



In proficiency grading, student grades reflect mastery of state standards using a scale of 1 to 4. State standards describe the things students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of the school year. They can also be thought of as learning goals.

Elementary progress reports show a sample of state standards in different subject areas, such as math, science, reading, writing and others. An example of a second grade math standard is, "Add and subtract two-digit numbers quickly and accurately."

Because state standards are year-end learning goals, students are not expected to achieve grades of 3 or 4 until the end of the year. It could take a full year of instruction to learn and master the concepts described by a state standard.

Similarly, grades of 1 and 2 are expected at the beginning of the year, and do not mean a student is failing.

Proficiency grades only reflect student progress in academics. Classroom behavior, effort, homework performance, tardiness, etc., are still important factors in student performance, and are graded on a separate scale.

Three Reasons for Proficiency Grading:

It shows student KNOWLEDGE

Proficiency grades show how much a student has learned in relation to an end-of-year grade level standard, and what they have yet to learn.

It shows student GROWTH

Proficiency grades show the student's growth toward achieving a grade level standard. Grades increase as students increase in mastery of a subject.

It helps students LEARN!

Proficiency grading helps teachers identify gaps in learning and focus on areas where a student needs more instruction.

Typical Progression of Student Scores:

First Progress Report

1-2

Second Progress Report

2-3

Third Progress Report

3-4

Proficiency Scoring Scale: A grade of 3 indicates a student is proficient, or has met the standard.

4	Exceeds proficiency at grade level
3	Proficient at grade level
2	Developing at grade level
1	Limited proficiency at grade level

This scale shows academic proficiency levels.