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Grading with a Growth Mindset

Instructors can support student development by encouraging and recognizing students for their growth in learning and by using assessment practices that support the idea that through practice and effort concepts can be understood. Growth grading systems, often referred to as mastery grading, are alternative assessment techniques that professors have implemented to support a growth mindset of learning. This talk will provide an overview of growth-based grading systems such as mastery grading, standards-based grading, and specifications grading, as well as results from a multi-institutional study analyzing the impacts of this growth grading system. Throughout our collaboration, we have been surveying students at the beginning and end of the semester regarding their attitudes about mathematics and learning as well as test anxiety and growth mindset. We will discuss this study along with other noteworthy research results related to using these alternate assessment methods.