



Proficiency-Based Learning: A Systemic Approach

15 Fixes for Broken Grades: Reflection Guide

Fixes for Practices that Distort Achievement	How do the "fixes" support student learning	What are the implications for our practice?	Tough Questions
Don't include student behaviors in grades; include only achievement.			
2. Don't reduce marks on "work" submitted late; provide support for the learner.			
3. Don't give points for extra credit or use bonus points; seek only evidence that more work has resulted in a higher level of achievement.			
4. Don't punish academic dishonesty with reduced grades; apply other consequences and reassess to determine actual level of achievement.			
5. Don't consider attendance in grade determination; report absences separately.			
6. Don't include group scores in grades; use only individual achievement evidence.			





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Fixes for Low-Quality or	How do the "fixes" support	What are the implications for	Tough Questions
Poorly-Organized Evidence	student learning	our practice?	
7. Don't organize information in			
grading records by assessment			
methods or simply summarize			
into a single grade; organize			
and report evidence by			
standards/learning goals.			
8. Don't assign grades using			
inappropriate or unclear			
performance standards;			
provide clear descriptions of			
achievement expectations.			
9. Don't assign grades based			
on student's achievement			
compared to other students;			
compare each student's			
performance to preset			
standards.			
10. Don't rely on evidence			
gathered using assessments			
that fail to meet standards of			
quality; rely only on quality			
assessments.			





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Fixes for Inappropriate Grade Calculation	How do the "fixes" support student learning	What are the implications for our practice?	Tough Questions
11. Don't rely on the mean;			
consider other measures of			
central tendency and use			
professional judgment.			
12. Don't include zeros in grade			
determination when evidence is			
missing or as punishment; use			
alternatives, such as reassessing			
to determine real achievement			
or use "I" for Incomplete or			
Insufficient Evidence.			
Fixes for Inappropriate Grade	How do the "fixes" support	What are the implications for	Tough Questions
Calculation	student learning	our practice?	
13. Don't use information from			
formative assessments and			
practice to determine grades; use			
only summative evidence.			
14. Don't summarize evidence			
accumulated over time when			
learning is developmental and will			
grow with time and repeated			
opportunities; in those instances,			
emphasize more recent			
achievement.			
15. Don't leave students out of the			
grading process; involve			
students—they can and should			
play key roles in assessment and			
grading that promote			
achievement.			

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