

Elementary Standards-Based Report Card Rubric

4	Exceeds Standards	Consistently understands, applies, and extends key concepts, processes, and skills. Works beyond the established benchmarks.
3	Meets Standards	Understands and applies key concepts, processes, and skills. Meets established benchmarks.
2	Developing Standards	Beginning to understand and apply key concepts, processes, and skills. Progressing towards established benchmarks.
1	Not Meeting Standards	Lacks an understanding of key concepts, processes, and essential skills. Area of concern that requires supports.
N/A	Not assessed at this time	

HOW DOES THE STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARD COMPARE TO THE LETTER GRADE SYSTEM?

- Letter grades are often calculated by combining how well the student met a teacher's expectations, how the student performed on assignments and tests, how much effort the teacher believes the student put in, and how the student is doing in comparison to classmates.
- Standards-based report cards measure how well an individual student is doing in relation to the grade level standards.
- Letter grades do not tell parents which skills their children have mastered or whether they are working at grade level.
- A Standards Based Report Card gives parents a better understanding of their child's strengths and weaknesses and encourages all students to do their best.

What can parents do to help their child achieve the standards?

- ⇒ Ask your child specific questions about school and listen to and comment on his or her answers.
- ⇒ Examine the report card documents so that you will know what your child is expected to learn and master.
- ⇒ Provide games, puzzles, and books. Allow your child to work with these materials independently and with you.
- ⇒ Monitor television and movie viewing, as well as any computer usage.
- ⇒ Read to and with your child daily.
- ⇒ Keep your child well-rested and offer a well-balanced diet.
- ⇒ Visit the public library with your child.
- ⇒ Let your child see you reading and talk often with your child about yourself as a life-long learner.
- ⇒ Provide many opportunities for your child to write even though you may not recognize all the words. For example, ask your child to make a list of the items you need from the grocery store!
- ⇒ Maintain an open and on going dialogue with your child's teacher.

Linden Board of Education

Administration Building
2 East Gibbons Street
Linden, NJ 07036
908-486-2800

LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT



ELEMENTARY STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARD

GUIDE FOR PARENTS

2012-2013

Overview

As part of the new Common Core State Standards initiative, the Linden Public Schools are introducing a new standards-based report card in all elementary schools in 2012-2013. This report card is designed to stimulate on-going conversations between teachers, parents, and students about what is expected in a rigorous academic program.

The purpose of the new reporting system is to provide parents, teachers, and students with more accurate information about students' progress toward meeting the specific content standards. All students must perform at their highest level to meet and exceed the Common Core Standards.

Standards describe what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level in all subjects. You can find more information at www.corestandards.org

The new report card ensures consistency of expectations from teacher to teacher. It helps teachers and students focus on the standards from the very beginning of the year, giving students a chance to get help sooner if they are not making adequate progress. Parents will also know which big ideas or concepts their children have learned and what they need to work on to ensure they are ready for the next grade level.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why change from traditional grades and a traditional report card?

Traditional report cards and grades do not report on the achievement of standards. A traditional report card usually assigns one grade for reading, one for science, one for math and so on. On a standards-based report card, each of these subject areas are divided into a list of skills and knowledge that students are responsible for learning. Students receive a separate mark for each standard.

The achievement marks indicate a child's progress toward meeting specific grade-level standards. Students' proficiency is reported separately from their efforts to be attentive, resourceful, cooperative, etc.

With the new standards-based reporting system, students are evaluated more objectively according to consistent grade-level standards. The letter grade used in traditional report cards are a more subjective reflection of individual teachers' expectations for student effort and achievement.

What can parents expect?

Parents in grades K-5 will receive a detailed report four times a year with the students' academic progress being reported as a 4, 3, 2, 1, or N/A. Behaviors that support learning and social skills will be reported separately. Parents should also expect the report card to be an important tool that will be used in conferences. Report cards are designed to communicate with parents and they should be helpful and easy to understand. Parents of children using the Standards-Based Report Card will be asked to participate in a year-end survey for input as to how to improve our grading and reporting processes.

What are the expectations for my child?

Learning is a process that develops and strengthens over time. By the end of the 4th Marking Period, an assessment score of a 3 (meets the standard) indicates that your child is right on target for his/her grade level.

If my child receives a 4 for a particular skill, will he or she still be challenged in class?

If your child receives a 4, it shows that the teacher has challenged the child to perform beyond the learning objective and the child has succeeded. Even though a child has learned a skill, his or her learning will be enhanced by additional activities that foster critical thinking and a deeper understanding of the content.

Remember....

- *Learning is a process and each child develops at his/her own pace.*
- *The report card is just one component of our reporting system. We encourage a strong home-school connection to keep you informed of your child's progress.*

