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Regarding Proficiency-Based Learning:

I will give my perspective and experiences as a high school classroom teacher.

This is my second year using proficiency-based learning in the classroom. It represents the most significant educational change that I've seen in my 28-year career. As an English teacher who has taught American literature (among other classes) for decades, I have always thought that it's important for students to practice skills in writing, reading and speaking. I also think it's important that students know some things as well. It's true that students can just look up something on the Internet. Without context, though, facts can be misrepresented or misunderstood. In my opinion skills and content knowledge are both important.

In my experience, there is less concern, less urgency from students regarding their work. With multiple chances for revision, fewer students are making a strong effort with their initial essays. Due dates don't matter much anymore. Formative assignments are often not done, since they don't count for much, grade-wise.

One group that is not doing as well as in the past is high-achieving students.
A now-retired superintendent in my district used to talk about good education involving "mental sweat" on the part of the students, coming from the hard work of learning. I don't see that as much now; I see it more on the part of teachers trying to keep track of student revisions and other demands of proficiencies.
Teacher stress seems to have increased without a measurable benefit for students.

I've heard the comment that students seem to appear more anxious today. I don't know if there's a connection with PBL. I think that giving students many options for what they can do, though, isn't always a good idea.

In my opinion, the shift from traditional grading and learning to PBL was abrupt. Implied in the shift was the notion that that previous system was so flawed that it had to be discarded. I disagree. While not perfect, I think there were several positive aspects of traditional learning. Jumprope, our new grading system, is complex. I don't get a sense that students and their parents value the complexity in the system.

I am trying my best with the Proficiency-Based system. I do, however, have concerns about this new system.