

growth

A GUIDE TO
YOUR CHILD'S
REPORT CARD

GRADES 3-4



Report card format provides specific information about progress

A standards-based report card pinpoints areas of strength and need as students learn curriculum

The Franklin Special School District uses a district-wide standards-based report card format that gives parents a clear picture on how their child is progressing toward state curriculum standards in grades K-4.

Using a standard rating key (below) teachers give parents specific feedback on a child's mastery of state standards.

For instance, if your child is struggling with reading, you will be able to see if the issue lies in identifying letter sounds or recognizing high frequency words. These are two key concepts that provide pieces of a much larger puzzle.

Parents should remember that the standards on the report card reflect **end of year learning goals**. Some concepts will not even be introduced until after the first nine weeks. Many goals will not be mastered until the fourth grading period. It is the progress toward those goals that is monitored and reported to you. Teachers tailor (differentiate) instruction to meet your child's individual learning needs. Today's classroom is no longer a one-size-fits-all environment. Students learn in different ways and at their own pace. The FSSD standards-based report card alerts parents when a child is having difficulty with a concept. This allows parents and teachers an opportunity to work together to provide interventions so the child can successfully meet the learning goal.

FSSD Standards Rating Key

- 4 Exceeds the grade level standard. The student consistently and independently produces above-grade level quality work.
- 3 Demonstrates proficiency of the grade level standard. Producing the required grade level work with teacher direction.
- 2 Demonstrates partial mastery of the standard. Extra support is needed.
- 1 Not meeting the standard. Additional time and support is required.





What is a state standard?

The state curriculum standards define what students in all Tennessee public schools should know and be able to do as a result of their elementary and secondary schooling. You can view the standards at the Department of Education website.

How do teachers “grade” students on the standards?

Teachers are able to record your child’s strengths and areas of need through a variety of methods, such as observations, interviews, and written or oral assessments. These assessments provide uniformity that enables the FSSD to teach a consistent curriculum no matter which school your child attends.

Academic standards are separated from social skills

The traditional system of grading may be based somewhat on what the student actually knows, but may also be mixed with behavior and work habits. This does not give a true picture of what a student knows and is able to do academically.

A standards-based report card gives specific information concerning a student’s level of proficiency on a given academic standard, separating social and behavioral skills from academic skills.

However, student responsibilities (behavior and learning) will be recorded on the report card so parents can reinforce these important skills at home when extra support is needed. The behavior expectations are listed as *Student Responsibilities for Learning* and *Student Responsibilities for Behavior*. If work is needed in an area, you will see an “X” next to that particular skill.

Where do we go from here?

Your child’s report card can evoke feelings of joy, excitement and pride; it can also cause anxiety and uncertainty. What we want you to know is that the report card is a chance for us to share your child’s achievements, areas to strengthen as well as work habits.

This provides us with a unique opportunity to partner with you as we challenge your child to achieve at the highest level possible. So, regardless of the rating you see, please focus on the positives and praise your child for his or her achievements.

Our goal for every child is to identify the next manageable target or stretch. Because your children are unique individuals, that “stretch” may look different. Our teachers have had years of training in differentiating instruction so each child learns in his or her needs. Remember, success is improvement – not perfection.

Why use standards-based report cards?

The use of a standards-based report card comes from our belief that a report card should fully communicate what students are expected to know and be able to do as set forth by the Tennessee State Standards.

Getting a Good Check-Up

Imagine you have just undergone an examination by your doctor. Before he leaves the room he tells you that your grade on the exam is a “B.”

Do you want more information? Are you wondering what part of you was not OK? Is your heart not functioning properly or do you just need a little more Vitamin D?

The assessment information on your child’s report card allows teachers, students and parents to see the child’s academic health and celebrate the mastery of benchmarks as well as diagnose what the student needs to work on next.

Tailor Made Progress Reporting

This system provides your child’s teacher with better opportunities to communicate academic needs. Quarterly progress reports will help teachers and parents work together to support student learning both at school and at home.

Please Ask Questions!

If there is anything about the report card that you don’t understand or if you are not sure if your child is doing well, ask the teacher to explain the system. We welcome any questions you might have. Thank you so much for your support and partnership as we travel with you on your child’s journey of lifelong learning.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning for All