

Standards Based Grading: Frequently Asked Questions

November 2014

The following questions came directly from parents who attended the October District Report Card meeting. Please use this as a reference as you familiarize yourself with the revised Elementary Report Card.

Is the report card based on Common Core or PA Core standards? The report card is based on the PA Core standards.

What does an E, M, A, and/or I mean?

Students **Exceeding the Standard/Expectation** must meet the following criteria:

- Student has 95% or above average earned consistently and independently in the academic area
- Student applies higher order thinking skills with challenging or rigorous material
- Student demonstrates academically superior skills consistently in the academic area
- Student shows initiative, challenges him/herself, and demonstrates these traits in school

Students **Meeting the Standard/Expectation** must meet the following criteria:

- Student has 80% or above average earned consistently in the academic area
- Student demonstrates thorough understanding of concepts and skills with a performance characterized by the ability to consistently apply skills with accuracy and quality
- Student grades or scores on classwork or assignments will consistently fall within the proficiency to high proficiency range
- Student demonstrates a consistent level of independence in their work

Students **Approaching the Standard/Expectation** must meet the following criteria:

- Student has 70% or above average in the academic area
- Student understands basic concept or skill, but has not yet reached proficiency
- Student 's performance varies in consistency with regards to accuracy, quality and level of support

Students whose work indicates **Improvement Needed** in meeting the Standard/Expectation should include the following criteria:

- Student has below a 70% average in the academic area
- Student demonstrates minimal understanding of the basic concept or skill
- Student performance shows inconsistent understanding and application of knowledge
- Parents have been notified of student's struggle prior to report card distribution

Do the standards change each marking period? The Standard is where you want the child to be at the end of the year. The teacher decides how much progress the student needs to make each marking period towards meeting the standard by the end of the year.

How will I know from my child's work sent home, if my child is meeting the standard? As in the past, student grades are derived from a variety of measures or a combination of grades while recording evidence of learning. Teachers may use percentages, points, checklists, rubrics (4,3,2,1) or E,M,A, I. In addition, teachers use observation and work product evidence to determine whether a student has successfully mastered the skill or needs additional time and opportunities. Most teachers will use a combination of scoring methods depending on the assignment.

What does a check mean? Checks are only used with the intermediate (Grades 3-6) report cards. A check shows weakness in a particular area where the overall score is an "A" or an "M".

This first year of implementation is a year of new learning for teachers, students and parents as adjustments are made in how student progress is collected and reported. For further explanation, please speak with your child's teacher. Like the previous report card, it will take some time and effort to fully understand and gain comfort with this report card. Visit the elementary website at this [link](#) for more information.