

## Letter Grades at 3-5?



### 1. Which grade is your child(ren) enrolled in this year?

		Response Percent	Response Count
3rd Grade		44.4%	64
4th Grade		31.3%	45
5th Grade		35.4%	51

Comment 2

answered question 144

skipped question 0

### 2. On a scale of 1-5, what is your level of agreement on eliminating letter grades for students in grades 3-5 beginning the Fall of 2013?

	Not in Favor	Somewhat Not in Favor	Neutral	Somewhat in Favor	Totally in Favor	Rating Average	Response Count
	57.0% (81)	10.6% (15)	18.3% (26)	6.3% (9)	7.7% (11)	1.97	142

Comment 39

answered question 142

skipped question 2

3. What concerns or questions do you have if the DLT would decide to eliminate letter grades on the report card beginning next fall?

Response Count	
93	
answered question	93
skipped question	51

**Q1. Which grade is your child(ren) enrolled in this year?**

1	If I didn't have another one coming up I wouldn't care, my wife and I can live with one year of stupidity.	Nov 7, 2012 3:19 PM
2	dkdkdk	Nov 7, 2012 11:14 AM



**Q2. On a scale of 1-5, what is your level of agreement on eliminating letter grades for students in grades 3-5 beginning the Fall of 2013?**

1	I think it's best to have them learning the grading system before middle school.	Nov 26, 2012 11:19 AM
2	I have one child....super smart and loves to see how many As she received. On the other hand...I have another child who struggles and works her toosh off...and gets very discouraged and down when she sees a C.	Nov 21, 2012 10:28 AM
3	Why don't you treat us like we are educated and give us reasonings behind the changes proposed?	Nov 13, 2012 6:40 PM
4	I do NOT want to see the letter grades eliminated from the child's report.	Nov 11, 2012 9:18 AM
5	Very bad idea!	Nov 9, 2012 4:34 PM
6	I would hate it!!!!	Nov 9, 2012 4:10 PM
7	Don't quite understand the point. 1-4 is equivalent to A-D. If you included a 5 then you would have an F so why waste the time substituting letters for numbers?	Nov 8, 2012 11:28 PM
8	I think it is good for students to be introduced to the grade scale and 3rd grade is a perfect time to transition.	Nov 8, 2012 9:59 AM
9	depends on what the alternative is. 1-4 scale?	Nov 8, 2012 9:30 AM
10	I don't feel the benchmark is a good enough indicator of my childrens' progress in a certain subject.	Nov 8, 2012 8:51 AM
11	What is the alternative?	Nov 8, 2012 7:57 AM
12	There is not enough information to decide the answer to this.	Nov 8, 2012 7:35 AM
13	I don't think it achieves anything. My seminary eliminated letter grades in a similar way. I can guarantee an F, a NP or a 4 all feel the same.	Nov 8, 2012 7:00 AM
14	its a benchmark that is used in all upper grades	Nov 7, 2012 5:36 PM
15	Keep the letter grades.	Nov 7, 2012 5:07 PM
16	Why eliminate the letter grade? Doesn't it mean the same as the numbers?	Nov 7, 2012 4:49 PM
17	I do not like this idea of eliminating letter grades.	Nov 7, 2012 4:33 PM
18	I would be in favor of using the 1,2,3 & 4 rating system.	Nov 7, 2012 4:24 PM
19	consistent throughout building	Nov 7, 2012 4:09 PM
20	The grade is a grade it doesn't matter if it is a letter or a number it still has the same value in the end that is attributed to it.	Nov 7, 2012 3:48 PM
21	Letter grades visually set kids up for failure if they struggle in certain areas. Plants the seed of shutting down at a younger age.	Nov 7, 2012 3:40 PM
22	I think they still need that feel for how they are doing. They go back to that grade	Nov 7, 2012 3:22 PM

**Q2. On a scale of 1-5, what is your level of agreement on eliminating letter grades for students in grades 3-5 beginning the Fall of 2013?**

	scale in high school as far as I am aware. So why eliminate it.	
23	1=Excellent A=Excellent WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE. Stop worrying about hurting Johnny's feelings, you are not equipmenting them to survive in the real world after school.	Nov 7, 2012 3:19 PM
24	Letter grade is something you can measure. what does a number grade mean? What do you base it off of. Stupid idea	Nov 7, 2012 1:58 PM
25	I would like to know the pros and cons for both methods.	Nov 7, 2012 1:25 PM
26	To me, it makes little difference. Letter, number, character, they can all have similar meanings -its mostly semantic. If the school prefers a numbered perfomance report, then I support you.	Nov 7, 2012 1:15 PM
27	Why change something that isn't broken?	Nov 7, 2012 1:14 PM
28	I think the letter grade holds the child accountable for their education. Too much of the No Child Left Behind Crap!	Nov 7, 2012 12:57 PM
29	I would like to have both	Nov 7, 2012 12:25 PM
30	How many other schools does this? How do you explain to others who don't have this?	Nov 7, 2012 12:22 PM
31	I'd like to see arguments for both sides on this.	Nov 7, 2012 12:07 PM
32	I like the breakdown of the standards, but I still prefer the overall letter grade.	Nov 7, 2012 12:01 PM
33	absolutely disagree!	Nov 7, 2012 11:58 AM
34	I don't think it's a good idea because the kids look forward to getting A's and B's & doing well in school that I'm afraid if we take away the letter grade system it won't be as effective. Please explain to me how it is going to be better for the students and our children :-)	Nov 7, 2012 11:56 AM
35	Maybe only eliminate on extra cirricular courses like p.e. and art, giving pass or fail or satisfactory/nonsatisfactory grades.	Nov 7, 2012 11:45 AM
36	I am in favor of eliminating letter grades, as long as it eases the workload of the teachers and staff.	Nov 7, 2012 11:44 AM
37	5th graders need to be ready for middle school. Maybe for the 3-4 grades	Nov 7, 2012 11:44 AM
38	give them scores of based on mastery, hopefully we can take this through the MS and HS too	Nov 7, 2012 11:41 AM
39	dddddd	Nov 7, 2012 11:14 AM



**Q3. What concerns or questions do you have if the DLT would decide to eliminate letter grades on the report card beginning next fall?**

1	I think leaving it the way it is would be best. My son is very proud that he got straight A's for the first term ever being graded. The 1-4 system is ok for the younger children but at some point they need to have more than just a number. He is graded on all of his homework, so why would he get a number 1-4 and not a grade at the end of the term?	Nov 26, 2012 11:19 AM
2	As a parent, I am really on the fence. Either way. I think the benchmarks are great b/c they give a more precise idea of what the kids need to work on, and that's awesome! Example...Receiving a B- in math...ok. Good work, but what do we need to work on? Knowing it is in Time, or multiplication...lets us parents know where we need to put the extra time at home.	Nov 21, 2012 10:28 AM
3	My son recieved 1-B+ and the rest were A's, but he recieved all 3's on his bench marks. I do not believe 1-4 gives as accurate report as letter grades do. Will you have 3+ or 2- grades to be more precise?	Nov 20, 2012 1:38 PM
4	Will the kids have an understanding of letter grades when they get older and are closer to college? Letter grades make better sense than 3s and 4s.	Nov 18, 2012 10:23 PM
5	confusion for parents and teachers as to how their children are doing	Nov 18, 2012 11:06 AM
6	Mostly just in being able to understand the grading system. To know whether my child is doing well or not.	Nov 17, 2012 1:07 PM
7	an A is a goal and at third grade kids can understand that. And parents and grandparents can relate to thier progress.	Nov 15, 2012 8:30 AM
8	What is the difference between the 4 point scale and the 5 point scale?	Nov 13, 2012 6:40 PM
9	Would letter grades still be recorded in children's files? If the GLB is the only thing recorded in my child's file, I can support the change. It is just different and will take a bit of getting used to. It is an easy change for the students, just different for parents.	Nov 12, 2012 4:04 PM
10	I would like to know what the purpose is and how it benefits students.	Nov 12, 2012 1:30 PM
11	none	Nov 12, 2012 12:40 PM
12	My husband and I use the letter grade so we can see where our children are academically. I do not like them being assigned a 1,2,3 or 4 on if they are at their grade benchmark level. I feel that bench mark number does not give the parents enough information on if the student is succeeding or struggling. With the letter grade in which all parents are familiar with as this is what we grew up with, we know where our children are with their studies. In college entrance requirements students must supply the college with their High School GPA along with other test scores. Along with this when students apply for scholarships they must maintain a certain GPA to keep the scholarship. Why take the letter grades which goes hand in hand with the GPA away from the students? The sooner a student becomes familiar their grading system and it stays consistent through out their schooling they are more successful. It's like the school system introducing the kids to their assignment books in 3rd grade and continue to have them using them so when they get into middle school and high school they are	Nov 11, 2012 9:18 AM



**Q3. What concerns or questions do you have if the DLT would decide to eliminate letter grades on the report card beginning next fall?**

familiar with them and it "helps" them be a better student. I honestly think this is a step back and lower of expectations of students when we give them a bench mark number instead of a grade. This decision may help my husband and I decide if we will keep our children in the Oskaloosa public schools or open enroll them in another school.

13 how would the district help students and families transition into the grading at the middle school Nov 10, 2012 7:46 PM

14 I feel that the letter grades need to be in place to mark achievement and the numbers add to the explanation of personal strengths and weaknesses for each individual student. For what purpose would we eliminate the letter grades? Is it for those struggling? What about the students like my children who take pride in seeing the "A's" they receive for their hard work? They have been disappointed in the lack of marking their A +'s which they have earned? How does this system benefit them? Nov 9, 2012 9:13 PM

15 I think that for kids like mine, there is incentive to strive harder to get better grades. I also don't like that there is not an A+ anymore. The kids who strive that extra bit are not rewarded and if they get an A- it is not considered an A average. So I think that you would be dumbing down the system if you decide not to have grades. It is not what my kids needs and only serves to make those who do not do as well feel better about school. Enough said. Do do it. Nov 9, 2012 4:34 PM

16 I would be extremely upset! You can't call the kids' grandparents and tell them "He got a 4 on his report card." It has absolutely no meaning to the majority of the public. The letter grades are much more specific, in that they allow for + or - on grades. (A+, A, A-, etc.) You can see when your child has even a small improvement or decline. Nov 9, 2012 4:10 PM

17 The 1-4 scale is too limited. The 1 is unachievable....leaving 3 number grades. This to me is too ambiguous. Don't try to fix what isn't broke. If I'm missing something, please educate me on the 1-4 system. Nov 9, 2012 3:55 PM

18 getting them ready for middle school grading Nov 9, 2012 8:31 AM

19 Quit coddling and "dumbing down" our children. If its not broke don't fix it! As a tax payer it offends me that my money goes towards ridiculous topics and meetings such as this. There are bigger issues than a letter grade! Nov 9, 2012 6:58 AM

20 NEED BETTER WAY OF MEASURE, NOT JUST A NUMBER. Nov 8, 2012 11:51 PM

21 First of all, the DLT shouldn't decide this on their own. I don't think that's the intention but the question tends to lead you that way. The decision should be based on the feedback decided by parents and guardians. More importantly, unless there's an underlying, long term purpose for the change, I would like to understand why simply substituting letters for numbers is up for discussion. I want the leadership team to be focusing on the health and growth of the child rather than how they are benchmarked. From the little the email and this survey offers I see no point in the change so let's spend the administrative dollars on something of value. Nov 8, 2012 11:28 PM

**Q3. What concerns or questions do you have if the DLT would decide to eliminate letter grades on the report card beginning next fall?**

22	I feel there would be a lack of incentive from the student.	Nov 8, 2012 10:14 PM
23	I would want more information about the "new" grading system and more information on why the DLT thinks this needs to be done.	Nov 8, 2012 8:54 PM
24	My children have always looked forward to becoming a "big kid" and getting letter grades. Unless we eliminate letter grades completely (at all levels), they will have to have letter grades eventually, so what is the point of eliminating them in the elementary just to have them at the middle school?	Nov 8, 2012 10:59 AM
25	would the students still feel they acheived greatness...aka 'getting an 'A'! What is the alternative grading procedure? Why is eliminating letter grades being considered at all?	Nov 8, 2012 9:30 AM
26	Just to make sure there is a bench level "key" so we know what the 1-4 numbers actually mean.	Nov 8, 2012 8:51 AM
27	I think it would be more complicated to follow	Nov 8, 2012 8:32 AM
28	Not in favor of eliminating the letter grading at any level of our district	Nov 8, 2012 8:31 AM
29	How do the numbers compare to the letters?	Nov 8, 2012 7:35 AM
30	I think you would just be shuffling the chairs on the deck of the ship. Your energy and time could be spent better.	Nov 8, 2012 7:00 AM
31	What is the reason for considering this? They will have to use the grading system eventually. Isn't it better for them to adjust now, rather than later?	Nov 7, 2012 9:18 PM
32	What is the purpose of eliminating them? If letter grades have worked this long why do we need to change them? If it's not broke don't fix it!	Nov 7, 2012 9:11 PM
33	1-4 does not accurately indicate to me the progress my child is making. It leaves too much to interpret and not enough to measure.	Nov 7, 2012 9:05 PM
34	An explanation of why this is being serious consideration would be helpful. Not knowing why this is being considered or what goal that you hope to achieve by going to this system would be nice. Otherwise why change it?	Nov 7, 2012 8:11 PM
35	Are the numbers any different than the letter grades? It seems it's the same concept, only the number system is more general and generic.	Nov 7, 2012 6:52 PM
36	letter grades are concrete markrs that have always been used	Nov 7, 2012 5:36 PM
37	If you want to make changes segregate the students by learning abilities.	Nov 7, 2012 5:07 PM
38	If moving to the numbers system then explain what each number means and how it is decided what the student receives.	Nov 7, 2012 4:49 PM
39	I think it is a huge mistake. I think if done correctly, letter grades are more effective then using the number system. This should not be done. Thank you for asking for our perspective first.	Nov 7, 2012 4:33 PM

**Q3. What concerns or questions do you have if the DLT would decide to eliminate letter grades on the report card beginning next fall?**

40	Please get rid of the letter grade! Standard-based grading is so appropriate for this age level.	Nov 7, 2012 4:22 PM
41	What is the purpose of this? Due to the concern I have regarding the curriculum, this needs to stay in place.	Nov 7, 2012 4:20 PM
42	transition to Middle School grading	Nov 7, 2012 4:09 PM
43	Why would you change something that doesnt need fixed?	Nov 7, 2012 4:08 PM
44	I feel letter grades give a better picture of a child's academic performance. A student can have an A, B, or C and still receive a 3 on the report card. How would a parent know if the child is just doing what is need to pass or really working on their studies	Nov 7, 2012 4:08 PM
45	Great Idea as long as there is a clear understanding as to what numbers mean in relation to their progress and what is expected at each level.	Nov 7, 2012 3:40 PM
46	I am not as familiar with that grading scale so feel I would be more confused.	Nov 7, 2012 3:22 PM
47	My concerns are two many to list here. If you would like I will talk to you so it isn't a faceless survey I will talk with you at any time. My name is Bryan Covey (641) 672-8440 daytime phone (641) 660-1572 cellular phone.	Nov 7, 2012 3:19 PM
48	n/a	Nov 7, 2012 3:15 PM
49	I feel as if the letter grades help my child, he/she strives to get an A,or B not a 1,2,3. I feel that there is way too much thought in this when there should be more thought into how can we help our students become a better person and succeed in life.	Nov 7, 2012 2:06 PM
50	Concern is why? Whats the point? If they have to reach a certian percentage to reach a certian number why change. How much money did the school district waste to have some consultant come in and say you need to change to number system. Or are we changing because we don't want our child to feel inferior to someone else child with a better letter grade so we sugar coat with it a number system. We wonder why the younger generation feels intitled, because everyone gets to bat, we don't keep score, everyone gets a ribbon. If the young people of today had to expericence some hardship or be on the short end of the stick maybe they would grow up to be less needy and be able do things by themselves. Heaven forbid we want are children to be over achievers and be proud of it.	Nov 7, 2012 1:58 PM
51	What is the point of just 3rd through 5th? Once they get into middle school on up it will be graded with letters. So I guess why confuse the kids.	Nov 7, 2012 1:41 PM
52	Is it easy for parents, teachers and students to measure the student's success and/or areas of needed improvement?	Nov 7, 2012 1:25 PM
53	In my opinion it doesn't make a difference if letters or numbers are used. The only difference is the there is no 'F' grade. The numbering system will help with self esteem, but not with the fact the child many not be learning.	Nov 7, 2012 1:20 PM

**Q3. What concerns or questions do you have if the DLT would decide to eliminate letter grades on the report card beginning next fall?**

54	why do u even ask us how we feel our voice hasnt matterd on the every wed. early out and that our high schoolers cant cursive writeu changed how math is taught and took recess from the older students so u really think i would believe u would listen to my concerns	Nov 7, 2012 1:18 PM
55	I would want the expectations and targets of the standards clearly explained to both the student and parent, also know the options for differentiated instructions offered for each student to reach the expectations.	Nov 7, 2012 1:18 PM
56	I have zero concerns. My only concern would be if the changes occurred in high school and it somehow handicapped students applying for college. But for 3-5 grade, I see no problems.	Nov 7, 2012 1:15 PM
57	I think we should focus more on having teachers in their classrooms instead of sending them off to meetings. It seems that over the past two years, teachers, in large groups, are at meetings out of the building instead of teaching their students - which is what they are there for. Why don't you as the CD schedule these meetings on days when the children are not in school or on weekends. Let's think about the children first and their need to have their classroom teacher present instead of worrying about eliminating letter grades.	Nov 7, 2012 1:15 PM
58	What value is there in eliminating letter grades?	Nov 7, 2012 1:14 PM
59	My children like knowing what letter grade they received on a paper/test. The suggested numbering system leaves too much to the whim of the teacher grading the paper/test. 100% with letter grading is an A+, with the numbers its a 3 or, depending on the person grading, it might be a 4. I have seen both this year.	Nov 7, 2012 1:13 PM
60	Why would they? What is the purpose and what is it hurting currently? My child LOVES the letter grades, just like his big brother and sister now!!	Nov 7, 2012 1:12 PM
61	My concern with this is not the change in how the grade is represented, an A+ versus a 4.0, it is how the grade is given. Communication to the teachers is key in this area as I have had some frustrations in the past with variations in how teachers do their grading. An A or a 4 should be an A based on work done by the student, and not based on how the teacher feels the student comprehends the material. Also, because most teachers have been using the traditional grading system for many years, my concern would be that since it is different, the grading does not follow traditional levels. I would assume that the numbering would follow the grading with a 4 being an A+, a 3 being a B+, and so on. If that is the case, both teachers and parents need to understand that the only thing changing is how the grade is shown, not the criteria or the meaning of the grade.	Nov 7, 2012 1:11 PM
62	I just want to make sure I still know where my student stands, in terms of their learning process.	Nov 7, 2012 1:05 PM
63	My child looks forward to sharing with his friends/family/grandparents those letter grades of A's!! This would upset all of us greatly. Why change this...? This is an excellent way to measure a child. Why mess with something that has been in force for years?!!	Nov 7, 2012 12:57 PM

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64	I think you should include 2nd grade parents as well, my 5th grader is my youngest, no impact on me, but it will for 2nd grade parents.	Nov 7, 2012 12:49 PM
65	Will this be a school wide grading system? Does it continue into middle and high school? If so what are the grade points assigned to each?	Nov 7, 2012 12:45 PM
66	Not sure...they have had 1-4 in K-2nd...I know the switch would happen in MS. But then again...I have a 7th grader and she has some of both. I say be consistant across the entire Dist. HS might be diff. because of school qualifications for college.	Nov 7, 2012 12:23 PM
67	this scale you have have made it impossible to get a 4 so the only true calculation we have is the % of what the student does on the work you see in campus portal. Not in favor we need to increase our math scores for the district so this might be good exercise for the students to learn math. A 1-5 is an eval score so subjective rather related to points so just give the points and the letter grade.	Nov 7, 2012 12:22 PM
68	I dont see the benefit of making the change.	Nov 7, 2012 12:10 PM
69	No serious concerns. Just ask that parents and school board are informed as to why this would be better	Nov 7, 2012 12:07 PM
70	parents need to be better educated on the 1-4 system...I have 3 children in the school system and i'm confused they get 1-4s on report cards but are still receiving letter grades...be consistent with all buildings...please and thanks!	Nov 7, 2012 12:07 PM
71	i like to know exactly where my child stands.	Nov 7, 2012 12:04 PM
72	We need to stay within a system that is in place in our higher institutions	Nov 7, 2012 12:03 PM
73	I don't think that getting rid of the letter grade is something we should do. We just switched the number scoring. Parents need more time to get used to that before eliminating the letter grade.	Nov 7, 2012 12:01 PM
74	Would student be able to transition back to grading when they get to the 6th grade?	Nov 7, 2012 11:59 AM
75	I have personally always hated the number grades and think you should continue to do the letter grades. I also think it is really dumb that students can no longer receive an A+. If they have worked that hard to receive an A+ I think they deserve it.	Nov 7, 2012 11:59 AM
76	how are we preparing kids for middle school and high school by eliminating grades?	Nov 7, 2012 11:58 AM
77	Why are they wanting to do that? I don't understand...!!!	Nov 7, 2012 11:56 AM
78	I think they need to start understanding what it takes to earn good grades when they are young enough to care.	Nov 7, 2012 11:49 AM
79	Why do they want to do this?	Nov 7, 2012 11:47 AM

**Q3. What concerns or questions do you have if the DLT would decide to eliminate letter grades on the report card beginning next fall?**

80	What is the benefit of changing? The students are going to be exposed to letter grades at some point in school. Are some parents concerned about the grading system because their child is not doing as well as others. My child has been taking tests and I think that it is important to understand what an A-F actually mean.	Nov 7, 2012 11:45 AM
81	not having an idea about the criteria for middle school in the grading scale Maybe eliminate for fourth grade and below	Nov 7, 2012 11:45 AM
82	Will this change simplify assessment and grade reporting for teachers and staff?	Nov 7, 2012 11:44 AM
83	what is the purpose if eliminating letter grades? is the current system not working? I understand letter grades, my children understand letter grades.	Nov 7, 2012 11:44 AM
84	What would be the advantages of eliminating grades for students as they move to a new building that gives out letter grades?	Nov 7, 2012 11:44 AM
85	I do not understand why the change? What is the advantage of numbers vs letters? My thought is most people will view it as 4=A, 3=B, etc. So why change?	Nov 7, 2012 11:44 AM
86	It would be helpful to have more information for the requested change. What is the concept? What gain? What risk is involved?	Nov 7, 2012 11:42 AM
87	Us as parents but more of the children understanding the scales and how they apply to their grades.	Nov 7, 2012 11:41 AM
88	If you are starting to prepare them for Middle School, why would you be taking letter grades away.	Nov 7, 2012 11:41 AM
89	how do you identify students who are achieving well beyond grade level, or students who are in special education classes who are not able to meet the minimum requirements	Nov 7, 2012 11:41 AM
90	You can convey letter grades with A+, A, A- for example. Will numbers have 1, 1.5, etc. It's important to know if children are close to the next number or not. Will numbers still have percentages associated with them also? Right now, I think the numbers are vague.	Nov 7, 2012 11:41 AM
91	Why are they changing? What are the benefits?	Nov 7, 2012 11:40 AM
92	How do they compare to peers and past trimesters?	Nov 7, 2012 11:36 AM
93	dadadfasdf	Nov 7, 2012 11:14 AM