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## Standards-Based Grading & Empower Learning & Resources

*\*These resources have been previously shared with parents,  
this is just a quick reference guide for follow-up access to the content.*

### **Why Empower Learning?**

Babcock Schools are a Project-Based Learning Environment with a focus on personalized learning through Standards-Based Grading. True personalization of learning requires much deeper data than an average of scores for our educators to work from in identifying student strengths and areas for growth. Empower Learning provides the platform for designing personalized pathways and culminating the evidence for mastery of the learning pathway.

*It is imperative for us to understand what the student knows and what the student can do right now in the moment to sufficiently personalize learning experiences for each student learner. This philosophy and approach require a platform that is transparent for all students, parents/guardians, teachers, and administrators and supports Standards-Based Grading.*

### **Q & A**

- **How do I log into Empower Learning?**

- You can access Empower from the school website at [www.babcockneighborhoodschools.org](http://www.babcockneighborhoodschools.org) and click on Empower from the top of the page, or use the link: <https://babcock.empowerlearning.net/>.
- Parents now have their own individual accounts that were sent home in November. If you need your login information please reach out to Kari Lewter ([klewter@babcockneighborhoodschool.org](mailto:klewter@babcockneighborhoodschool.org)). You will use these credentials to manually type into the sign-in box. The parent account looks identical to and has the same access to content as the student account. The parent account allows you to toggle between your students if you have more than one in our system.

- **How does Empower Learning work?**
  - Empower is more than just a grade book. It is a platform that allows you to see evidence and growth over time. Teachers can see this year's and previous years' evidence allowing them to better understand their student's academic history. Playlists make it easy for students and parents to see the evidence behind each standard, enabling them to better understand their strengths, weaknesses, and growth.
  
- **If I have concerns about what my student is learning and/or how they are performing, what should I do?**
  - Student Responsibilities
    - K-1: Students will be able to log into the platform by the second semester
    - 2-5: Students upload and submit their evidence of learning. Students should be able to log in and find their missing assignments. Students should be able to look at their standards and see what they have mastered and what they have not yet mastered.
    - 6-12: Students upload and submit their evidence of learning. Students should be able to log in and find their missing assignments. Students should be able to look at their standards and see what they have mastered and what they have not yet mastered.
  - Teacher Responsibilities
    - Timely & consistent feedback and scoring of evidence. When activities are created, the description and action steps are clear and easy to follow.
  
- **How can I see and understand what my student learner is doing and learning?**
  - Elementary
    - K-1: In Empower we use a variety of resources like audio recordings, digital Seesaw activities, and hardcopy assignments to document a student's learning. You can access your child's login information and access their assignments on the playlist.
    - 2-5: In Empower you can see evidence of what your child has been learning through assignments that have been completed and scored towards mastery of state standards. You can see detailed information about what your child is learning by looking in the playlists that have been created for each assignment or standard, and you can see a copy of the work that has been completed on the Empower student dashboard.
  - 6th-12th
    - On the Empower homepage student learning can be found in two places. Progress Report (Current, missing, and past work), and the Playlist Browser (Past, Current, and Future Work with the newest at the bottom). To see specifics on what they are learning you can click on resources and activities in these playlists.
  
- **How do I know what assignments are missing?**
  - There are actually a few ways to view this information. Here are two of the easiest ways to find this information.
    - When you enter the main dashboard each course can be seen.
      - Click the "plus" sign to the right of each course title to expand the course view.
      - The course view will include the pace bars, next-up assignments, class activities, missing activities, and last viewed.
      - Above Missing Activities there is also a number of how many are outstanding at that time.
    - Log into Empower and check the top of the homepage

- Look for the “Progress Report” and click on the specific class you would like to see grades for.
  - Find the clock symbol on the right side of each class (next to the plus sign)
  - Click on the clock and you can see what is missing. (The assignment will have an M next to it)
  - By clicking the down arrow next to Evidence, you can also see the evidence submitted for each standard. This would include those scored and missing if applicable. The view also shows the Goal Score set by the teacher per each activity.
- **What is the purpose of pace and why is it important?**
    - The pace is a snapshot of where the student is currently performing compared to end-of-year mastery goals. It allows the student/parents to see student progress versus expected progress at that moment in time. It allows for both teacher and student accountability in terms of opportunities to express mastery of required standards.
      - The Target Growth bar is controlled by the length of the semester, the number of standards to be covered within the course, and the opportunities for mastery provided by the instructor.
      - The second bar, Achieved Growth, is the student pace, which moves in relation to the evidence submitted and the level of completion for each assignment.
- **How do I access scores?**
    - Once logged into the Empower Learning platform, navigate to your child’s home page. Click on the progress report icon that is at the top right side of the page. When on the progress report page, click the plus sign for each class to expand the list. This allows you to view the score for each individual standard that has evidence attached to it.
    - In order to view missing assignments, click on the plus sign that is to the right of each individual class, any missing assignments will show up in the ‘missing assignments’ box.
    - From the homepage, you can also expand the course view by clicking the “plus” sign to the right of the course title. This will give you a course snapshot, but also display an additional dropdown at the bottom right of the course view for Submitted Work. This shows each activity, the name of the activity, the set goal score, and the student's achievement score in a blue box.
      - The blue box will indicate a numerical score (1 to 4). A “M” implies that it is missing, “I” is incomplete, and a small plus sign indicates that work was collected, but was not scored as it may have been an additional step to a different activity or final project.
- **How does SBG translate into grades in colleges and transcripts? GPA for colleges?**
    - At the end of each course, a Marzano conversion scale is used to convert the data from Empower to a conventional letter grade, which is used to determine GPA.
    - The calculation for GPA follows the Charlotte County grading system to determine the unweighted and weighted grade point average.
    - The transcript provided to colleges and universities follows the traditional format with course titles, credits, and grades received.
- **What are the proficiency levels?**

The proficiency levels are: 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, and 4, with 1 being the lowest and 4 being the highest. The goal is for all students to reach a 3 in every standard by the end of the year. In order to receive a level of 4, the student must demonstrate knowledge above and beyond what is considered mastery.

- (1) The student has little to no understanding of standard content, performing below expectations.
- (2) The student has some understanding of standard content and has mastered part of the standard.
- (3) **The student has mastered the entire standard.** *Achieving a level 3 on a standard demonstrates mastery at Babcock Schools and is the goal for all students for each standard assigned.*
- (4) The student is going above and beyond what is expected of the standard content. An example of earning a 4 may be when a gifted student is focusing on a standard they master early in the year, but is developing a deeper application of knowledge.

- **How does a 1-4 number scale convert to FOCUS grades?**

The grades entered into FOCUS at the end of each nine weeks represent the student's progress at that time and serve as a projection of where the student should be at the end of the year if their work ethic is maintained.

- The calculation looks at the number of opportunities the teacher has provided for evidence to be obtained and the number of times the students have completed such evidence.
- The Empower 1-4 standard levels convert to A-F grades to allow for GPA calculations throughout the year. The calculation represents more of a performance indicator.

*\*The final quarter grade will not use this particular conversion as the Empower grade at this time is reflective of the student's overall mastery. The final numerical grade for FOCUS is then obtained by the Marzano Conversion table.*

The following performance conversion is utilized for Quarter 1, 2, and 3:

A = 100%-85%

B = 84%-69%

C = 68%-53%

D = 52%-37%

- **How does Empower vary in the content area regarding the mastery of standards? Focus on ELA and Math.**
  - ELA Standards may take longer to show mastery due to the cyclical nature of teaching the skills. For example, students will need to summarize through all the genres of reading. It will take several cycles of reading literature, informative, poetry, etc. to show full mastery of summarizing text.
  - Math standards are quicker to show mastery due to the linear and “stairs” nature of learning skills. For example, a student will show mastery of multiplication facts, and then move on to master the multiplication of multi-digit whole numbers.

**Previous Resources:**

- [Student Introduction to Empower Learning](#)
- [Parent and Student Introduction to Empower Learning](#)
- [Explanation of Student Activities for Students and Parents](#)