



Why is a standards-based approach better for student learning?

- Standards can be explained as specific learning targets in language students can understand.
- Learning targets are clear to students: What the teacher expects is no mystery.
- Teachers give feedback to students based on specific criteria and coach students to reach the learning targets.
- Scores on achievement are separated from information about effort—there is no confusion.
- Learning development is respected: a score is a realistic appraisal of achievement at the end of a learning period.
- “All students can become fully proficient” is a belief that anchors the assessment and scoring procedures.
- Parents know more about what is expected and how their child is performing relative to those expectations.
- A student’s specific strengths and weaknesses are identified.

KEY TERMS

Standard: A statement that identifies what a student should know and be able to do at a specific grade level

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks: A guiding document that identifies each learning standard by grade level. 2011 Massachusetts Frameworks include the new national Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

Rubric: A tool used to score a student’s academic performance based on standards

Performance Levels: The rating scale used on a standards-based report card to indicate student achievement of standards



“Grades are not about what students earn; they are about what students learn.”

—Susan Brookhart

We look forward to working together to provide your child with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful.

QUASHNET SCHOOL

Mashpee

**Parent Guide
to**

**Standards-Based
Report Cards**



Our mission, in partnership with parents, families, and community, is to educate, support, and celebrate all students.

Patricia DeBoer, Principal

September, 2014 (Rev. November, 2014)

The Quashnet School is pleased to introduce the Standards-Based Report card for the 2014-2015 school year. The Quashnet team has worked diligently to provide students and families with a new report card that communicates clearly what students are expected to know and be able to do as set forth by the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

The Quashnet School places a strong value on home-school partnerships, and we view the report card as an important tool in furthering our shared understanding about each student's growth in the areas of Core Academics, Special Subjects, Pro-Social Skills, and Quashnet Core Values.

What does "standards-based" mean?

Standards describe what students should know and be able to do. Teachers base their planning, instruction, and assessment on important state standards. Teachers communicate each student's progress in terms of achievement relative to standards.

How is this approach different from traditional grading?

- In a standards-based approach, the traditional categories are broken down into more specific areas of learning so that strengths and weaknesses are clear.
- Scores communicate progress relative to specific criteria and standards rather than show a percentage of achievement on a combination of areas of learning.
- Standards-based scores convey the status of achievement at the end of a learning period rather than an average of learning over time.

PERFORMANCE RATING SCALE CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS

- 4:** Exceeding the grade-level standard/expectation
- 3:** Meeting the grade-level standard/expectation
- 2:** Progressing towards the grade-level standard/expectation
- 1:** Not yet meeting the grade-level standard/expectation
- X:** Standard is not assessed at this time

GRADING SYSTEM for SPECIAL SUBJECTS, PRO-SOCIAL SKILLS, and QUASHNET CORE VALUES

- E:** Exceeding the grade-level standard/expectation
- M:** Meeting the grade-level standard/expectation
- P:** Progressing towards the grade-level standard/expectation
- N:** Not yet meeting the grade-level standard/expectation
- X:** Standard is not assessed at this time.

Note

No letter grades will be given.
Honor roll will be based on acquired skills.
A trimester schedule will be followed.

PURPOSE

We believe all children can and will learn and achieve at the Quashnet School.

Our goal in using a standards-based report card is to provide parents and guardians with a clear understanding of their child's academic progress based on specific grade-level learning standards. Parents will be able to recognize both strengths and weaknesses in their child's academic performance. This report card will allow parents and students to know what skills are expected of students at a grade level and to know the standards of success in a rigorous academic program. Teachers have worked extensively over the last several years to match the curriculum, rubrics, and assessments to the standards. This reporting system will reflect these positive changes.

Pro-Social Skills Quashnet Core Values

Pro-Social Skills and Quashnet School Core Values provide an essential foundation for life-long learning. Acquiring these skills and demonstrating our Core Values help to create a positive learning climate for all students in our school. These skills and values are addressed, developed, and supported throughout our curriculum.

THE GROWTH MINDSET

"People believe . . . their talents and abilities can be developed through passion, education, and persistence. For them . . . it's about a commitment to learning—taking informed risks and learning from the results, surrounding yourself with people who will challenge you to grow, looking frankly at your deficiencies and seeking to remedy them." –Carol Dweck