

PROFICIENCY GRADING

District 9 Middle Schools

FAQ

What is proficiency grading?

Proficiency grading is the assessment of students' knowledge and skills--based upon *the student's* grade level content standards.

Why proficiency grading?

The Oregon legislature passed a law requiring school districts to report to parents on a regular basis the proficiency level of students based upon common core state standards. It is also a more accurate picture of students' knowledge and skill.

How is proficiency grading different than previous grading?

Proficiency based grading is different in several ways. It is different in that a student's academic grade for a class may not be based on student behavior--things like attendance, participation, bringing materials, citizenship, etc. It will be based upon whether the student can proficiently perform skills that demonstrate common core state standards.

What are the different proficiency levels for students?

Almost all of the classes that a student takes will all be graded using the same 4-point proficiency scale. *Study Skills classes will be reported as pass/fail.*

- 4 = Exceeds: Independent work shows **in-depth** understanding of grade level standards that goes beyond what was explicitly taught
- 3 = Proficient (**the target**): Understand and independently applies grade level standards consistently
- 2 = Developing: Grade level standards are inconsistently applied and not yet mastered
- 1 = Emerging: Working significantly below grade level standards and needs on-going support

What if my student is not proficient on a grade level standard?

One of the most exciting things about proficiency grading is that learning is the constant and time is the variable. Students will have multiple opportunities to show proficiency on summative assessments. Opportunities will expire 2 WEEKS after the 9-week grade report has been received. It's not a matter of "if" they learn the content, but "when" they learn.

Will my student still be receiving letter grades on their report card?

No, middle school students will not be receiving letter grades. What you will see on the report card is a summary grade for a student's proficiency of several different standards for each class a student is taking. In addition, you will also see "behavior" grades that are separate from the academic content grade.

Can I do extra credit?

No, because your score is based on progress and achievement toward a standard. Evidence of a higher level of performance is the only thing that can raise a proficiency score. You must be able to show a deeper understanding of a standard to increase your proficiency score. This means you must apply concepts, synthesize, critique, design, etc.

What about G.P.A. and Honor Roll?

When a *Grade Point Average* is required, a formula of proficiency levels will be applied. This is the same formula used at the High School level.

Where can I find more information?

More information can also be found online at www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1197