

What is standards-based grading?

Beginning in 2017-18, elementary school report cards in Infinite Campus look different to give parents/guardians better information about their children's learning.

Our students, teachers and parents deserve a system that clearly communicates the learning process and that is what we have set out to provide. This information sheet explains benefits of standards-based learning and is a guide to understanding our updated grade reports.

Current scientific research has confirmed that learning is a continuous process. Students who are actively engaged (instead of passively receiving information) learn better. And each of us learns in a unique way and on different time tables. A grade should not be perceived as a goal to cross in order to stop learning. Instead, a report to parents and students should show the process of learning including the important milestones that need to be met.

Our curriculum is based on academic standards. These standards tell our teachers and students what needs to be learned for each course or grade level. We align our resources and learning activities, including tests and assessments, with these standards. Aligning our curriculum this way ensures consistency and allows teachers to focus on personalizing learning for each student. Elementary grades now reflect a child's progress learning the standards Eastern Carver County Schools has deemed most crucial for success. We call these *Power Standards*.

Turn over to see more about how standards are graded in Infinite Campus

Behaviors

Eastern Carver County Schools has Behaviors That Support Learning that are separate from grades. Grades are for academic knowledge and understanding. Behaviors like organization, promptness, politeness, etc. are important, but they are separate from academics. 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.

Power Standards & Learning targets

A report card is only as good as the information it provides. New elementary grade reports introduced in 2017-18 provide more detailed information about learning. Turn over to read why better grade reports were needed.

All of our elementary schools use the same standards and follow the same grading system. In Infinite Campus and in Empower, you will see Power Standards. Under each Power Standard are the learning targets. Learn all the learning targets and we judge that standard as learned; the student is ready to apply that standard and continue in his/her learning journey.

Power Standard grades use the following terms:

- **Extends Level (EL)** - Learner has demonstrated extension beyond the complex knowledge and skills of the course standards.
- **Meets Level (ML)** - Learner has demonstrated the complex knowledge & skills of the Course Standards (meets grade level expectations).
- **Basic Level (BL)** - Learner has demonstrated the basic knowledge & skills of the course standards.
- **Approaching Level (AL)** - Learner is in progress towards meeting the course standards.

Because learning is a process, students may start the year with AL or BL and move into ML during the school year.

“In progress” is now more important

In Infinite Campus, you see the following (this is the high-level view):

16-17	
Expand All	Collapse All
In-Progress Grade Final Grade	
306-34 Mathematics - Grundeen, Susan M	
16-17	
Final/Full Year	90.00% ML
1st & 2nd Trimester	70.00% BL
1st Trimester	100.00% EL

Grade Summary

Click on the course name to get the following detail:

Grade Book Assignments for 306-34 Mathematics						
Teacher's comments about :						
306-34 Mathematics						
Teacher: Grundeen, Susan M						
View the scoring rubric(s) and/or grading scale(s) for this class.						
Grading Task Summary						
Legend: Final Grade In-Progress Grade Grade Not Available Yet						
Grading Task 16-17 16-17						
Final/Full Year ML 90%						
1st & 2nd Trimester BL 70%						
1st Trimester EL 100%						
Term 16-17 Final/Full Year Detail						
PS00 Add & Subtraction Facts (weight: 1.0)						
Name	Due Date	Assigned Date	Multiplier	Pts Poss	Score %	Comments
Addition	04/04/2017	04/04/2017	1.0	5	5 100	
Subtraction	04/04/2017	04/04/2017	1.0	5	4 80	
PS00 Add & Subtraction Facts Totals				10	9 90%	
PS01 Compare & Represent Whole #'s up to 100,000 (weight: 1.0)						
Name	Due Date	Assigned Date	Multiplier	Pts Poss	Score %	Comments
LT1.1a	04/04/2017	04/04/2017	1.0	5	5 100	
LT1.2	04/04/2017	04/04/2017	1.0	5	4 80	
PS01 Compare & Represent Whole #'s up to 100,000 Totals				10	9 90%	
Back to the top						
Grading Scale(s)						
EL-ML-BL-AL Elem						
Grade	Min	Percent				
EL		93.000				
ML		80.000				
BL		70.000				
AL		0.000				
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Subject

Grade Summary

Power Standards

Learning Targets

Calculating a course grade has two steps:

First, performance on learning targets are averaged together to determine the Power Standard score.

Second, Power Standards are averaged to determine the course grade.

These calculations are performed automatically in Infinite Campus, and the grade is shown in the area labeled "Summary."



We base grades on a full year of learning. Therefore, you will see trimester 1 and 2 always coded as "in progress." Learning does not reset after each grading period and the gradebook reflects this reality.