

Standards Based vs. Traditional Report Card



DISTRICT 128

How Are Report Cards Different



SBR

- Subject areas, such as reading and math, are sub-divided into standards which identify what a child is expected to know and be able to do

Traditional

- Grades are given for each subject area, such as reading and math

How Are Grades Determined?



SBR

- Grades reflect the level of proficiency on various standards for each subject area
- Students' level of proficiency is based on summative assessments
- Proficiency levels reflect rubrics aligned to grade level standards. As performance increases grades reflect the new level of mastery.

Traditional

- Grades reflect an averaging of scores to determine a percentage aligned to a letter grade
- Students' scores are derived from combining assignments, tests, quizzes, student behavior, effort, and attitude.
- Grades from one term are separate from another term.

What is the advantage to each type of grading system?

SBR

- Grades are based on the level of achievement the student attained at the end of the grading term for each standard
- Parents can see which standards students have mastered and which ones they need more work on in content areas
- Standards based reporting promotes greater consistency among teachers at the same grade level
- Homework completion and work habits are reported separately from mastery of concepts and skills

Traditional

- Most adults understand this type of grading system from their own experiences as students

What are the benefits of separating work habits from achievement?



SBR

- Both are assessed, but reported on separately. This provides a more accurate picture of a child's true achievement

Traditional

- When combined, grades can be overinflated and do not provide an accurate picture of a child's achievement

Curriculum & Instruction



SBG

- Curriculum and Instruction are learning focused – student centered and aligned to state standards

Traditional

- Curriculum and Instruction are teaching focused – teacher centered and may not be aligned to state standards

What are the disadvantages to this type of grading system?

SBR

- Change takes time. It will be important to build knowledge and understanding of everyone involved

Traditional

- Students are being scored on assignments before they have had sufficient practice to expect mastery.
- Grades can be raised by doing extra credit, which may inflate the grade without accurately reflecting what the student knows
- Giving a zero grade for missing assignments lowers a student's grade disproportionately; the grade then does not accurately reflect their knowledge

References



- Illinois State Board of Education (www.isbestandardsbasedreporting.com)
- O'Connor, K. (2009). How to grade for learning, k-12. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Publishing.