

STANDARDS-BASED GRADING

Aligning Assessment with Learning

10 CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

COURSE INSTRUCTOR



Overview

Grades are one of the most powerful tools educators use - and one of the most misunderstood. This course unpacks the purpose of assessment and offers a clear, practical approach to designing and implementing standards-based grading (SBG) practices. Participants will explore why traditional grading often fails to reflect student learning, and how SBG creates a more equitable, accurate, and transparent system.

Through research, reflection, and real-world examples, educators will build the knowledge and confidence to shift toward grading practices that support growth, promote agency, and align with what we know about how students learn.



Outcomes

By the end of this course, participants will be able to...

1. Define standards-based grading (SBG) and explain how it differs from traditional grading.
2. Articulate the research-based rationale for SBG and its connection to learner-centered practices.
3. Analyze current grading practices and identify ways they may create barriers or inequities.
4. Apply SBG principles to design or revise assessment and grading systems aligned to learning goals.
5. Develop strategies to communicate grading changes clearly to students, families, and colleagues.



Dr Christopher Bronke

Sr Educational Consultant

Dr. Christopher Bronke is a passionate educator, presenter, and consultant with more than 20 years of classroom and leadership experience. As a consultant with Novak Education, Chris partners with schools and districts nationwide to support inclusive instructional practices, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), standards-based assessment, and deeper learning. With a background in high school English and a strong foundation in educational leadership, he brings warmth, insight, and a clear commitment to student voice and teacher growth. Chris is known for inspiring educators to reflect, collaborate, and take action to ensure all learners thrive.

PREREQUISITES

Intro to UDL or equivalent knowledge.

COURSE OUTLINE

REQUIREMENTS

To complete the course, you must fulfill all requirements including reviewing required materials, completing each lesson's self-assessment, and completing a final project. At the end of the course, participants will receive a completion certificate for 15 continuing education hours. If you are seeking CTLE, graduate credits, clock hours or additional PD requirements, [review our FAQs](#) or [contact us](#) with any questions.

| Module | Objectives | Activities |
|---|---|--|
| 1 Wait... Why Are We Grading Like This? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand what standards-based grading is • Articulate why SBG is important using research to support their thinking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch, read and/or listen to the course lessons • Review the required and optional resources to dive deeper into the learning • Try it out! Put your learning into practice • Complete the module self-assessment |
| 2 Standards-Based Grading: More Than Just a New Scale | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand that there are many different ways to implement SBG • Analyze the strengths and limitations of the different approaches • Consider what approach(es) might work best for me | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch, read and/or listen to the course lessons • Review the required and optional resources to dive deeper into the learning • Try it out! Put your learning into practice • Complete the module self-assessment |
| 3 Making It Work in Real Classrooms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand different pathways and processes for converting a standards-based learning environment into a traditional letter grade (if/as needed) • Know and reflect upon ways to help all invested parties best understand how students can and will be successful in a standards-based learning environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch, read and/or listen to the course lessons • Review the required and optional resources to dive deeper into the learning • Try it out! Put your learning into practice • Complete the module self-assessment |

Courses are entirely online. To access them, you'll need a compatible web browser like Chrome or Firefox. For an optimal experience, we recommend using a desktop or laptop computer with a word processing tool or reader (i.e. Microsoft Word, Libre, or Google Docs). While our course platform is mobile-friendly, a larger screen will provide the best viewing and interactive experience. If you need personal assistance or have technical questions, you can [contact us](#) any time. Novak Education is in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

REGISTRATION

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Individuals can register directly through the course site. Learners have the option to take the course for 1 graduate-level credits or for 10 continuing education hours. Once registered, you will gain immediate access to the course. You will have six months to complete the course/access the materials.

If you will be paying with a PO, as an individual or as a group and require an estimate or an invoice, email Lon@NovakEducation.com.

Group pricing and all-inclusive memberships are available. Contact Education@NovakEducation.com for details.

Before enrolling, please review our [withdrawal policy](#).