



# FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT 79

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*Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Learning*

September 13, 2019

Subject: Determining Grades

Dear Fremont School District 79 Families:

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

Despite the efforts of educators across the globe for many decades, there is simply no perfect method to determine grades. Absent of perfection the goal shifts to doing all that we can to maximize objectivity and report grades as accurately and clearly as possible.

As content areas in FSD79 begin shifting to standards-based grading and reporting these courses will define 4-6 strands to report out academic achievement. The respective standards for each course will be grouped according to these strands.

There are no set number of data points that teachers must use to effectively measure performance on a standard or strand. It is important that students have multiple opportunities over time to demonstrate their growth and achievement. We recognize that students learn in different ways and at different paces and our teachers design their instruction and assessment to account for these differences.

We believe the most recent evidence of student learning should not be penalized by earlier attempts in learning. We should focus on the student's level of progression to communicate their current status. A grading model that calculates decaying weights, which gives greater weight to recent measurements, is preferred to averaging grades. Ultimately, the teacher's professional judgment is the most important component of grade determination.

When determining academic grades we also believe that intrinsic motivation outweighs extrinsic motivation and grades should not be a compliance tool. We want students to be motivated by progressing through their standards and not for other ulterior reasons. We believe extra credit should not be allowed because it can mask actual student growth and achievement.

Our goal is to report learning as accurately and honestly as we can in our standards-based grading environment. If you have questions regarding the calculation or methodology of a grade your child receives please reach out to their teacher for more information.

Thank you,

Dr. Brian Bullis  
Assistant Superintendent of Learning  
Fremont School District 79