



simplifying
IT

Willard Schools

WHAT ARE STANDARDS?

Standards are statements about what students should know and be able to do within each content area at each grade level. Willard teachers development curriculum (lessons, activities, and assessments) in alignment with the Missouri Learning Standards.

STANDARDS-BASED GRADING

What is standards-based grading?

Standards-based grading communicates how students perform on a set of clearly defined learning targets called standards. 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 differ from traditional grading?

Unlike with traditional grading systems, a standards-based grading system measures a student's mastery of grade-level standards by prioritizing the most recent, consistent level of performance. Thus a student who may have struggled at the beginning of a content or course, when first encountering new material, may still be able to demonstrate mastery of key content/concepts by the end of a grading period.

In a traditional grading system, a student's performance for an entire quarter is averaged together. Early quiz scores that were low would be averaged together with more proficient performance later in the course, resulting in a lower overall grade than current performance indicates.

Standards-based report cards separate academic performance from work habits and behavior in order to provide parents a more accurate view of a student's progress in both academic and behavioral areas. Variables such as effort, participation, timeliness, cooperation, attitude, and attendance are reported separately, not as an indicator of a student's academic performance.

GRADES ARE NOT ABOUT WHAT STUDENTS EARN; THEY ARE ABOUT WHAT STUDENTS LEARN.



simplifying
IT

Willard Schools

WHY STANDARDS-BASED?

Standards are statements about what students should know and be able to do within each content area at each grade level. Willard teachers development curriculum (lessons, activities, and assessments) in alignment with the Missouri Learning Standards.

- ◆ Current methods of grading do not accurately indicate what a student knows and is able to do.
- ◆ Students will be able to explain what they learned or did not learn rather than recite a percentage.
- ◆ It can benefit all learners - students who struggle and accelerated learners.
- ◆ Parents are provided information on specific standards while receiving meaningful feedback.

STANDARDS-BASED GRADING

How are my student's "grades" determined?

A student's performance on a series of assessments will be used to determine a student's overall mastery of a learning standard. Practice assignments and homework will serve primarily as a source of feedback and instructional support for both students and teachers.

What will the report card look like?

The report card will seek to provide meaningful feedback so both students and parents can track progress toward mastery of key academic concepts, reflect upon strengths and weaknesses, and identify multiple pathways to additional support and/or deeper learning.

Will my student still receive teacher comments on their report card?

Yes. Individualized feedback is an essential component of standards-based grading. Effective feedback is a more useful source of information than simply assigning a numeric value or letter grade to student work.

Visit the Willard Schools website for additional information:

<http://tinyurl.com/willardschools>

GRADES ARE NOT ABOUT WHAT STUDENTS EARN; THEY ARE ABOUT WHAT STUDENTS LEARN.