

Standards-based Grading: Background/Timeline

2008-2009

- One high school teacher begins to experiment with standards-based grading as a result of learning about it at the Iowa Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference.

2009-2010

- A second high school teacher begins to move towards more standards-based grading based on conversations with the first teacher.
- A group of eight high school teachers choose to go through a ten-week study of articles focused on formative assessment and grading. (<http://tinyurl.com/scsdfasbg>)

2010-2011

- High school teachers who completed the study begin to implement changes to their grading and assessment practices.
- Two middle school teachers begin to implement changes to their grading and assessment practices.
- End of year: District establishes a study for 2011-12 that “stakeholders will analyze and study aspects of standards-based grading and reporting at all grade levels.”

2011-12

District study: “SCSD stakeholders will analyze and study aspects of standards-based grading and reporting at all grade levels.”

August

- Solon administrators hear Doug Reeves keynote emphasizing changing grading practices, “Leadership Focus: Doing the Right Things, Right Now” at School Administrators of Iowa conference. (pdf of slides: <http://tinyurl.com/82fczpw>)

October

- High school and middle school teachers discuss assessment and grading during professional learning time.
- High school teachers read and discuss “Making the Case for Standards-Based Grading” article online. (<http://tinyurl.com/mcfsbg>)
- Presentation to Lakeview teachers about ongoing discussions at middle school and high school. (video: <http://tinyurl.com/scsdsbqvideo>)

November

- High school teachers currently implementing changes to their grading practices share with colleagues during professional learning time.

December

- SIAC members learned about standards-based grading through presentation and discussion with administrators, teachers and students. (Dec. 8)

January

- High school teachers research articles and practitioner’s perspectives on homework, standards-based grading and assessment (Jan. 16).
- Middle school teachers discuss proposed grading guidelines (Jan. 16).
- ~~Board work session on standards-based grading (Jan 23)~~

February

- Board members learned about standards-based grading from administrators, teachers and students during a work session. (Feb. 6)

March/April

- Teachers continue to read articles, discuss proposed grading guidelines, and communicate with educators from other schools.
- Video and additional information posted on SCSD website
- Student survey (Week of March 26)

- Anonymous staff perceptions survey based on proposed grading guidelines (Week of April 2)
- SIAC sponsored parent/community forum (April 3)
- Proposed grading guidelines, implementation plan, survey data and other documents on board agenda as informational item (April 9)
- Board of education approves grading guidelines (May 14)

2012-13

First year of two year implementation.

- Professional learning at the middle school and high school focuses on implementing the grading guidelines.
- Middle school and high school teachers implement the grading guidelines with at least one of their classes by the beginning of the 4th quarter.

September

- High school principal led several parent information meetings.
 - Thursday, Sept. 20, 3 p.m.
 - Thursday, Sept. 20, 5 p.m.
 - Thursday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m.
 - Monday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.
 - Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7:30 a.m.
 - Sunday, Sept. 30, 7 p.m.

October

- Administration sends district-wide implementation update to parents.
- Teachers communicate reassessment policies and schedules with students as well as post them in their rooms and on their websites.

Summer 2013

- Middle school and high school teachers were paid to participate in an optional one day workshop focused on implementing the grading guidelines. This was in response to Spring 2013 teacher survey data.

Summer 2013

Board of Education commissions standards-based grading task force (comprised of teachers and administrators) with the purpose of “discussing each major theme from the board of education’s report and identifying specific outcomes within the board of education’s boundary conditions.”

This committee created a homework purpose statement:

Homework is any meaningful task tied to a learning target or standard and can come in a variety of formats. Homework can be an opportunity for stakeholders to identify strengths and continue to improve upon weaknesses

This committee also reconfirmed homework will not be a part of the final grade.

2013-14

SCSD 2013-14 District Goal:

“Provide support for continued implementation of Standards-Based Grading and reporting at all grade levels”

The following events, activities and resources were connected with our SBG support goal at the high school and middle school.

Date	Event	Activities, Artifacts and Resources
Summer 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 10 • June 19 • August 14 	Summer SBG workshop for HS & MS teachers (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers shared effective strategies implementing standards-based grading. • Teachers were provided additional time and support for implementing the grading guidelines.
August 9, 2013	SBG Task Force Meeting #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed each major theme from the board of education’s report and identified specific outcomes within the board of education’s boundary conditions. • Created wishlist in response to “What additional resources are needed to support a quality implementation of standards- based grading?”
August 12, 2013	Board of Education Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several SBG Task Force members shared “Summary of the Standards-Based Grading Teachers/Administrators Task Force Meeting”
August 20, 2013	First day of school: High School Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every HS student completed a rotation through stations where information was shared in a consistent manner with all kids. • Videos were recorded and posted to the high school website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Homework ○ Reassessment
August 20, 2013 and 1st week of new quarter	High School Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the start of every quarter, every HS teacher is required to send a copy of course syllabus outlining course expectations, SBG info, grading procedures, and reassessment procedures to parents.
August 29, 2013	High School Parent Advisory Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents worked with HS Principal to ask questions about HS experience • Information was shared on a variety of HS topics including SBG
October 9, 2013	SBG Task Force Meeting #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed August SBG Task Force report • Finalized updated PowerSchool/Parent Guide • Added additional wishlist items in response to “What additional resources are needed to

		<p>support a quality implementation of standards- based grading?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared for October 14 report to board of education
October 14, 2013	Board of Education Meeting: SBG Task Force Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawn Posekany and Matt Townsley shared "Standards-Based Grading Task Force Final Report"
October 30, 2013	High School Parent Advisory Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents worked with HS Principal to prioritize issues for discussion. • SBG was 1st priority • Established a timeline for discussion of the brainstormed topics at monthly meetings • Advisory report included in Admin Report to Board of Education
November 13, 2013	SBG Learning for New SCSD MS and HS Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathan Wear facilitated learning and discussion on standards based grading • Reviewed district grading guidelines • Teachers participated in holistic scoring activity. • Reviewed assessment/reassessment chart • Provided new teachers with a safe and supportive process for asking questions and receiving guidance.
November 14, 2013	Board of Education Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Townsley shared summary of supports related to district goal, "Provide support for continued implementation of Standards-Based Grading and reporting at all grade levels" during administrative report.
November 26, 2013	Email to all HS & MS parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Townsley sent "Fall 2013 Standards-Based Grading Update & PowerSchool Parent Guide" to all high school and middle school parents. This guide was also posted online.
December 9, 2013	Board of Education Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBG Task Force member, Nancy Trow, shared an update during public comment.
December 11, 2013	High School Parent Advisory Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents read through each of the district's grading guidelines • Parents developed questions that needed to be answered • High School Leadership helped answer additional parent questions

December 12, 2013	SBG Task Force Meeting #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created consensus around the specifics of wish list priorities for appropriate group to consider. Professional development recommendation to calendar committee for 14-15.
December 18, 2013	SBG Learning for New SCSD MS and HS Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers collaborated on using the 4 point grading scale to assess student learning Discussed final grade conversions Supported teachers to continue to develop rubrics prior to assessments Discussed how to support special education students in SBG
January 8, 2014	High School Parent Advisory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents read through each of the district's grading guidelines Parents attempted to answer questions based on Fall 2013 Parent Guide and PowerSchool Guide Drafted FAQ for approval at next meeting Parents encouraged having a spot on district's new website for information on SBG.
January 13, 2014	Board of Education Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matt Townsley shared "Standards-Based Grading Task Force Report – January 2014" as part of administrative report.
January 20, 2014	SBG Collaboration / Professional Development Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solon and Clear Creek Amana secondary teachers collaborate around standards-based grading at CCA High School.
January 20, 2014	SBG Grade book & Final Grade Conversion Group meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group of teachers and Matt Townsley meet to address two recommendations of SBG Task Force ("Explore additional reporting systems to complement PowerSchool" & "Establish a committee that will consider alternative ways of converting standards to a letter grade for 2014-15")
February 5, 2014	SBG Learning for New SCSD MS and HS Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers brought an example of a student's assessment and shared learning standards and rubrics Examined the grading guidelines again in regards to student assessment Teachers each shared example and group provided feedback
February 6, 2014	SBG Grade book & Final Grade Conversion Group meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group continues to discuss alternative ways of converting standards to a letter grade

February 7, 2014	High School students administered annual SBG survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used questions similar to previous year. • Students from Principal Advisory Committee drafted questions on homework and reassessments.
February 10, 2014	New SCSD website unveiled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBG information more prominently displayed on district website 
February 10, 2014	Board of Education Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Townsley shared information about upcoming student, teacher and parent surveys as part of administrative report.
February 26, 2014	High School Parent Advisory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents approved FAQ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Information will be shared with MS and HS parents • Shared information on how the SBG Task Force is working and how information can be shared with that committee.
March 10, 2014	Board of Education Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Townsley shares a draft of this timeline and communicates the next update will take place at the April or May BOE meeting.
Week of March 31	Parents and teachers complete standards-based grading survey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used questions similar to previous year.
April 3, 2014	SBG Grade book & Final Grade Conversation Group (sub-committee of SBG task force) meeting	<p>The committee was in agreement...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no system-wide changes for 2014-15 however limited pilots with administration approval will be permitted. Next year, teachers will share possible alternatives. • PowerSchool is an appropriate tool and that other tools are not worth pursuing in the immediate future.
April 14, 2014	Board of Education Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher from SBG Task Force shares end-of-year update. • Matt Townsley shares summary of parent, teacher and student surveys and an update of this timeline.

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