

**What efforts have been made for articulation with high school curriculum? What discussion have occurred with East Leyden regarding the District 81 grading system, common core state standards & the district 81 curriculum development?** Each year the Leyden High School department chairs organizes an articulation meeting between respective department chairs and a representative from each of the feeder schools. Additionally, Leyden Principals conduct articulation meetings with the Principals from each of the feeder schools.

**How is whether an “E” on grading in a class is available to each student for each standard?** Every measurement topic has a proficiency scale that outlines each level of understanding, including 4 (formerly the E)

**How is the student communicated to what can be achieved - is a 4 achievable for all proficiency levels?** The summative assessments provide opportunity for the student to show their level of understanding, which includes questions that focus on knowledge and skills at the level 4 on the proficiency scale for the measurement topic(s) being assessed. The students are also provided a grade sheet that outlines which questions were linked to the level 4(E), level 3(M) and level 2(MA) sections on the proficiency scales. Please refer to the third grade assessment example provided during the Community Information Night.

**What do you mean by “powering” standards?** Larry Ainsworth defines “power standards” as “prioritized standards that are derived from a systematic and balanced approach to distinguishing which standards are absolutely essential for student success from those that are “nice to know”. When School District 81 determined which standards to power, the standards were analyzed through three lenses: Endurance, Leverage and Readiness. First, *endurance was emphasized*, which carried with it the key question of “Will this standard or indicator provide students with knowledge and skills that will be of value beyond a single test date?” Second, *leverage was considered*, for which this question was asked “Will this provide knowledge and skills that will be of value in multiple disciplines?” Finally, *Readiness for The Next Level of Learning was considered*, for which we examined the question “Will this provide students with essential knowledge and skills that are necessary for success in the next grade or the next level of instruction?”

**Can you translate standards based report card to letter grade evaluations which are required for private high school & high school scholarships?** When School District 81 students have decided to apply to private high schools, School District 81 sent the needed report cards. The private high schools then determined the necessary translation required to interpret the grades based on the grade mark descriptors provided on the elementary school report card. There haven’t been any reported issues by private schools and/or the students applying regarding translating standards-based grades to match the criteria needed to apply to a private high school and/or for a high school scholarship.

**Requesting a copy of slides present?** A copy of the slides from the presentation can be found on the district website: <http://www.sd81.org/about/documents/CommunityInformationNight-GradingReporting.pdf>

**Even if PARCC is being implemented in 2014-2015 who will be the trial group in 2013-2014?**

There will be field testing of the questions. Here is a link to Frequently Asked Questions about the Field Test. <http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/FrequentlyAskedQuestionsabouttheFieldTest8-30-13.pdf>

**What accommodations are available in PARCC?** The accommodations available in the PARCC assessment will be defined by the documentation in a student's individual IEP or 504 plan. Additional information about specific accommodations on the PARCC assessment can be found in PARCC's manual; <http://ca539dfd55636c55e922-fd4c048d1c793e15a27f954b34a49d25.r49.cf1.rackcdn.com/PARCCFirstEditionAccessibilityFeaturesandAccommodationsManual.pdf>

**Address the question you did not, "A parent's role in guiding your child in the learning journey?"**

Teachers will be providing parents with a parent guide including information about the Common Core State Standards during parent teacher conferences. It was decided to distribute the information during this forum because the information is grade level specific. This would ensure parents were receiving relevant information regarding their child's grade level.

**The Superintendent said the students will be prepared for "Leyden H.S.". What if the child is going to attend a private school, will they be prepared?**

School District 81's goal and the goal of the common core is to prepare students for college and career. By teaching and assessing the common core state standards, students are being prepared for the world beyond our walls.

**How does this shift to common core help us understand what our children are earning/learning, for instance a letter M means nothing in a world of GPA.**

This shift to Common Core State Standards (CCSS) helps all stakeholders understand what students need to be learning. The CCSS provide clear expectations for school districts as to what students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade level. School District 81's units of instruction and assessments are designed to align with CCSS. As a parent looking at your child's report card, you will be able to see the "I can" statements listed within the Measurement Topics which very explicitly state the expectations of what a student should know and/or be able to do. A plus sign next to an "I can" statement indicates the student has achieved the defined knowledge and/or skills outlined. A minus sign next to an "I can" statement indicates the student has not achieved the defined knowledge and/or skills outlined. School District 81 has implemented the 4 point scale to replace the former marks of E, M, MA, IP and AW. The 4 has replaced the E, the 3 has replaced the M, the 2 has replaced the MA, the 1 has replaced IP, and the 0 has replaced AW.

**How does a non-letter grade system help a child know where they stand?**

Standards-Based Teaching, Learning and Assessment systems empower parents and students because they encourage teachers to be very explicit about what a student needs to learn in order to achieve a high level of understanding, which School District 81 has defined in each Measurement Topic's Proficiency Scale.

Standards-Based systems require teachers of the same grade level and across grade levels to engage in conversations about what constitutes the grade mark. The graded measurement topics and +/- marks next to the "I can" statements provide specific information about where the student stands with mastery of the standards outlined in each measurement topic.

**What high schools are able to interpret our current grade system?** East Leyden doesn't use or require feeder elementary school district to send student transcripts. Currently, East Leyden places a student in freshman coursework based on the student's performance on the Explore Test, which is subset of the ACT Test.

**What colleges will not have GPA? Do your 0-4 scores equate a GPA? What does any of this have to do with actual grades? Common core standards are meant to address content not meant to avoid a GPA system.**

School District 81's area of focus is K-8 education. One source of helpful information regarding GPA and uses of GPA in college applications can be found here:

<http://www.petersons.com/college-search/college-admission-requirements-gpa.aspx>

**What high schools are using our non-graded grading system?**

School District 81 does not have specific information regarding high schools that use standards based grading as our area of focus is K-8 education. Some schools that address standards based grading on its website include: Naperville North High School and Glen Ellyn School District 41.

**A move to this non-grade report card?**

The report card will include a grade for each measurement topic that was assessed during the trimester. Additionally, +/- marks will be placed next to the assessed "I can" statements to provide information to the parents and students regarding areas of achievement and areas where additional learning and work is needed by the student. The grade legend is included on the report card, which provides a performance descriptor for each of the grade marks on the scale (4-0).

**Will parents be notified of PARCC scores the same time as teachers?**

PARCC has not provided a specific timeline as to when scores will be available to parents and/or teachers, other than that the scores will be provided during the same school year that the test is administered.

**Does the compass learning site connect with the PARCC Assessment?**

Compass Learning does not connect with the PARCC assessment. However, Compass Learning is aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

**What is "explicitly taught"?**

"Explicitly taught" means the lessons and curriculum taught directly to the students by each teacher in the classroom.