

Standards-Referenced Reporting

WHY IS DEER CREEK USING STANDARDS-REFERENCED REPORTING?

- Standards-referenced reporting is based on item response theory, which is a way to analyze student responses with the goal of improving measurement accuracy and reliability.
- Item response theory takes into account the number of questions answered correctly and the difficulty of the question. The SAT and GRE both use Item Response Theory for their tests.
- Deer Creek School District has currently implemented this grading system in grades PK-4. Full implementation for grades 5 and 6 will begin in the 2020-2021 school year. Within this system, student progress toward mastery is measured on the priority academic standards.
- Scores are based on the ability of a student to demonstrate content knowledge and skills, and will be a clear indication of what a student has learned.
- This system accurately reports student progress and learning in conjunction with the proficiency scales so that both teachers and students can describe what it means to be proficient. They will also be able to track progress on the proficiency scale and allow teachers to provide feedback that helps students improve their performance through the learning progression.
- This system allows teachers to be consistent in their grading practices and allows students to clearly understand how their grades relate to their learning.

HOW IS STANDARDS-REFERENCED REPORTING DIFFERENT THAN TRADITIONAL GRADING?

- Compared to traditional grading practices, where scores are generally averaged, this system more accurately represents learning progress towards mastery for specific priority standards.
- Unlike averaging, this system rewards students for their growth in knowledge and does not penalize them for not knowing information when they first begin to study a topic.
- Assessing the student's progress over time allows for feedback that is growth-minded and specific. This type of reporting also separates behavior and process standards from academic standards.