

# Close but not an Exact Match – The Explanation of How the Grade Scale score is converted by a Conversion Scale for Standards



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Many attendees at conferences as well as clients often get concerned on the converted values of standards tied to score assignments. Most often we hear that it is not an equal match to the traditional final score. They are correct and here's why!

When does this happen? This may be the simplest question to answer. The Answer is, when a single standard has to average two or more scores that have been placed in the storage bins known as T1, Q1, etc.

If a teacher manually enters a single grade for a standard, there is nothing in the store bin to average and teachers are generally satisfied with the score that will appear on the report card. Using the Final Grade entry method, teachers simply select from one of the grades listed in the score inspector.

Here is a conversion scale that I will use for this explanation. Pearson requires that Districts define, for EACH Grade in the Grade Scale, a Cut-Off and Grade Value – that said, only Admin Access staff can see this. If the teacher selects an O then a single O goes in that terms' store bin and thus on the report card.



Grade/Label	Description	Cut-off	Grade Value
O	Outstanding Performance	90	100
S	Satisfactory Performance	75	89
N	Needs Improvement	60	74
U	Unstatisfactory Performance	0	59

**Cut-Off** is the final calculated percentage that the student must meet or exceed to receive that Grade/Label as a final grade.

**Grade Value** is the percentage used for calculations when this Grade is entered as an assignment score.

If, on the other hand, a teacher creates an assignment and chooses to “Push” the Assignment Grade to the associated standard... this is what happens. The student scored 9 out of 10 on an

assignment. That score on a traditional grading system (grade scale below) equals a 90. The Gradebook now looks at the conversion scale above. According to that Scale a 90 CONVERTS to an O. The major difference between using the Final Grade and Assignment option of the Gradebook is a converted standard grade is displayed as a BROWN (O) score rather than the BLACK O as listed above.

Grade Scale								
Grade	Description	Grade Pts	Alt. Grade Pts	Counts Added in GPA	Grad Value	Teacher Credit	Cut-off Percent	Grade Value
A	Outstanding	4.000	0.000	Yes	Yes	Yes	90	100
B	Above Average	3.000	0.000	Yes	Yes	Yes	80	89
C	Average	2.000	0.000	Yes	Yes	Yes	70	79
D	Below Average	1.000	0.000	Yes	Yes	Yes	60	69
F	Failing	0.000	0.000	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	59
I	Incomplete	0.000	0.000	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	0

Legend	
<b>Cut-Off</b>	is the final calculated percentage that the student must meet or exceed in order to receive that grade/label as a final grade.
<b>Grade Value</b>	is the percentage used for calculations when this grade is entered as an assignment score.

The “Close but not Exact Match” results when a teacher chooses to assess the same standard more than once in a term – tying it to multiple assignments. Here's how that works.

During the term, the teacher creates three different assignments and ties the same standard to all three. In this case, the student gets:

Assignment 1	10 out of 10 = 100
Assignment 2	79
Assignment 3	8 of 10 = 80

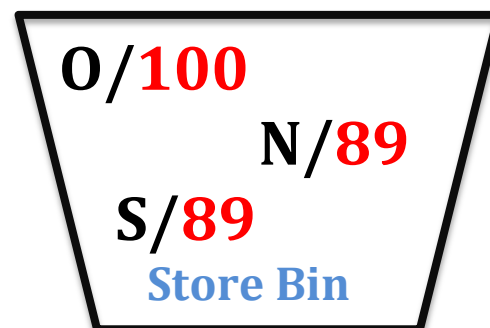


In a traditional grade book, a teacher could easily assume the  $100+79+80$  divided by  $3 = 86$

The assumption is that the Final Course grade of **86 CONVERTS to an S on the CONVERSION SCALE** and the student would receive an S for that standard. Thus, the teacher is expecting to see a final standard grade of an S.

But that's not how the CONVERSION works in the Gradebook. It **CONVERTS EACH** assignment score to a Standard grade and then assigns the **GRADE VALUE** of that Standard Grade to the Standard for that assignment. So from the Example above the Standards would convert to:

100 = O (GV = 100)  
79 = S (GV = 89)  
80 = S (GV = 89)



When the Gradebook averages these three standard scores it doesn't average the value of the assignment but **RATHER** the **GRADE VALUE** from the **CONVERSION SCALE**.

So it averages  $100 + 89 + 89 = 263/3 = 92.6$ .  
The report card still displays a BROWN (**O**).

The frustration for teachers is due in part to not fully understanding how Grade Scales for assignments work with conversion scales for Standards. At this time, when two or more assessments of a standards are in a store bin and they arrive there from multiple assignments the Gradebook performs a particular averaging function. **THE VALUE OF THE STANDARD SCORE IS THE GRADE VALUE of the performance indicators!**

At this time the standard performance indicators (in this case O, S, N, U) **DO NOT retain the % value of the assignment score.**