# Sahuarita Unified School District

## Elementary Standards-Based Grading Scale

# Informational Guide for Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Staff



### > Purpose of Standards-Based Grading:

The purpose of standards-based grading is to improve student achievement by focusing instruction and alignment of curriculum with Essential Standards. The standards-based report card supports best practices in our classrooms and reflects the link between standards, instruction, and curriculum/assessment in the elementary grade level span.

The new report card supports the following:

- Clearly shows the student and parent whether the student is achieving grade level standards.
- Is based on the student's progress toward becoming *proficient* in a continuum of knowledge and skills.
- An assurance that the student's academic grade reflects his/her academic performance.
- Behavioral performance is reported separately.

#### > Standards-Based Grading Best Practices:

- 1. Only include scores that relate to the achievement of the standards:
  - Ensure that questions are tied to Essential Standards to verify that assessments measure what is intended.
  - Data collected on non-academic factors (effort, participation, attendance, attitude, late work, etc.) should be reported separately.
  - Base grades/scores on individual achievement not group scores.
- 2. Use a variety of assessment methods to collect high quality, organized evidence of achievement:
  - Provide students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate they have acquired the knowledge or skill expected with proficiency on a standard.
- 3. Use grading and assessment procedures that support learning:
  - Gather evidence using quality assessments.
  - Communicate with students and parents using a standards-based grading/reporting system.

#### ➤ What do the report card Performance Indicators mean?

#### **Standard and Expectation Performance Indicators Key**

		Student consistently grasps, applies, and extends key concepts, processes, and skills.
		Works <i>beyond</i> standards and expectations.
4	Exceeds	<ul> <li>Evidence of a Depth of Knowledge (DOK) that demonstrates mastery and that the student has exceeded the grade level standard.</li> <li>Extended thinking: In addition to exhibiting level 3 performance, student's responses demonstrate in-depth inferences and applications that go beyond what was taught in class.</li> </ul>
		Works consistently and accurately at higher grade level standards.
		Student grasps and applies key concepts, processes, and skills. <i>Meets</i> standards and expectations.
3	Meets	<ul> <li>Student's responses demonstrate no major errors or omissions regarding any of the information and/or processes at the appropriate level of expectations.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Depth of Knowledge (DOK) includes: Recall, Basic Application, and Limited Strategic Thinking.</li> </ul>
		Student is beginning to grasp and apply key concepts, processes, and skills. <i>Approaches</i> standards and expectations.
2	Approaches	<ul> <li>Evidence of a Depth of Knowledge (DOK) that demonstrates the student has not yet achieved the standard or is approaching the standard.</li> </ul>
		Student is not grasping key concepts, processes, and essential skills. <i>Area of concern</i> .
1	<b>Does Not Meet</b>	Student produces limited evidence of meeting grade level standards. More time and practice are needed to help improve understanding of concepts and skills.
NA	Not assessed at this time.	

#### > Simplified Version of a 4 Point Grading Rubric:

# Score: 4 The Da Vinci Code is ELEMENTARY compared to what I know!



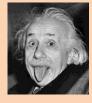
I am confident and understand this information! I know all of this information and more, so much so that I could teach it to others!

Score: 2
Historian in Training



I know most of the information taught. I can discuss the information, but with minor errors. However, if I could use my notes, I am confident I would do well. I am almost there.

Score: 3
I'm an Einstein...I got this!



I am confident that I understand the information and can discuss or apply it with accuracy.

Score: 1
It's all GREEK to me!

Even with help, I don't understand or cannot discuss the information taught.

- http://www.marzanoresearch.com/resources/proficiency-scale-bank
- http://www.azed.gov/azccrs/