n ways I've failed at Standards Based Grading,

where $n \gg 0$

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MAAthfest 2016

"David!"

I hear you cry,

"tell me about your SBG system!"

Three major ways to describe an SBG system:

Grade structure

Flat ← Hierarchical

Mastery determination

Recent ← Permanent

Assessment philosophy

^{*} I totally made this up. What, you think I know what I'm doing?!

Calc 1: 30-ish engineers, teachers. Flipped.

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Calc 1 SBG: Special features

- Revise anything one time.
 Surprise: Exams are not special!
- Grace days:
 Extend deadline by one class, no questions asked.
- Report grades via Google Sheets.

How did I get to this point?

Get ready to fail!

Making my SBG system too complex

Fail #1:

Fail #1: Making my SBG system too complex

Example: Coding Theory (UMN, ~ 20 students)

Sample: Every standard has a basic and advanced version. Grades depend on mastering all standards in each *big idea* at a basic or advanced level.*

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* Except for some which are only basic.**

** But some are only advanced.***

*** Oh yeah, and: Exams are special!****

**** and...and...and...
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Fail #1: Making my SBG system too complex

Advice

If your system is too complex, students will spend their time thinking about how grades work rather than focusing on learning.

Start simple, add complexity sparingly.

Fail #2:

Making my SBG system too simple

Fail #2: Making my SBG system too simple

Example: Calculus 1 (GVSU, \sim 30 students)

- 43 standards, permanent mastery.
 - ... including Guided Practices
- Students gave up on Guided Practices when they could no longer master the standard.

Fail #2: Making my SBG system too simple

Advice

Don't try to force everything into an SBG structure.

SBG-ify what you can; then use a hybrid approach.

Grade	Big Ideas mastered	Guided Practices completed with an E or M	WebWorks completed with 95% or higher
Α	10 (of 10)	≥ 27 (of about 29)	≥ 10 (of about 11)
В	9	24-26	9
C	7 - 8	21-23	7 - 8
D	5 - 6	18-20	5 - 6
F		Have not fully completed any ro	ow.

Fail #3:

Forgetting my students are human

Fail #3: Forgetting my students are human

Example: Calculus 1 (GVSU)

- Attendance standard created bad vibes, man.
- Grade is an F for most of the semester.
- All negative feedback: m, S.

Fail #3: Forgetting my students are human

Advice

Give students flexible options to show engagement.

Organize standards to help students see Big Ideas.

Give actionable feedback:

Excellent: Correct, Complete, Clear, Concise Mastered: Correct, possibly with minor errors

Progressing: Evidence of progress, but important gaps remain

X: Incomplete, no explanation, impossible to follow

Fail #4:

Forgetting how to teach

Fail #4: Forgetting how to teach

Example: Many, many times:

Taking one day to explain SBG all at once.

... and then expecting students to fully understand.

Fail #4: Forgetting how to teach

Advice

Put the same thought and effort into training students about SBG as you would for any major topic.

Use the same teaching skills: Scaffold, use quick-checks, think-pair-share, muddiest point, etc.

Questions!

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Last	First	Pref.	Revisi ons	GRACE used	Lab 4												
		Target			Grace	P.3	C.1	C.3	RC.1	F.1	F.4	D.4	D.5	D.6	D.9	D.10	DA.:
	No. of Lot	-	11	2	R	M	M	M	M	M	M	Х	M	M	M	M	Р
Miles.	Carty	Carte	2	2	GR	Р	M	M	Р	Х	M	Х	M	M	Х	Х	Х
Booth	Darks	Sharke	9	3	R	M	M	M	Р	M	M	Х	M	M	M	M	M
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-	Anna	-	6	2		M	M	M	M	M	Р	Х	M	M	Х	M	M
Basiler	Name	Mary	8	4	G	M	M	M	Р	M	M	Х	M	M	M	Х	Р
tuffit.	terral/harr	broth	10	1	R	M	M	M	Р	M	M	M	M	M	X	M	M
-	Total	Total	9	1	R	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Maley	Audin	Butte	11	3	R	M	M	M	M	M	M	Х	M	M	M	M	Р
Mayor	Serveth.	Marrie	1	2		M	M	M	Р	M	M	Х	M	M	Р	Х	M
Man	David	Name	5	2	R	M	M	M	M	M	M	Р	M	M	M	M	M
Printer	Datem	Dates	7	3		M	M	M	M	M	M	Х	M	M	M	M	M
Butter	Total	Total	7	4		Р	M	M	Х	M	M	Х	M	M	M	M	M
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Strong .	Recited	Rechel	9	5	R	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
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		D: Derivative basics								DA: Derivative applications					FTC: Integration				Big Ideas									Grades							
arget					D.4		D.6						DA.2					FTC.1					P	R	С	RC	F	L	D			TTL	Big Idea:	Almost	Base
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Learning Targets		Progress to	wards	Big	Recent Assignments										Guided			Work		
Target	Required	Earned	Ide	a			Only E, M o	ount for n	nastery. A "-	" means n	o work wa	s submitted	l.		GP#	Mark		ww#	%	
						Lab1	Lab2	AH1	Exam1	AH2	Lab3	Exam3	Final			,				
IE.1	13	15													GP0	M		0	100%	
IE.2	6	0	2	of	3										1.1	M		1	100%	
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R.2	4	6	2	of	2	M	M				M				1.4	M		4	99%	
R.3	4	4										M			1.5	M		5	99%	
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DM.4	4	0	0	of	6										3.4	M				
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