

Dear GISU Parents and Guardians,
You may notice that this report card looks different from last trimester. For the last few years, GISU teachers have been working together to make sure instruction is consistent across schools. Included in this work is a common report card.

What is different?

1. The report card is proficiency based. A proficiency based report card tells about the most important learning for a grade and the student's most recent progress. This is different from averaging across multiple assignments.
 - a. You can think of it like a driver's test. Your parallel parking on that day counts, not all the attempts up until that point.
2. We use letters to describe what your child has demonstrated they know and can do for each target. If a student has a "P" for "Proficient", the student has shown they know all the knowledge and skills they need to be successful with that target in the future.

E: Exceeds	Student work shows they have knowledge and skills above the proficient level.
P: Proficient	Student work shows they learned the grade level target.
A: Approaching	Student work shows they know some, but not all of the target.
B: Beginning	Student work shows they are just starting to understand the target.
IE: Insufficient Evidence	Not enough work was produced or shown to know if skills and concepts were learned.

Why make the change?

1. We believe the information is more specific, meaningful and helpful for parents than our report cards in the past.
2. We believe in creating consistency among our schools so all students have access to the same high quality instruction.
3. We believe a student's most recent work tells more about them as a learner and encourages growth.
4. We believe it is our duty to prepare students and families for any middle school and high school experience. In Vermont, all middle and high schools are proficiency based.

We want your feedback and will ask through parent-teacher conferences, a survey and a community meeting.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child to become curious, creative, courageous, and capable in a diverse and ever changing world.

Sincerely,
The GISU Leadership Team