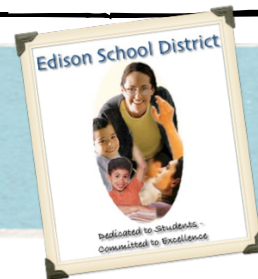


# EFFECTIVE GRADING PRACTICES

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



EDISON SCHOOL DISTRICT-APRIL 2009 | [WWW.EDISONSD.COM](http://WWW.EDISONSD.COM)

**April 17, 1:30 PM**  
**Edison Middle School**  
**Auditorium**

This meeting will include all teachers from Orangewood School and Edison Middle School

Just in time for the last grading period of the 2008-2009 school year!

Effective Grading Practices is a professional development experience that will guide you through the following six objectives:

1. **Create** a compelling case for improving grading
2. **Learn** the elements of effective grading practices
3. **Analyze** common grading systems
4. **Experiment** with alternative grading practices and policies
5. **Create** improved feedback strategies
6. **Develop** an implementation plan

You may be asking why this seminar is relevant since you already have a grading policy.

**Here are a few questions I'd like for you to consider:**

● **Are you right now enjoying record high levels of homework completion and compliance?**

● **Are you having record high levels of student engagement?**

● **Are you having record low levels of student failure?**

If this is true, then your grading policies are probably working.

However, if you are one of the many teachers I have spoken with who say kids are not finishing homework, they are not engaged, and they are not succeeding, **then please don't continue the same practices and expect different results!**

### Grading Policies and Your Past Grading Experiences

Part of the way I show respect for educators is the maxim that **"why precedes how."** That is, before we assume that a new technique or practice should be applied, we first make the case for why change is necessary.

This is particularly important in the field of grading, which even leading authorities on the subject approach with some caution. It is, after all, a sensitive subject, about which classroom educators can be quite protective. Traditionally, grading policies have been the exclusive decision of teachers, and each individual teacher has been expected to create individual grading policies.

Even in a world of standards and common assessments, grading policies are one area in which each individual teacher has had the opportunity to express personal judgment and discretion. Therefore, any effort to suggest that this system of individual judgment and discretion should be changed requires a considerable degree of justification.

### Principles of Effective Grading Practices

1. **Accurate**
2. **Timely**
3. **Fair**
4. **Understandable**
5. **Effective**

### Toxic Grading Practices

During our time together, we will identify those grading practices that are most toxic and violate the five principles of Effective Grading Practices. Additionally, we will identify alternatives to those practices that provide for greater student success.

### Edison School District

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