



BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRADING & REPORTING MYTHS vs. REALITY



Myth #1: Homework doesn't count anymore.

Reality: Homework is essential. If homework is given as practice, it will be scored, but not graded. If homework is an extended paper, project, or assignment given after instruction, practice, and feedback has occurred, it may be considered a factor in the achievement grade. Students will receive feedback on all assignments—including homework—to help them improve, and feedback and scores will be available in the BCPS One Gradebook. Timely homework completion is part of the report card grade for work completion, which is one of four grades for skills and conduct.



Myth #2: Students won't do homework if it's not graded.

Reality: In school systems that have made this transition, students are motivated by the rich feedback they receive on both graded and non-graded assignments. When students are responsible for mastering the learning objective, homework becomes one of many tools for practice. Students who choose not to complete homework give up the opportunity for feedback. Timely homework completion is part of the report card grade for work completion, which is one of four grades for skills and conduct.



Myth #3: Behavior doesn't matter anymore.

Reality: Behavior now counts more than ever. Teachers will use the BCPS Skills and Conduct Indicator Rubric to provide a grade on the report card for classroom conduct, work completion, working with adults, and working with students, on a scale from 0 to 3. The report card will also include absences and tardies.



Myth #4: When a student receives a grade of a zero, they learn to work harder.

Reality: Research shows that giving zeroes does not help students learn or work harder. Students respond to low grades by withdrawing from learning. Our job is to provide consequences for late or missing work that increase learning including giving students more than one chance to learn, and requiring that they make up the work with help. Teachers may use a 100-point grading scale or a 50-point grading scale. Not completing work will be recorded as part of the report card grade for work completion, which is one of four grades for skills and conduct.



Myth #5: It's not fair that my child received the same grade as a child who took longer to learn the material.

Reality: What matters is that your child and every other child in the classroom learns the content, and that every child has the chance to keep growing. Some children will need more time to learn the same content, while others will have the opportunity to go even further in their learning.



Myth #6: Report card grades will be based only on tests and quizzes.

Reality: Report card grades will be based on a body of evidence. The body of evidence may include assignments, presentations, products, observations, performance tasks, demonstrations of a skill, works of art, labs, assessments, quizzes, unit assessments, and end of course assessments.