



The Martin County School District introduced in SY 2014-2015 “Standards Based Grading” (SBG) to grades 3 through 5. The District has been using a Standards Based Grading report card in grades K, 1, and 2 since the 2011-12 school year; thus, expanding SBG to grades 3, 4, 5 is a natural progression for upper elementary students.

What is Standards Based Grading (SBG)?

“Standards” describe what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level in all subjects, and the report card is designed to give parents more detailed information about how their children are progressing.

On the report card, parents will learn specifics about how their children are doing with grade level content. They will know whether or not their child is:

Meeting Expectations—meaning that the child has met grade-level standards,

Progressing Toward Expectations —meaning that the child is approaching or progressing toward meeting the grade-level standards, or

Not Meeting Expectations—meaning that the child has not yet met the standards.

Blank—not yet assessed; however, all grade level standards will be assessed by the end of the school year.

The report card also provides information concerning student work habits, conduct, and attendance.

How often will parents receive information about their child’s progress?

Report cards will be sent home four times a year according to published dates.

Why change from Traditional Grading to Standards Based Grading?

With the new Florida Standards in full implementation, we need an effective way of measuring and assessing these standards and reporting progress.

Compare the two methods:



Standards Based	Traditional
Measures students' progress toward learning goals	An "average" of student assignments: percentage based grading scale
Gives useful information to drive instruction and support student progress	Vague: What does 85% mean? 85% of what?
Keeps the student and learning as the focus	Focuses on the teacher and what has been taught instead of what the student actually learned
Gives multiple opportunities for meeting standards	Assessment-based: one shot assessments, either the student knows or doesn't know
A student has until the end of the school year to meet standards	A student who masters standards more quickly is rewarded with higher grades. A student who needs more time risks falling farther behind.
Objective measure of learning	Subjective measure of compliance



Is Standards Based Grading new to the Martin County School District?

No. The Martin County School District has been using a Standards Based Grading report card in grades K, 1, and 2 since the 2011-12 school year. Expanding SBG to grades 3, 4, 5 is a natural progression for our students.

How has Standards Based Grading been received by students, parents, and teachers in grades K, 1, and 2?

There has been positive feedback from parents and teachers of students in grades K, 1, and 2 since Standards Based Grading was implemented in 2011-12.

Have grades K, 1, and 2 been using the "M, P, and N" grading designation or is this new?

Yes, the "M, P, and N" grading designations have been used in grades K, 1, and 2 since the 2011-12 school year.

Is the use of Standards Based Grading a state or federal mandate?

No, this is a local district-level decision designed to provide parents with more detailed information about their child's progress in school.

What are other K-12 school districts in Florida doing?

A number of other school districts in Florida are currently using or are moving toward using Standards Based Grading, including our neighboring districts of Palm Beach, Indian River, and St. Lucie (K, 1, and 2). Okeechobee County is not using SBG.