



Date: September 29, 2021
Update: Grade 4 and 5 Report Cards

Dear TUSD Families,

In order to allow time for families to understand and transition to Standards based grading for grades 4 and 5, TUSD will be using the past standards and letter grade report card for the first trimester. Teachers will have the option to report Standards Rubric Marks and letter grades or Standards Rubric Marks only for the first trimester.

TRACY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

At the beginning of the 2021-22 second trimester all grade 4 and 5 teachers will transition away from letter grade reporting to only Standards based grading and reporting.

*"The future belongs
to the educated"*

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Background:

During the 2020-21 school year, a group of dedicated 4th and 5th grade teachers from TUSD piloted the use of standards-based grades for 4th and 5th grade. This pilot highlighted a great number of benefits to shifting away from letter-based grading to standards-based grading. Some of the benefits from the pilot include supporting student growth mindset, increased opportunities to explore metacognition with students, the celebration of learning instead of celebrating a letter grade, a focus on essential standards, and many more. This grading practice allows for teachers and students to have meaningful conversations about the learning taking place and allows for student to have additional opportunities to show their mastery of standards. The grading practice was reported to increase fairness and equity in the learning process. The piloting teachers also report parents being very supportive of the grading practice. The pilot of this grading practice was discussed at Curriculum Council and the Curriculum Council made a recommendation to the TUSD Cabinet for approval. TUSD Cabinet approved the recommendation and a presentation was proved to the TUSD School Board for this practice to be adopted district-wide for grades 4 and 5. The TUSD School Board received a presentation from the piloting group that can be viewed here <https://www.loom.com/share/bf8d0e147c4946239452d49371aee6ac>. After providing this presentation to the board and the recommendation from Curriculum Council, and TUSD Cabinet approval, this practice is to begin for the 2021-22 school year, second trimester district-wide for 4th and 5th grade.

What does the change mean? This means that teachers will continue reporting a standards format as they have used below for all components of the report card and letter grades will no longer be assigned beginning in the second trimester.

Grades 4-5: Standards based report cards

- 1 beginning
- 2 progressing
- 3 proficient
- 4 exceeding proficient

Sincerely,

Julianna Stocking
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services
Tracy Unified School District