

Maine School Solutions, LLC

Standards Based Grading & Reporting Parent Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Maine School Solutions is excited to introduce Standards Based Grading and Reporting for the 2025-2026 school year! Our previous grading system (0-100) did not fully communicate what the students are expected to know as set forth by the Maine Learning Results/Common Core State Standards. While we recognize that with change comes challenges, this new approach to grading will benefit all stakeholders including students, teachers, and parents/guardians by providing better insight into a student's actual ability.

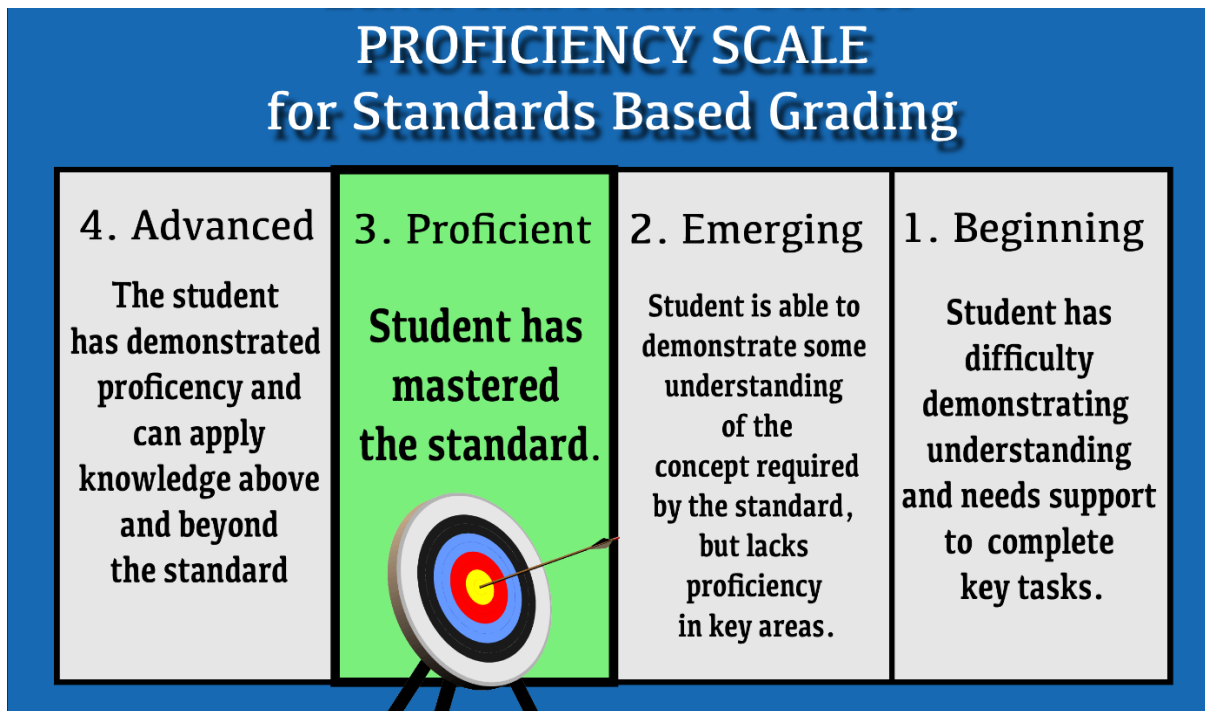
Standards Based Grading/Reporting allows students to be more aware of what they are expected to learn and their progress through the Maine Learning Results/Common Core State Standards. It will provide parents with a more detailed outline of their student's growth and achievement. We believe that clear communication between school and home throughout the course of the year is vital to our students' success. We look forward to working together to provide your child the knowledge and tools needed to reach their fullest potential.

What changes will I see as a parent/guardian?

Proficiency scores (1-4) will replace letter grades and percentage scores. The proficiency scores are tied to descriptions of what the students know and are able to do. Teachers will provide feedback to students and your child will have opportunities to meet proficiency (3) on the standards. Final grades are determined based on the most recent evidence of student learning. Students will receive separate scores (1-4) for things like effort, being ready, respectful and responsible in all classes through separate a habits of work rubric.

Proficiency Scale:

It is important that we as parents and teachers have honest, straight-forward conversations with our students about their learning and achievement. It is important that we convey to our students that learning is a process. Some concepts and skills are more difficult than others to learn. A score of 1 or 2 while learning a new skill or concept is appropriate and not intended to be punitive. **A score of 3 is the target, it shows proficiency and is to be celebrated!** A score of 4 indicates a student has reached proficiency and applied knowledge beyond the grade-level standard.



How does the Standards Based Grading system compare to the traditional letter grade system?

Standards Based Grading measures how well an individual student is doing in relation to the grade level standards, not the work of other students. This will give parents a better understanding of their child's strengths and weaknesses. Letter or numerical grades are often calculated by teacher's expectations, performance on assignments and tests, effort, student behavior and how the student is doing in comparison to classmates. Letter or numerical grades do not inform parents which grade level skills their child is currently working on and which they have mastered.

My child has an IEP. How will they be assessed?

There are modifications and accommodations in your child's IEP to support their progress on grade-level standards as assessed on a Standards Based Grading system.

The IEP will help guide how the student is assessed through accommodations, modifications, and supports, as well as ensure they are receiving services and working on appropriate academic goals to address their learning needs. Students who are behind grade level will be instructed and assessed at the grade level their skills currently reflect. This will be clearly indicated on the report card.

How do I get access to my child's academic information, and can it be accessed electronically?

Parents will see how their child is progressing through the standards during quarterly reporting and at IEP meetings. For day-to-day information about what is happening in the classroom, parents can get additional information upon request from teachers/case-managers who have the information tracked. At some point the school hopes to implement an online portal where students and parents can log in and track progress towards standards. Regardless, our schools will provide information during the following: quarterly report cards/progress reporting, IEPs, by phone call/appointment, and parents nights/during parent/teacher conferences.

A Standards Based Grading and Reporting system is designed to inform you about your child's progress toward achieving specific learning standards. The Maine Learning Results and Common Core State Standards establish high and challenging expectations for all students in Maine. They describe what students should know and be able to do and serve as the basis for Maine School Solution's curriculum, instruction, and assessment model.

We at Maine School Solutions are committed to providing your child with an exceptional education by providing high standards for achievement and cultivating a genuine passion for learning geared towards individual goals.

For more information or to address questions or concerns, please contact us at (207) 344-6226.

Thank you for your partnership and continued support!

Brannen McGraw

Director of Educational Services

Maine School Solutions