



Standards-Based Grading at WMS

At Wheeler Middle School, we work diligently to provide a high-quality standards-based education for all our students. We use leading academic research to evaluate our practices and inform school-wide improvements and initiatives. All of this is to ensure the realization of our Wheeler Middle School mission *to ensure success for every student*.

As part of providing a standards-based education for our students, we will also be implementing grading practices that more closely align with standards-based grading philosophy. In this document, we outline how this looks at Wheeler Middle School.

Standards-based grading practices are utilized to assess student performance on academic standards. According to this system, students are graded on a 4-point scale to indicate the level of standards mastery that a student has achieved. A score of a 4 indicates that the student is *exceeding proficiency*; a score of a 3 indicates that the student is *meeting proficiency*; a score of a 2 indicates that the student is *approaching proficiency*; a score of a 1 indicates that the student is *well-below proficiency*; and a score of a 0 indicates that there is insufficient work to evaluate student performance. On student assignments, teachers will indicate grades with a score from zero to four. Sometimes this grade will be reported to the ones place value (i.e. 4, 3, 2, 1, 0); other times, it will be reported to the tenths place value (i.e. 3.5, 2.4, etc.).

In the school's online grading platform (Infinite Campus), teachers will input student assignment scores on a four-point scale. However, please note that, when outputting student grades for each class, Infinite Campus will use these numbers to compute a percent grade for each class. At the end of each quarter, these percents are then converted into a letter grade. The table below summarizes the correlation between these grading scales.

WMS Grading Scales			
Letter Grade	Standards-Based Range	Proficiency Meaning	Percentile Range
A	3.5 - 4.0	Exceeding Proficiency	87.5% - 100%
B	3.0 - 3.499...	Meeting Proficiency	75% - 87.499%
C	2.5 - 2.999...	Approaching Proficiency	62.5% - 74.999%
D	2.0 - 2.499...	Approaching Proficiency	50% - 62.499%
F	Below 2.0	Well Below Proficiency	Below 50%

If we can help clarify this grading system, please let us know. We would be happy to do so. Please note that this grading scale applies to the core classes (ELA, Social Studies, Math, and Science).

*Please see **Frequently Asked Questions** on the following page*



Frequently Asked Questions

When will I see grades reported on a four-point scale?

Whenever students received graded work from their teachers, the score will be reported on a four-point scale.

When will I see grades reported on a percent scale?

The online grading platform (Infinite Campus) will always compute a weighted average of student assignment scores in order to report a student's class grade. So, a student's overall grade in a class will be reported on a percent scale.

How will I know how my student performed on an assignment if s/he scored, for example, 2.7 on an assignment?

Using the table on the previous page, you can see that a score of 2.7 falls within the range of 2.5-2.999. This means that a student is *approaching proficiency* on that assignment and is not yet proficient at the standards assessed. If you are interested, you can convert that score to a percent-basis by computing $(2.7 \div 4) * 100 = 67.5\%$. These scores correlate to a grade of a "C".

I noticed that my student can get an 88% in a class and still earn an A. Is this grading scale easier than a percent-based grading scale?

This is a common misconception that arises when converting standards-based grades from a four-point scale to a percent scale. The reason is best illustrated with an example. If a student earns a grade of 3 on an assignment, that indicates the student *meets proficiency* on the standards being assessed. When a student meets a standard, that corresponds to a "B". However, if you were to convert this score to a percent, $(3 \div 4) * 100 = 75\%$. Many schools that exclusively use a percent scale interpret a 75% to equate to a "C" rather than a "B", which leads some people to incorrectly conclude that a four-point scale is a less rigorous grading scale. However, the conversion of four-point standards-based grades to a percent scale actually deflates student grades (as shown in this example). Therefore, the expanded range of 12.5% for each proficiency band is designed to accommodate this conversion. Rest assured that teachers at Wheeler Middle School have high standards for student achievement.