

PRHS Family Grading Guide 2016-2017

What is a proficiency-based diploma?

By law, in order to earn a diploma in Maine, a student must demonstrate proficiency in the standards established by the state (the Maine Learning Results). **Standards** are descriptions of what students are expected to know and be able to do at a specific stage of their education. PRHS defines **proficiency** as achieving a score of 2.5 or higher on the standards. In addition, to get a diploma at PRHS a student must meet the graduation requirements set forth by the RSU 16 school board. These include earning 24 credits by passing a range of courses as outlined in the Course of Studies. **In practice, this means that for a student to earn credit for a course, a student must meet every standard in the course.**

What does it mean to “meet the standards” in a class?

Courses have 5-8 standards. Students are given several assessments to meet every standard in every class. Assessment grades are averaged to come up with the overall standard grade. (Teachers may choose to weight assessments differently.) A standard grade of 2.5 or higher is considered passing. Students do not have to pass every assessment to meet a standard, and homework is not counted toward the standard grade. Homework will be documented in the Habits of Work (HOW) standard. HOW grades will be used, in part, to determine eligibility for co-curricular activities. Each assessment will be assigned a grade according to the scale below.

Proficient	4	Exceeds the standard
	3.5	Exceeds the standard
	3	Meets the standard
	2.5	Meets the standard
Not Proficient	2	Partially meets the standard
	1	Does not meet the standard

How can I keep up-to-date on my child’s grades and make sure he/she is passing?

The most convenient way to know how your child is doing is to download the app for our online grade book, **JumpRope**. Your **JumpRope** account displays all of your child’s courses, standards, assignments and grades. (It also lists missing work!) The following page shows how to make sense of what you see on **JumpRope** and understand your child’s progress in his/her classes.

What does it take to pass a course and earn credit?

A student passes a course and earns credit by meeting each and every standard of that course with a 2.5 or higher. For the purpose of earning credit, HOW is not calculated in the course grade.

How is an overall course grade calculated?

Standard grades are averaged to determine the overall course grade. Our online grade book, **JumpRope**, does not display overall course grades. However, teachers know the course grade and can tell students and parents upon request. The rubric below describes the levels of achievement for course grades.

DS (Score range 3.7 - 4.0)	Distinguished: Student consistently exceeds the standards of the course. This means that student’s work includes complexity, sophistication, originality, depth, synthesis and/or application that clearly exceeds what would be expected to meet the standards in a range of assessments.
AD (Score range 3.2 - 3.6)	Advanced: Student has differing levels of success on course standards, but clearly demonstrates an inclination toward “distinguished” work on several standards in a range of assessments.
CO (Score range 2.5 - 3.1)	Competent: Student meets all the standards of the course. This means that student’s work shows fundamental knowledge and skills.
NC (Score range 1.0 - 2.4)	No credit: Student fails to meet one or more standards of the course.

Example Course and Standard Grades from JumpRope

NOT MEETING ALL STANDARDS = NOT PASSING COURSE

This example grade report shows the *course standards* for Math 4 and the student's *course standard grades*. The student is meeting three standards and is not meeting two — he has lower than 2.5 in them. Because he is not meeting all of the standards, he is currently not passing the course.



MEETING ALL STANDARDS = PASSING COURSE

This example grade report shows the course standards and course standard grades for another student in the same class. Because he is meeting all of the standards, he is passing the course.



If you have questions about grading and reporting, feel free to contact your child's teacher(s) or an administrator.

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