

Standards-Based Grading

Purpose

There are many different purposes for grading. Grading communicates student achievement to students, parents, and others. It provides information for students, so they can self-evaluate and plan learning goals. Sometimes grades are used to select, identify, or group students for certain educational programs. Grades have been used to provide incentives for students to learn. Grades are also a way to document student performance in order to evaluate the effectiveness of an instructional method or program.

Standards-Based Grading Practices

Standards-based grading practices differ from traditional grading practices in the following ways:

Standards-Based	Traditional
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directly related to standards• Achievement only• From summative assessments only• Recent information only• Uses current learning trend• Individual• Derived from quality learning assessments• Clear Targets.....all aspects discussed with and understood by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usually related to assessment methods• Mix of achievement, attitude, effort, and behavior• From formative and summative assessments• From formative and summative assessments• Everything marked included• Often includes group marks• Huge variation in assessment quality• Teacher decided and announced

Formative and Summative Assessments

Within a standards-based system, both formative and summative assessments are used but have different purposes.

Formative Assessments	Summative Assessments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used to guide instruction for individual students or for a whole class• Introduce criteria, allow for feedback, self-assessment, and guided practice• Focus on individual or group learning• Informal observations, quizzes, homework, teacher questions, worksheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used to make a decision about student learning at the end of a period of instruction• Are based on known criteria• Focused on individual student performance• Formal observation, tests, projects, reports