



On Your Mark: Challenging the Conventions of Grading and Reporting - a book for K-12 assessment policies and practices

By Thomas R. Guskey

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On Your Mark asserts the need to align grading and reporting practices to truly reflect what students are learning in K 12 classrooms. The changes this book outlines might be controversial adjusting any system that has been in place for centuries will cause tension yet we owe it to our students to make sure grades accurately communicate their progress and help them improve. Rather than continuing down the wrong path out of delusion, fear, or tradition, we must use research to boldly move forward and better serve our students.

The chapters first present changes that K 12 teachers and administrators can accomplish with a modest effort. They then lead up to the larger undertakings that demand a significant transformation of grading practices. Specifically, chapter 1 guides readers as they clarify the purpose of grades and craft a vision statement that aligns with this purpose. In chapters 2 and 3, readers will question the accuracy of percentage grades, plus and minus grades, and half-grade increments. Chapter 4 disputes grade distribution, such as curving grades, and highlights this practice's flaws. Chapter 5 examines class ranking and offers alternatives, and chapter 6 examines the practice of assigning a single letter grade to reflect a student's quarter or semester progress for a given subject. Readers will scrutinize mathematical algorithms and other practices that render grading inaccurate in chapters 7 and 8. Finally, Guskey closes the book with a summary of his key points.

K 12 teachers and administrators will:

-Question traditional grading and reporting and seek more accurate practices

-Identify the purpose of grading and make sure school and classroom visions, practices, and policies support it

-Implement research-based grading and reporting practices that promote accurate, useful accounts of student learning

-Understand why traditional practices, such as grading on the curve and offering plus or minus grades, don't fully report students' academic performance to stakeholders

-Examine their own grading and reporting policies and make sure they support students, parents, and other stakeholders

Contents

- 1 Define the Purpose of Grades
- 2 Challenge the Use of Percentage Grades
- 3 Challenge Plus and Minus and Half-Grade Increments
- 4 Challenge Bell-Shaped Grade Distributions
- 5 Challenge the Computation of Class Rank
- 6 Challenge the Use of a Single Grade
- 7 Challenge the Use of Mathematical Algorithms
- 8 Challenge Practices That Confound the Meaning of Grades

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Editorial Review

Review

Traditional grading and reporting processes are inadequate at best, and, as Tom Guskey makes so clear in this unflinching treatise on the need for reform, at their worst they are meaningless, unreliable, and harmful to students and their learning. Dr. Guskey presents clear arguments and research-based evidence that challenge conventional approaches to grading. He also proposes bold but feasible methods that can make grading fairer, more accurate, and more meaningful. His logic is impeccable, and his recommendations practical. Teachers, professors, and school leaders can find here defensible approaches to grading and reporting that can actually support student learning and motivation rather than undermine it."

--Heidi G. Andrade, Associate Professor, Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology, School of Education, University at Albany, State University of New York

In this brilliant book, Tom Guskey takes on one of the most controversial issues in education: grading. With more than two decades of evidence along with the practical insight of a teacher and parent, Guskey considers the arguments about grading and provides practical answers for parents, students, teachers, administrators, and board members. If our common ground is finding educational practices that cause the best results for student achievement, then this powerful and practical book will lead the way."

--Douglas B. Reeves, Ph.D.; Founder, The Center for Successful Leadership; Author, *Elements of Grading*

Guskey gives us not only a masterful synthesis of what s known about grading, but also a powerful plea for educators to do battle with America s student-harmful grading practices. His rationale is clear, his arguments are persuasive, and his call to battle is almost irresistible."

--W. James Popham, Professor Emeritus, UCLA

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About the Author

Thomas R. Guskey, PhD, is professor of educational psychology in the College of Education at the University of Kentucky. A graduate of the University of Chicago, he began his career in education as a middle school teacher, served as an administrator in the Chicago Public Schools, and was the first director of the Center for the Improvement of Teaching and Learning, a national research center.

Dr. Guskey is the author/editor of twenty books and numerous book chapters, articles, and professional papers on educational measurement, evaluation, assessment, and grading. He coedited the *Experts in Assessment series*. His articles have appeared in prominent research journals, as well as *Educational Leadership*, *Phi Delta Kappan*, and *School Administrator*.

Dr. Guskey served on the Policy Research Team of the *National Commission on Teaching & America's Future* and on the task force to develop the *National Standards for Staff Development*, and was named a Fellow in the American Educational Research Association one of the association's highest honors. He was recently awarded Learning Forward's Distinguished Contributions to the Field Award and is the only person to have won the that group's Book of the Year Award twice and Article of the Year Award three times. He also has been featured on the National Public Radio programs *Talk of the Nation* and *Morning Edition*. In his work with educators throughout the world, he helps teachers and school leaders understand the important implications of research in education and offers practical solutions to some of education's most challenging problems.

Users Review

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Connie King:

This book untitled On Your Mark: Challenging the Conventions of Grading and Reporting - a book for K-12 assessment policies and practices to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy that book in the book retail store or you can order it by way of online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, as you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no

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