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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose standards-based grading?

The purpose of standards-based grading is to identify what a student knows, or is able to do, in relation to pre-established learning targets, as opposed to simply averaging grades/scores over the course of a grading period, which can mask what a student has learned, or not learned, in a specific course.

How does standards-based grading support students, parents and teachers?

Pinpointing what your child knows or understands within each subject gives much more detail and information on what they understand or in which areas they need more support. This specificity give parents and teachers more information on what students' need to work on.

What is HPA's transition plan from traditional grading to standards-based grading?

We've piloted three grade levels across the school (2nd, 5th, and 8th) to start this work. The only way we could launch the work was with real, live grades once the school year started. We're in the process of supporting these teachers, as well as provide information to families along the way. We are currently planning to roll out standards-based grading school-wide starting in third quarter, but we want to ensure that it's a smooth transition and will take more time if needed to do this.

What is the difference between traditional grading practices and standards-based grading?

Traditional Grading System	Standards-Based Grading System
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on assessment methods (quizzes, tests, homework, projects, etc.). One grade/entry per assessment. • Assessments are based on a percentage system. • Use an uncertain mix of assessment, achievement, effort and behavior to determine the final grade. May use late penalties and extra credit. • Everything goes in the grade book – regardless of purpose. • Include every score, regardless of when it was collected. Assessments record the average – not the best – work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on learning goals and performance standards. • Standards are criterion or proficiency-based. Criteria and targets are made available to students ahead of time. • Measures achievement only OR separates achievement from effort/behavior. No penalties or extra credit given. • Selected assessments (tests, quizzes, projects, etc.) are used for grading purposes. • Emphasize the most recent evidence of learning when grading.



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Will standards-based grading effect my child's admission into high school?

No. In fact, many high schools are shifting to standards based grading

- Vista Peak High School (as well as all Aurora Public Schools) use standards-based grading
 - <http://vistapeakprep.aurorak12.org/parents/grading/>
 - <http://aurorak12.org/communications/docs/sbg.pdf>
- Denver Public Schools train teachers to use standards-based instruction and has developed a standards-based report card
 - http://techtraining.dpsk12.org/ic/QRG_PDF/SBPR/7970_update/ENG/SBPR%20mock-up%20for%20translation.pdf
- Adams 50 has pioneered standards-based grading at all levels
 - <http://www.chalkbeat.org/posts/co/2013/05/23/four-years-later-a-districts-standards-based-reform-evolves-and-pays-off/#.V87pDTvLRE4>

Where can I go for more information?

Please visit <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1joKyXSX0Cbb4OcEawsXu-sOvgVYf3-KwhFXAIMRd0E8/pub>.