

Introduction

For mastery-based learning we select the most important academic skills students should be learning during our classes, and we grade students on their ability to demonstrate that they have learned, and can apply those skills, in our classes. Students are no longer graded based on a weighted average of their test scores, classwork, homework, behavior, and projects.

The What

To do this, we come up with Outcomes for each of our units. Outcomes are statements of learning targets based on The New York State Common Core Standards. They clarify what we want our students to know and be able to do after we have taught a unit. We base our outcomes on the standards a course addresses, and focus them on what we think are the most important, high leverage targets we should assess students on. Outcomes are academic skills that students need *both* class content and strategies taught in class in order to be able to show proficiency in. In summary, Outcomes are based on what students will *explicitly learn and do*.

The How

For each Outcome, the assignments and assessments we grade are each called Evidence, and we assess each piece of Evidence as “Not Yet Proficient” NY, “Approaching Proficient” AP, “Proficient” P, or “Highly Proficient” HP. If students do not complete an assignment they receive an M for “Missing.” Then, by the end of the unit or trimester, we give students one of those 4 ratings as their overall Rating for each of the Outcomes in the course. These Ratings in each specific Outcome then determine the overall letter grade a student receives for that Marking Period and then Trimester.

Ratings	Definition	Numerical Value
M	“Missing”	55
NY	“Not Yet Proficient”	56
AP	“Approaching Proficiency”	65-70*
P	“Proficient”	75-85*
HP	“Highly Proficient”	90-100*

*Actual value in Skedula is at the teacher's discretion but falls in the ranges shown above.

The numerical average on your child’s progress throughout the course can be found by accessing [PupilPath](#). Please note that on report cards parents and students will see a letter grade that reflects the ratings and numerical values mentioned above.

Letter Grades

There are many variables involved to produce a final letter grade. Our goal is to frame grades as giving students feedback about their learning in place of sorting them in comparison to their classmates. Therefore, after a student's final ratings on the outcomes for the marking period or trimester are translated into a percentage, they are then translated into a letter grade as follows:

90-100%	= A
80-89%	= B
70-79%	= C
65-69%	= D
0-64%	= F

Skedula will do all of these calculations and display them on the grading platform.

Other Grading Policies at BLA2

Students who have not mastered 65% of course Outcomes by the end of a trimester should receive a final grade of F

- Since the course curriculum includes spiraled review of content throughout the school year, in cases when students are able to demonstrate mastery of missing outcomes from the first or second trimester later in the year, this can be taken into account.
- If a student is able to demonstrate mastery on 65% or more of course Outcomes from the first or second trimester later in the year, the teacher can submit a grade change form to the student's guidance counselor. The teacher can change the student's grade from an F to a D (students who fail a course cannot receive higher than D by making up outcomes after the end of the trimester).
- Science Lab Grades
 - All Science courses that terminate in a regents exam will also require a separate lab grade for each student
 - Students may earn a Pass (P) or Fail (F) as their final lab grade