

HOW'S MY KID DOING?

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO **GRADES, MARKS, AND REPORT CARDS**



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Book Review

How's My Kid Doing? A Parent's Guide to Grades, Marks, and Report Cards

By Thomas Guskey

The current shift in assessment as well as grading and reporting practices, has left many parents with questions regarding their child's progress and levels of achievement. Decoding educational jargon and understanding performance standard language can be a daunting task. *How's My Kid Doing? A Parent's Guide to Grades, Marks, and Report Cards* by Thomas Guskey attempts to guide parents through the grading and reporting process.

Guskey begins by differentiating between grading and reporting and outlines the challenges teachers face when assessing students. Next, he summarizes a variety of grading and reporting methods i.e. letter grades, percentages, and standards based reporting. He makes recommendations for better grading and reporting and offers advice for making improvements with an emphasis on working with teachers and working with children.

Written from a distinctly American perspective, the book is full of useful information but is somewhat dense and reads a bit like an academic journal. However, the organization of the book allows one to pick and choose areas to skim for information on particular topics. For example, the portions that outline the advantages and shortcomings of different grading methods might be of interest. The chapter summaries are succinct and I would recommend turning to the summaries first, and then flipping back through the chapter to focus on specific areas of interest.

Although not a particularly engaging read, *How's My Kid Doing? A Parent's Guide to Grades, Marks, and Report Cards* is worth a skim if you are looking to develop a better understanding of the basics behind grading and reporting.