Grading: The Issue Is Not How but Why (*)
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By Alice R. Keeler

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

In this month’s column, we will continue our discussion about grading. If you missed the first part of this article, please review the previous edition of the Journal for a more comprehensive understanding of the topic.

1. The Importance of Grading

Grading is a crucial aspect of education. It serves as a means of evaluation and feedback for students, teachers, and parents. Grading helps to measure student achievement, track progress, and assess the effectiveness of teaching and learning strategies. Grading also serves as a means of motivation, encouraging students to work hard and strive for excellence.

2. The Role of Grades

Grades are used to communicate to students, teachers, and parents the level of achievement and understanding of the material. They also serve as a basis for determining eligibility for promotion, graduation, and advanced courses. Grading is a valuable tool for identifying strengths and weaknesses in students' learning and for providing guidance for future instructional strategies.

3. The Impact of Grades

Grading can have both positive and negative effects on students. On the positive side, grades can motivate students to work harder and challenge them to perform at their highest potential. On the negative side, grades can create pressure and anxiety, lead to a focus on test scores rather than on the learning process, and discriminate against students based on factors such as socioeconomic status and race.

4. The Realities of Grading

There are many challenges associated with grading, and there are no easy solutions. Teachers must balance the need for accurate assessment with the desire to foster a positive learning environment. Grading policies must be fair, transparent, and consistent across all students and classes.

5. Conclusion

Grading is a complex issue that requires careful consideration and thoughtful decision-making. While grading is a valuable tool for evaluating student performance, it is essential to consider its impact on students and to strive for a system that is fair, equitable, and beneficial to all.

References


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This column was written in the interest of providing educational leaders with valuable information about grading. For more information, please visit the author's website at www.akeeler.com.