



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
220 LOCUST STREET
WASHINGTON, MO 63090
636-231-2000 ~ 636-239-3315 FAX

Dr. Lori VanLeer,
Superintendent
Mr. Dan Contarini
Board President

Dr. Judy Straatmann, *Asst. Superintendent* ~ Dr. Brendan Mahon, *Asst. Superintendent* ~ Dr. Rachael Franssen, *Asst. Superintendent*

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At the School District of Washington it is our mission to continually look for ways to improve processes and procedures enabling us to provide the best possible education to our students. With that goal in mind we are excited to announce that this year, in order to improve student mastery reporting, the SDOW will begin the implementation of standards based progress reporting. Reporting mastery of skills gives students a better understanding of what they understand and have accomplished thus changing the focus to learning skills rather than on getting a particular letter grade. Likewise, parents will have a clearer picture of their child's learning.

The desire to provide a more accurate picture of student learning led the district to do an in-depth study of how we are currently providing students and parents with information regarding the learning of curriculum. The study led us to find a more effective manner in which we can provide students and parents with more specific information on how students are scoring on each standard/skill students are expected to learn at each grade level.

Due to this being an arduous process, the change to standards based reporting will only occur in Kindergarten and First Grade during the 2015-2016 school year. Grades 2-6 will change over to this format in the next few years.

To reflect a more accurate picture of your student's ability there are several principles teachers are following:

1. *Grades will be based on clear standards.*

Standards from the district adopted curriculum will be used to measure student success.

2. *Evidence used for grading content will be valid.*

Only evidence based on the standard will be included in the grading of a specific skill. In the past, practicing a skill was included in the grade. Turning in homework or not was also included in the grade. Both of these practices do not give an accurate reflection of what a student can do academically. For example, I take three math tests on adding numbers 1-10 and get 100% on each test, but I do not turn in my homework and get a zero. If these scores are averaged, it looks like I am only 75% proficient in knowing my addition facts to 10, when actually, I know 100% of the facts. On the other hand, I am 0% successful turning in homework. These are two separate skills.

3. *Non-academic indicators to assist in understanding the whole child will be reported separately from academic reporting.*

In the example above, I do not turn in my homework successfully. That is really important for the parent to know. Teachers will be communicating the fact that I am not turning in homework via a phone call, e-mail, or note, but it will not be included in my math grade. Basically, behavior and responsibility will be reported separately from academic curriculum standards.

In order to help you have a clear understanding of the change in reporting mastery of skills, a Parent Q & A, Grade Level Standards, and Rubrics have been posted to our district website at www.washington.k12.mo.us.

The School District of Washington is committed to providing your child with an exceptional education where teachers ignite the passion for learning in all of our students. As we strive to continually improve, we appreciate your support. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the school principal.

Respectfully,

