



FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT 79

Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Learning

November 22, 2019

Subject: Determining Grades Using Progress Instead of Attainment

Dear Fremont School District 79 Families:

This is the eighth 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.

“Is my child meeting expectations in their math class?”

Before we can answer that question we first need to answer the important question of whether we are talking about the student’s expected progress towards meeting a standard or the student’s actual attainment of that standard.

In FSD79 we determine academic grades using a progress/benchmark approach as opposed to solely an attainment approach.

What does this mean?

What this means is that we measure student growth in regards to where students are in a given point in time in their progress. For example, if the class is not at a point where a student would be expected to fully meet a standard yet we are not measuring them against that completed standard. If a student is on track and right where they should be in order to eventually meet expectations for a standard for a specific marking period that is a 3 (“Meeting Expectations”), not a 2 (“Approaching Expectations”), in our reporting. This is in the same spirit of a traditional grading system where we would not mark a student as a D or F throughout the year until they reached the end of the year and fully attained a standard which then may result in an A or B.

A student should be considered “meeting” a particular standard at a particular time based on where the teacher would expect them to be related to that respective standard. This does mean that a student could be considered “meeting” a standard at one point in the year and not meeting that same standard later in the year if they did not continue to progress toward the year-end standard.

Both approaches (progress and attainment) have merit. We believe grading students based on progress does more to accurately report and celebrate their growth.

Thank you,

Dr. Brian Bullis
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Fremont School District 79