

TO: Linden Unified School District School Board  
FROM: Janet Handley  
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The Board is being asked to approve a K - 8 trimester grading system.

The standards based report for grades K - 3 was created from the old standards, and needs to be revised to reflect the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Since the need to change the report card exists, I am asking that we align the K - 8 system into one grading system. There is common agreement amongst K - 8 to eliminate having two different grading periods and offer either a quarterly or trimester report. However, there is not common agreement on which system to implement. Each elementary school site, led by their principal, brainstormed the advantages and disadvantages for a quarterly and trimester report card. Below is a summary of the comments.

#### QUARTERLY

##### Advantage:

- More chances to talk about grades
- Students get more opportunity to start over
- Kinds are more aware of where they stand in their grade
- Aligns with the high school so K - 12 will be on the same system

##### Disadvantage:

- Does not allow enough time for student to show growth before progress reports are due
- There are no grades for progress reports
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter is way too short
- Teachers would slack in putting grades

#### TRIMESTER

##### Advantage:

- Trimester fits better with an IEP Schedule
- Less work for the teacher
- More time to do in-depth testing for the report card
- Allows for more teaching time and longer assessment period
- Less entering of grades, more time to work with students
- There will be more grades to use when it is time for progress reports, and report cards, which allows a more accurate reflection of the grade.

##### Disadvantage:

- Does not align with the high school grading system.

I recommend that we have a trimester grading system for K - 8. In this system with the progress reports parents will have 6 opportunities to hear from the school if there are concerns with academic progress. This allows the student a chance to show improvement before the next report is due. In addition, I feel it would also allow more time to teach the concepts and allow students more opportunity to thoroughly understand a concept before it is time to report.