



What happened to Conduct and Effort in Elementary Schools? DERO Technical Services



Most of you that have been tasked with creating standards, received handwritten report cards with conduct and effort grades. These have evolved over the years and the standards movement are now using terms such as but not limited to the following: Life-Long Learning Skills, Behaviors that Support Learning, 21st Century Skills, and Learning Habits. I will refer to them as Learning Habits! (LH)

Depending upon the standard guru's you may have read (Wormeli, Guskey, O'Connor, Marzano and more) they all speak to the importance of having these non-academic standards available for teachers. With respect to PowerSchool, the LH standards help in many other ways including the following:

1. Teachers do not lower an academic grade for any of the following reasons below.
2. Teachers can focus their comments on commendations, recommendations, and goal settings
3. You may want to consider a different performance indicator scale (OSNU) than your academic scale (4321)
4. LH standards are typically district or schools based not grade level. Some schools may have a slightly different set by grade level cluster (K-2 vs 3-6 vs MS)
5. LH standards are usually associated to the HR class along with the teacher comment especially in self-contained classrooms grades of K-3. If your district has specialized academic teachers, you may have to associate a list of these standards PER subject area**.
6. My suggestion as to which subjects get these Learning Habits – is core academic areas only or a class that the student takes daily. Specials (Art, Music, PE, ETC) don't normally grade those below, but some districts allocate 1 or 2 content based LH standards since they also do not usually have a comment on the report card.
7. Below I have listed several LH standards or what you want to call them that might help you with your decision making or verbiage.
8. Some districts may also decide to break these down into categories such as Work Habits, Social Skills, Communications etc.
9. How many should you have? That is a local decision. My clients have had as few as 3 and as many as 15, the average is about 7-10 or fewer** if you have content specific learning habits

- Accepts other's ideas and feedback
- Accepts personal responsibility for actions
- Accepts responsibility for own behavior
- Actively engages in individual and group learning
- Adjusts to transitions and changes
- Advocates for self appropriately
- Collaborates with peers effectively
- Communicates emotions and ideas in a respectful way
- Completes assignments in a timely manner
- Completes quality work
- Deals appropriately with needs and feelings
- Develops and implements ideas effectively
- Engages in learning activities
- Engages in the learning and remains on task
- Exhibits positive behavior
- Follows classroom/school rules and procedures
- Follows directions, rules, and classroom routines
- Listens attentively (eyes on speaker, quiet voice, calm body)
- Maintains attention to teacher-directed lessons



- Maintains focus and works independently
- Organizes self and materials
- Perseveres in challenging situations
- Regulates behavior appropriately
- Resolves conflicts using appropriate strategies
- Respects rights, feeling and property of others
- Seeks help when needed
- Speaks and acts respectfully towards others
- Stays on task and ignores distractions
- Strives to produce high quality work
- Takes care of materials and belongings
- Uses time constructively and./or efficiently
- Uses tools and technology appropriately
- Works and plays without disrupting others
- Works cooperatively with others
- Works independently and asks for help when needed
- Works well with other in a group setting
- Writes legibly