

Mabank ISD
Standards-Based Grading
Frequently Asked Questions

What is standards-based grading?

Standards-based grading sets expectations or state standards and communicates student progress toward meeting those specific academic standards to parents, students, and educators.

What is the goal of standards-based grading?

The primary goal of SBG is to better communicate what each student knows and is able to do according to state content standards and separately assess the influence of positive and consistent work habits on student learning.

What should be included in the grade?

Only assessments that measure what a student knows and can do shall be included in calculating the grade. Please remember, assessments include more than just tests; assessments could also include end of unit projects, multi-media, papers, oral assessments, essays, journals, labs, and portfolios.

What is the difference between formative and summative assessments?

***Formative assessment** is done while students are still learning. Formative assessments are instructional activities designed to allow students to develop content knowledge and/or practice content skills. This may include homework and daily practice but it can also be as simple as the teacher observing and interacting with the student. The teacher in turn will modify and adapt their instruction to better teach the student.*

***Summative assessment** is the process of evaluating and grading the learning of students at the end of a unit or instructional period. This may include tests, research papers, essays, projects, or portfolios. The summative assessment should reflect the formative assessments that precede it. The following chart denotes how formative and summative grades will be weighted for term averages.*

Campus	Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
Mabank High	30%	70%
Mabank Junior High	30%	70%
Mabank Intermediate	40%	60%
Central, Lakeview, and Southside Elementary		100%

What about non-academic factors?

Course grades will reflect the level of the student's academic achievement. While non-academic factors may be valuable, they will be communicated separately from the academic course grade.

Non-academic factors attendance, attitude, punctuality, and effort. All of these are considered to be behaviors and will be reported separately.

How will late work be handled?

The zero will be used only as a last resort when a student chooses not to complete assigned work.

When calculating a zero into a student's grade, it has a very dramatic impact on a student's grade and rarely demonstrates a student's level of understanding. Supports are in place to ensure students are provided ample opportunities to reach and demonstrate mastery of academic standards.

What is meant by new evidence replaces old evidence in regards to summative assessments?

Re-assessment opportunities will be provided on identified summative assessments. Prior to any re-assessment, it is expected that students will complete additional learning activities. The purpose of a re-assessment shall not be based solely for the purpose of bringing up a grade, but rather, is intended to provide additional opportunity to demonstrate understanding. The new evidence of understanding will replace the previous evidence or grade.

Why do the Kindergarten and 1st grade report cards look different?

Kindergarten and 1st grade are implementing true standards-based report cards. The report card sets expectations and communicates student progress toward meeting those specific academic standards to parents and students.

The Kindergarten and 1st grade standards based report card provides detailed information about a student's academic performance on multiple points of reference instead of one grade.

What performance indicators will be used on the Kindergarten and 1st grade report card?

The MISD teachers and campus principals decided to utilize a 4,3,2,1 performance scale to communicate the level of mastery for each descriptor on the report card.

4	<i>Mastery</i>	<i>Exhibits mastery of skill/concept consistently all the time.</i>
3	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Exhibits mastery of skill/concept most of the time with minimal guidance.</i>
2	<i>Minimally proficient</i>	<i>Exhibits skill/concept with direct teacher guidance inconsistently</i>
1	<i>Not proficient</i>	<i>Student is unable to exhibit skill/concept</i>

How are grades determined for Kindergarten and 1st grade?

Students' scores are derived from teacher observations and assessments. The criteria for determining performance are outlined in teacher developed rubrics for each descriptor on the report card. Math and Reading Specialists are in the process of developing multiple assessments for each element. A student has not met a standard until they have consistently provided evidence in a variety of assessments.

Are the 9 week performance indicators averaged at the end of the semester and school year?

No, grades focus on the end of the year goals for each grade level. As performance goes up or down the grades are changed to reflect the new level of mastery. Grades are based on the level of achievement the student attained at the end of the teaching cycle for each standard.

Parents can see which standards students have mastered and which ones they need more work on in reading, composition, and math.

How are student behaviors and level of responsibility graded?

Student behaviors and level of responsibility are considered to be non-academic factors. Both are considered to impact a student's achievement and will be monitored each 9 week grading period with the same 1-4 performance scale by the following standards.

Student Responsibilities
Strives for quality work/shows positive attitude toward learning
Follows directions
Works independently, completes work, stays on task
Organizes self, materials, and belongings
Participates appropriately in group activities
Respects adults, peers, school property
Takes risks to attempt new tasks
Listens attentively without interrupting
Makes appropriate transitions

For additional information about K-1st grade report cards please click on the Kindergarten and 1st grade scoring rubrics, draft report cards, and teacher PPT presentation located at www.mabankisd.net and click on the Standards Based Grading tab.