

# PROFICIENCY SCALES



## A FOCUS ON LEARNING, NOT GRADING

**Proficiency Scale:** A tool used by teachers and students to determine the student's current level of progress and achievement toward meeting the expectations of a learning standard.

Proficiency scales describe the performance expected from the student on a specific learning target. Tracking progress with proficiency scales provides clear communication to students and parents about student strengths and weaknesses on a specific learning target.

Below are generic descriptions of proficiency levels. Specific proficiency scales are developed for all learning targets and used in individual courses to determine student grades and progress toward mastery. The use of proficiency scales support accuracy and consistency in the grading system.

<b>3</b>	The score of 3 means the student has <b>MET</b> the standard.
<b>2</b>	The score of 2 means the student has gained an understanding of the vocabulary and simpler processes of the standard. Students are able to do the prerequisites necessary for the standard (3.0) but are not yet able to do what the standard requires independently.
<b>1</b>	The score of 1 means the student can achieve <u>PARTIAL</u> success of the level 2 expectation <u>WITH HELP</u> .

**STUDENTS MAY ALSO EARN A PROFICIENCY SCORE OF 1.5 OR 2.5. FOR EXAMPLE, A STUDENT WHO HAS MASTERED ALL OF THE LEVEL 2.0 SKILLS BUT ONLY SOME OF THE 3.0 EXPECTATIONS WOULD EARN A PROFICIENCY SCORE OF 2.5.**

# HOW DO PROFICIENCY SCALES HELP STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS?



Proficiency scales increase clarity and equip students, teachers, and parents with a way to talk about what a student currently can do and what the student is still working on learning and becoming proficient at.

Proficiency scales increase the likelihood our students achieve the grade-level learning targets (3.0) that are outlined for them.



Proficiency scales provide clarity and transparency about what students need to learn and practice. Therefore, there’s no surprise about what they will be tested or graded on.

Proficiency scales put the focus on learning and what to learn next rather than on points possible on an assignment, project, quiz, or test.

- Proficiency scales empower students to:
- Track their progress relative to the expectations for the standard.
  - Set goals based on what they can do well and what they still need to focus on learning.
  - Identify skills on the proficiency scale they do not know how to do yet and own their own learning by asking for help and practicing in school (and at home).
  - Celebrate their growth, progress, and proficiency for each standard.

## EXAMPLE:

## YOUR GOAL: TO PUT A PUZZLE TOGETHER

3	<b>ACHIEVING THE STANDARD</b> Congratulations! You have successfully put all the pieces together	
2	<b>PROGRESSING WITH STANDARD</b> You are making connections	
1	<b>BEGINNING WITH THE STANDARD</b> You are gathering the pieces	