

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT STANDARDS BASED REPORT CARDS

What is a standards-based report card?

A standards-based report card is designed to inform parents about their child's progress towards achieving specific learning standards (skills and knowledge). They describe what students should know and be able to do, and serve as the basis for the Washington Township Public School's curriculum, instruction and assessment model.

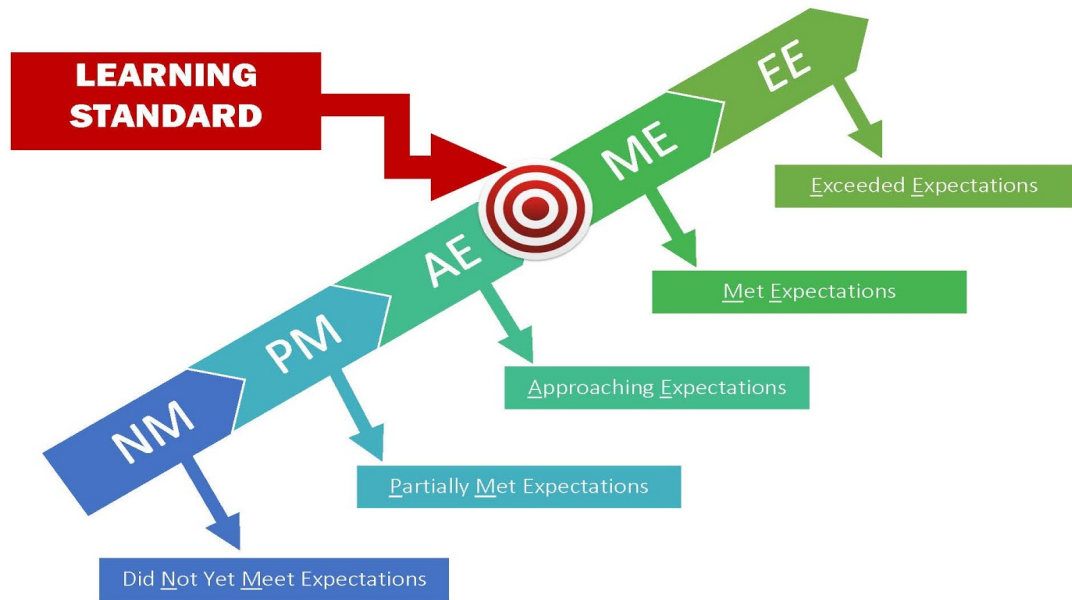
Why the move to a standards-based report card?

Our state and national standards establish high and challenging performance expectations for all students. The report card has been changed to provide more information to parents about student progress on these state and national standards. This tool benefits students, teachers and families by providing clear expectations in each major academic area. Understanding how your child is progressing towards the goals at his or her grade level is very important and a standards-based report card aids in this endeavor.

What's the difference between the traditional "A" through "F" grading system and a standards-based report card?

Traditional Grading	Standards-Based Grading
A, B, C, D, F represent percentage of points accumulated	EE, ME, AE, PM, NM represent student performance in relation to specific standards
Reports a single grade for each class	Reports what students know and are able to do in the progression of learning
Non-academic factors affect grades, such as participation, attendance, late work, etc.	Behavioral information that support learning is reported separately

Standards Based System



Standards Based System

Learning Standard	<i>A specific learning goal for what a student should know and be able to do.</i>
Exceeded Expectations	<i>Demonstrates advanced or depth of knowledge and understanding of standards.</i>
Met Expectations	<i>Demonstrates expected knowledge and understanding of concepts and skills.</i>
Approaching Expectations	<i>Demonstrates progress towards grade level concepts and skills.</i>
Partially Met Expectations	<i>Needs consistent support to demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of concepts and skills.</i>
Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	<i>Demonstrates limited or no progress towards concepts and skills.</i>

I earned all A's in the traditional report card system. Would I have earned all EE's in the standards based grading system?

If you earned all A's in the past you would most likely expect to earn ME's or EE's in the standards based grading system. However, you may see some occasional AE's or PM's in the grading along the way, especially when new concepts are being introduced and learned. **Learning in many instances is cumulative and understanding grows and develops.**

Can a student exceed the standard (earn an EE) for his/her grade level?

Yes. When a student demonstrates an in-depth knowledge of basic and extended concepts / skills and displays self-motivation to apply those skills with consistent accuracy, independence, and high quality, the student would earn an EE for exceeding expectations of performance.

What are some of the weaknesses of a traditional report card?

- Did not fully communicate what the student was expected to know.
- Did not provide insight to how a student was truly doing based on the performance standards.
- Did not clearly describe what skills a student obtained or what skills a student struggled with.
- Only represented a percentage of points accumulated rather than what the student was specifically learning.
- Grades tend to reduce students' interest in learning itself (Kohn 1993) while reducing/limiting the quality and depths of students' thinking.

What are some of the strengths of a standards-based report card?

- Get our students involved in the learning process, both in the classroom and beyond.
- Help our students know their strengths and where they need to improve.
- Provide our students opportunities to work with their teachers and parents to set meaningful goals.
- Support our students by helping them strive to achieve their goals and there by experience learning success.