a parent/student view grades now that the system of A-F is being replaced by a 4-point, standards-based scale? What is an A in the new grading system?

- Parents and students can be confident that a SECURE (3) score indicates that the child has demonstrated all of the necessary knowledge and skills for that particular standard and is fully prepared to move forward.



Is it possible to achieve EXCEEDS (4)?

- Yes, it is. However, achieving a (4) or EXCEEDS indicates performance that is consistently above what is expected for mastery at that point in time during the school year.
- Level 4 work indicates a much deeper understanding of the concepts being taught in class as well as the ability to apply that knowledge, make connections, and **extend** learning beyond the teacher's targeted goal.



How will I know if my child needs help?

- Seeing proficiency levels of BEGINNING (1) or DEVELOPING (2) is a sign that your student is in need of additional support in the areas indicated.
- One of the biggest benefits of standards based grading is that teachers, students, and parents know precisely which knowledge and/or skills need additional instruction and/or practice.



Behaviors

Foley Public Schools has Core Values of Achievement, Kindness, Respect and Support that reinforce learning.

- Grades are a measurement of academic knowledge and understanding.
- Behaviors like organization, promptness, politeness, etc. are important, but they are separate from achievement. Kindness, for example, is a virtue we seek to instill in our students, but it has nothing to do with whether a student can read, do math, etc.
- We provide feedback on behaviors separately. This gives families better information about both academic progress and social-emotional growth as we prepare students for life-long learning, careers and responsible citizenship.

