

Recommendations for Determining a Final Grade

Directions: As a team, discuss each of the following recommendations for reforming your team's grading practices. Consider the implications of each statement if applied to your redesigned grading practices.

1. Determine the final grade with attention to student understanding of the essential content learning standards as well as student growth in mathematical process standards.
2. Recent evidence of learning influences the final grade. Consider recent evidence as a stronger indicator of understanding than scores from earlier in the marking period.
3. When determining the final grade, resist the urge to average all scores together. The mean is sensitive to extreme values and may skew students' grades unfairly.
4. When utilizing a four-point proficiency scale for scoring, resist the urge to utilize half-point increments, such as a 2.5 or 3.5. Introducing half-point increments decreases the consistency of scoring among team members (Guskey, 2015).
5. Adjust the final marking period grade based on further evidence of student learning. Grades are only truly final at the end of the course.

As you adjust or overhaul your grading routines, it is important to work with your collaborative team to monitor the impact of those changes. Use the statements in this tool to guide your team's grading discussions. The responses to these prompts will help shape your team's continual improvement in grading routines over time.

Consider scoring student work by standard rather than collecting scores by assignment. This routine provides students with an accurate picture of what they have learned as well as the supports necessary to improve understanding. When calculating report card grades, consider *all* learning evidence, including both traditional assignments and formative feedback results. Engage in regular reflection as a team as you revise grading routines, so your team can fine-tune its new grading to meet its stated purpose for grading: *evidence of student learning for each mathematics standard in every unit of the grade level or course.*