



FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT 79

Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Learning

April 12, 2019

Subject: SBG Purpose and Guiding Principles

Dear Fremont School District 79 Families:

This is the second installment in a series of communications regarding our shift to standards-based grading across the District. [Our District website](#) has prior communication and additional resources posted.

FSD79 established a standards-based grading committee in 2014 and the group has met regularly since that time, committed to studying, planning, and applying best practices in grading. The committee established a clear purpose of our report cards which is as follows:

The purpose of the Fremont School District 79 report card is to communicate to parents/guardians and educators the learner's level of progression of the standards to show evidence of learning and areas for continued growth.

Furthermore, the committee adopted guiding principles that provide direction as we implement this practice. We hope you agree that these are important practices to best promote and report student learning.

Principle 1 - Grades and Reports Should Be Based on Clearly Specified Learning Goals and Performance Standards.

All students in the same grade in the same course, no matter their instructor, will be graded using the same standards.

Principle 2 - Evidence Used for Grading Should Be Valid.

Students are assessed on what they are taught. There are no trick questions and no surprises.

Principle 3 - Grading Should Be Based on Established Criteria, Not on Arbitrary Norms.

Students are graded on the standards assessed, not on arbitrary norms such as poor handwriting or no name on their paper.

Principle 4 - Not Everything Should be Included in Grades.

Students should not be penalized for early attempts in learning. Students are not graded as they are learning the information, but after the learning has occurred. Students need to have enough “practice” in order to be successful.

Principle 5 - Avoid Grading Based on (Mean) Averages.

When reporting student progress on a standard, teachers can use any and all evidence to gauge a student’s progress. Averaging and algorithms are unnecessary in reporting whether or not a student has mastered a standard.

Principle 6 - Focus on Achievement, and Report Other Factors Separately.

Students’ achievement should be the only aspect included in their grade. Students’ math grades will reflect their math achievement. However, their habits and responsibilities during math will be reported separately.

Our goal is for you to see these principles in action as we embark on our standards-based grading implementation journey together. Stay tuned for additional communications and feel free to visit our [Standards-Based Grading Guidebook](#) for further information.

Thank you,

Dr. Brian Bullis
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Fremont School District 79