

Cedar Falls Community Schools Standards-Based Performance Reports

Purpose Statement:

To increase communication about students' achievement to parents and to create a more consistent curriculum between teachers throughout the district.

What is a standards-based performance report?

A standards-based performance report lists the most important standards students should learn in each subject at a particular grade level. Instead of letter grades, students receive marks that show how well they have mastered the skills **within** those standards. These performance reports give students and parents specific information about how they're doing and pinpoint areas in need of improvement.

What is the purpose of a standards-based performance report?

The purpose of standards-based grading is to align grading practices with the essential skills and concepts by more accurately measuring and reporting students' proficiency. This information can guide and direct the teacher in planning instruction for students. Parents and students will also have a clearer understanding of expectations by grade level.

Additionally, standards-based performance reports:

- Keep the focus on learning
- Show specific proficiency towards established essential skills and concepts within Iowa Core Standards
- Align with common formative and summative assessments
- Align with PLC focus:
 1. What do we want students to know?
 2. How do we know if they have learned?
 3. What will we do if they have not learned? (Intervention)
 4. What will we do if they already know? (Enrichment)

Why change from single letter grades?

Reporting on student progress toward essential skills and concepts within the standards gives students, teachers, and families **specific** information describing how well a student is performing towards grade-level learning expectations. This increases the effectiveness of communication.

Focusing on a student's performance over multiple opportunities and not simply on an average of tests and quizzes portrays a clearer picture of what a student actually knows and can do.

“A single letter grade or a percentage score is not a good way to report student achievement in any subject area because it simply cannot present the level of detailed feedback necessary for effective learning.”