Grading the Future

The Illinois State Board of Education’s 2014 Student Advisory Council

Co-Chairs:
Danielle Segerstrom & Austin M. Hansen
Presentation Overview

Thesis:
- The ISBE SAC will explore the effects of grading scales from a sample of Illinois School Districts

Committees
- Standardize Test Scores vs Grades
- Standards Based Grading
- College Admissions
- Other States
Comparing Current Grading Methods with Standardized Tests

Brandy Brown, Richard Cunningham, Miles Healy, Colleen Madden
Grades vs. Standardized Test Scores

The percentage of students on honor roll, measured using traditional grading methods, does not correlate with the percentage of students meeting and exceeding on the PSAE.
Methods and Results

- Contacted 200+ public high schools in the state and requested junior class student enrollment and number of juniors on honor roll for the 2012-13 school year. Compared the percent of juniors on honor roll to the percent of students at each school that met or exceeded state PSAE standards for the same year.

- Received data from 175 public schools from across the state and utilized cohesive results in order to draw conclusions.

- Found that 70% of obliging schools had a variance of 8% or more between Honor Roll and PSAE percentages.
## Comparing Honor Roll and Test Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Randomly Selected High Schools</th>
<th>% of Juniors on HR</th>
<th>% Meet &amp; Exceed on PSAE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>51</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>47</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>49</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Standards Based Grading
Tyler Cozad, Kayla VonBurg, Destiny Alicea, Shelby Ireland
Standards Based Grading

- Traditional Grading Scales:
  - 100-90= A  89-80= B  79-70= C  69-60= D  59-Below= F
  - 100-93=A  92-85=B  84-77=C  76-70=D  69-Below=F
  - 5=A  4=B  3=C  2=D  1=F

- Standards-based grading involves measuring students' proficiency on well-defined course objectives. (Tomlinson & McTighe, 2006)
## Comparison Traditional vs Standards Based Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Grading Scales</th>
<th>Standards Based Grading Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Academic</td>
<td>• Do I know it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Attendance</td>
<td>• Can I do it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Participation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Effort</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Behavior</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Traditional Grading vs Standards Based Grading

### Traditional Grade Book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Homework Average</th>
<th>Quiz 1</th>
<th>Chapter 1 Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felicia</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Standards-Based Grade Book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Objective 1: Write an alternate ending for a story</th>
<th>Objective 2: Identify the elements of a story</th>
<th>Objective 3: Compare and contrast two stories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>Partially proficient</td>
<td>Proficient</td>
<td>Partially proficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill</td>
<td>Proficient</td>
<td>Proficient</td>
<td>Partially proficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan</td>
<td>Partially proficient</td>
<td>Partially proficient</td>
<td>Partially proficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felicia</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Proficient</td>
<td>Proficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda</td>
<td>Partially proficient</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Proficient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pros and Cons of Standards Based Grading

**Pros**
- “Level playing field”
- Objective grading throughout different classrooms
- Clearly determining if knowledge is understood and mastered

**Cons**
- Local control
- Mandates without funding
Changing the Grading System: Effects on College Admissions

Ernesto Alvarez, Mary Casino, Sabrina Flohr, Khushi Suri
Our Findings

Universities Supportive of Standards Based Grading

**Illinois Public Universities***

- Supportive 100%

* Based on input from all 12 Illinois public institutions

**Illinois Private Universities**

- Supportive 82%
- Hesitant 18%

**Obliging Universities**

** Based off of data collected from 63 responses out of 132 not-for-profit and for-profit private institutions contacted
The Illinois State Board of Education Student Advisory Council College Committee has concluded through extensive research and data analyzing all public colleges and universities in Illinois are accommodating of standards-based grading while private schools in Illinois are hesitant. We have inferred that this may be due to lack of information or change in traditional methods.

“I am truly all for a standard grading scale, so all students can be treated as fairly. A push for a uniform grading scale should be necessary to not only help college admissions, but the teachers preparing students for college life.”

— Todd Burrell, Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
Uniform Grading Scales in Other States

Hannah Auten, Thomas Rice, Morgan Rich, and Rhett Warner
Louisiana

- 68% of school districts in 2008 elicited composite ACT results within a range of 3 points
  - The apparent proximity of these scores suggests a widespread connection between districts as a result of the state-wide grading scale.
  - East Jefferson High School Counselor Gordon Stackle said, “The consistency throughout the state gives students a sense of stability and structure.”

Louisiana Grading Scale
A: 100-93 ; B: 92-85 ; C: 84-75 ; D: 73-67 ; F: 66-0
• When applying for lottery scholarships students’ grade point averages are converted to one grading scale.

• This puts all students on an equal playing field for receiving scholarships.

• After implementing the new scale, 30% of districts reported having more students qualifying for scholarships.
Presentation Review

- Inconsistencies
- Standards Based Grading is the Solution
- Colleges are on Board
- Uniform Scale
The Illinois State Board of Education’s 2014 Student Advisory Council’s Recommendation

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Student Advisory Council recommends that the State of Illinois should gradually adopt a statewide standards based grading scale.
Sources


