

Dear, Dr. Malchesky

The Perry Local Schools have always been doing well in the education department, and my family and I are proud to go to such a good school. Perry always has a high number of people with over a 3.5 GPA for such a small school. Also, Perry has a high number of students taking college classes and a high percentage of people graduating. So you would think if the school system is so successful then you wouldn't change anything. But recently we have started to use the standards-based grading system. Standards-based grading is a system in which you are being graded on how well you know the material and not what you score/percentage you receive on the assignment. Many students strongly dislike this grading system and feel like it is unfair to their grades and scores they receive.

Standards-based grading is one of the worst things to happen to the education system. Have you ever taken a test and had a 93 percent or "A" go in the grade book as a 75 percent or "C"? Well, I have because that's the way standards-based grading works. And if you want to get your test grade up to a 95 percent or "A" in the grade book, then you have to do correction/homework to be able to retake the test or a certain section of the test to get 1 or 2 questions right. And the same goes if you get a 72 percent or "C" on an assignment, it goes in as a 55 percent or "F" in the grade book. I'm not alone in my thoughts. In the article "The War on Grades Deserves to Fail" Jennifer Braceras lists several reasons as to why standards-based grading is ineffective and shouldn't be used. One of the reasons she lists is that it makes it harder to compare schools because the students' grade is based on their "mastery" of a topic or subject and not what they actually got on the assignment. This type of grading system also doesn't help students get ready for college, because you use points-based grading in college, and not standards-based grading. They talk about this in the article "Most High School Students Feel Unprepared for College, Careers" by Fermin Leal. There are several flaws in this grading system and it is just unfair to all the students that have to go through this.

To fix this mess that we have at Perry Local School, there is one thing we could do. The one thing we could do is go back to points-based grading and keep it how it was for as long as I can remember before they changed it to standards-based grading. If it's not broke don't fix it.

Leal, Fermin. "Survey: Most High School Students Feel Unprepared for College, Careers." Edsource, 3 Aug. 2015, <https://edsource.org/2015/survey-most-high-school-students-feel-unprepared-for-college-careers/83752>

Braceras, Jennifer. "The War on Grades Deserves to Fail." The Wall Street Journal, 13 Nov. 2018, http://perryservicelearning.weebly.com/uploads/1/5/8/8/15887170/wsj_war_on_grades.pdf