

LPS Standards-Based Learning and Teaching: Grading Philosophy

Littleton Public Schools believes that the purpose of measuring individual student academic achievement is to communicate learning and growth. Standards-based proficiency grades provide equitable, reliable, consistent, accurate, meaningful, and timely communication to students, parents, teachers, and administrators on what each student knows and can demonstrate according to prioritized standards or identified outcomes.

We believe:

- **All** students can meet **all** grade-level academic standards. Colorado Academic Standards are written for all content areas and include Extended Evidence Outcomes.
- Grades are based on a student’s proficiency of the Colorado Academic Standards.
- Content knowledge is reported separately from work habits (participation, assignment completion, cooperation/collaboration, behavior, practice, following expectations, etc.).
- Consistent work habits support student learning.
- Proficiency is determined through the use of multiple learning opportunities over time.

A Comparison Between Traditional Learning and Teaching and Standards-Based Learning and Teaching

Traditional Learning/Teaching	Standards-Based Learning/Teaching
*Based on point accumulation (0-100 percent)	*Based on using a 4-point scale with level descriptors.
*Combines all factors, including work habits, to determine a final grade (i.e test scores, quiz scores, class participation, extra credit, homework completion, etc.)	*Separates content knowledge from work habits by providing clear information about how the student is progressing within each content standard
*Disproportional opportunities to earn “passing” grade and less recoverability if a student has an F	*Equitable recoverability to attain proficiency by readdressing and reassessing student evidence within the standard
*Unclear alignment with state/district standards	*Leveled descriptors align with state/district standards
*Grades can be inflated or inaccurate when not directly aligned with the standards and grade-level expectations	*Measures students against the standard and aligns with grade-level expectations

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE GRADES:

- Content Knowledge grades reflect what a student knows and can apply, according to the Colorado Academic Standards.
- Final Proficiency Grades will be determined using proficiency scales along with a body of evidence.
- Multiple opportunities are provided for all students to demonstrate proficiency of the standards and exceed them.

WORK HABITS GRADES:

- Grades demonstrate the connection between consistent work habits and behaviors that promote student learning and growth.
- Grades are determined by other factors such as class participation, cooperation/collaboration, work ethic, neatness, organization, effort, punctuality of assignments, class behavior/attitude, student notebooks, journals, and learning logs. This data may be collected through observation and objective indicators.

BASIS FOR DETERMINING PROFICIENCY GRADES:

1. Standards / Scales

- Proficiency scales, based on prioritized standards, are used to guide instruction and show a progression of learning and growth.
- Accommodations do not reduce the learning expectations or alter the content of the material to meet proficiency. Rather, they are intended to support a student in attaining grade-level proficiency.
- The performance descriptors of the numerical scale as seen below:

Proficiency Scale Descriptors							
4 - Exceeds grade Proficiency	3.5	3 - Meets grade proficiency	2.5	2 - Approaching grade proficiency	1.5	1 - Does not meet proficiency	IE Insufficient Evidence
Has demonstrated a higher level of application of the skill and knowledge with regards to the specific standard.	In addition to score 3.0 performance, in-depth inferences and applications with partial success.	Has demonstrated a proficient level of skill and knowledge with regards to the specific standard.	No major errors or omissions regarding 2.0 content and partial knowledge of the 3.0 content.	Has demonstrated they have some, but not all of the knowledge needed	Partial knowledge of the 2.0 content and skills.	Has not demonstrated they have enough of the knowledge and skills needed	There is insufficient evidence to evaluate the student's attainment of the skills and knowledge described by the standard.

2. Practice / Redo

- Standards may be addressed with multiple opportunities for demonstration of learning.
- Standards may be learned at different times throughout the school year and thus appear in the grade book multiple times throughout a variety of assignments and opportunities.
- Learners will be provided opportunities to redo/retake assessments based on the established expectations of the classroom teacher.

3. Absence of Late Penalties in Academic Grades

- Littleton Public Schools removed late penalties from middle school academic grading practice to provide students with more recoverability. A missing assignment will be noted in the gradebook with a M for Missing and this will impact the overall In Progress grade until an assignment is turned in. The assignment will then be assessed for mastery of skills in the Academic Content score. If appropriate, the lateness will be noted in Work Habits.

COMMUNICATION TO STAKEHOLDERS

In addition to the information included here, families can find more details through a variety of resources:

- Back-to-School Nights, Parent/Teacher Conferences, and family communication throughout the school year
- School websites:
 - [Euclid](#)
 - [Goddard](#)
 - [Newton](#)
 - [Powell](#)
 - [Options](#)
- Infinite Campus
 - Check both **content knowledge** and **work habits** grades regularly
 - Check for assignments marked as **M** (Missing), as these are missing assignments and impact a teacher's ability to determine student proficiency.

INFINITE CAMPUS REMINDERS:

- Grades are *not* percentages or letters. All grades are on the 4-point scale.
- A 3 communicates that a student meets grade-level expectations and standards.
- Students may not have the opportunity for a 4 on every assignment but will have an opportunity to demonstrate a level 4 for each standard.
- The **In Progress** grade is a calculation of the student's overall proficiency level based upon an average of all graded assignments aligned to the proficiency scales.
- Final Proficiency Grades are calculated twice a year at the end of each semester (excluding some quarter classes).
- Students earn Final Proficiency Grades at the end of each course (either semester or quarter): Content Knowledge and Work Habits.