



**Shorewood**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Curriculum and Instruction Office**

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**RE: REPORT CARD GRADING UPDATES**

Hello Parents/Guardians,

This communication is to share information about changes to the **grading achievement key** on report cards that will go into effect this school year.

In previous years, students in 5th and 6th grade were graded on performance in relation to standards and content using letter grades (see the previously used achievement key below).

A = The student has demonstrated exemplary understanding of the required knowledge and skills.  
B = The student has demonstrated most of the required knowledge and skills.  
C = The student has demonstrated some of the required knowledge and skills.  
D = The student has demonstrated some of the required knowledge and skills in a limited way.  
U = The student has not demonstrated the required knowledge and skills.

**Beginning this trimester**, letter grades will not be used to indicate student achievement and progress. Instead, numbers with a corresponding indicator will be used to communicate student achievement and progress (see the new achievement key below).

4 = Exceeds expectations - student demonstrates an exemplary knowledge and mastery of skills measured  
3 = Secure/proficient - student demonstrates a clear understanding and mastery of skills measured  
2 = Developing - student demonstrates a developing understanding and mastery of skills measured  
1 = Beginning - student demonstrates a limited understanding and mastery of skills measured

This change brings alignment to the language used to indicate student performance in relation to knowledge, standards, and skills used on report cards in K-4th grade (see K-4th grade achievement key below).

SC = Secure - Responses are clear and correct. Child demonstrates a thorough understanding of content and skill requirements.  
DV = Developing - Developing: Responses are correct when prompted or assisted. Child holds partial understandings that he/she has begun to demonstrate or communicate.  
BG = Beginning - Responses are incomplete. Child holds fragmented pieces of information but has difficulty communicating or demonstrating an understanding of concepts or skills taught.

In addition to this change bringing alignment to the language used to indicate students' academic progress in grades K through 6, this change will help students and parents/guardians have a clear understanding on student progress in key learning areas using language that is consistent with how student progress is measured in earlier grades. This change also supports future plans (in 2025) for a systemic shift to the use of standards-based grading across the District. Please see this [Standards-Based Grading](#) resource for a more in depth explanation of how this shift aligns with Expeditionary Learning tenets of practice for assessing student mastery of content, standards, and skills.

More information will be provided in the coming days to share more about the benefits of this change and how it will help teachers, staff, students, and parents/guardians better understand details about student progress.

With joy and gratitude,



Sam Coleman  
Director of Curriculum and Instruction