

# STANDARDS-BASED GRADING (SBG)



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## What is SBG?

SBG is a student-centered system of grading in which the student is assessed on a proficiency scale ranging from zero to four in relation to specific learning targets (standards).

## Why standards-based grading as opposed to traditional grading?

Grades are intended to communicate student learning to teachers, students, and parents. While traditional grading systems have been used for over 100 years, there is little research defending their effectiveness. The meaning of a traditional grade is often muted by non-academic factors (such as behavior, attendance, participation, and extra credit) that fail to communicate specific information regarding the student's mastery of academic content. Standards-based grades reflect the student's mastery of each specific learning target. Stakeholders can easily note areas of student strength and weakness. SBG also allows for reassessment of skills which fosters a growth mindset.

## Why are lesson practice and work habits not included in the student's overall grade?

Grades should reflect what the student knows and is able to do. Completing lesson practice and having good work habits are important steps in the *process* to mastering content; this is why they are communicated in the student's gradebook spreadsheet. However, these factors do not communicate the student's level of understanding of the skills. Therefore, only academic assessments of skill mastery (quizzes and projects) directly contribute to the student's overall math grade.

## Why doesn't my student have an *A*? (S/he has always done well in math.)

The transition from traditional grading to standards-based grading may take awhile to get used to. Students' grades are no longer "padded" with scores representing their effort—such as homework completion or participation grades. In order for a student to be at the level of an *A* letter grade, s/he needs to reach the *Proficient* level (3) in each standard. Each standard is assessed on class quizzes at least three times. Additionally, your student may reassess (Level Up) each standard up to three times.

## What is the process for reassessment (Leveling Up)?

Once a standard is eligible for reassessment, a student may complete a Level Up Request Form. The form prompts the student to complete additional practice of the skill, obtain a parent signature, and submit to Mrs. Velez for approval. Once approved, the student may complete the Level Up assessment during Power 30 or other agreed-upon time.