

# Standards Based Report Cards FAQs

## **Q: Why was the report card changed to the standards-based report card?**

The report card was changed to provide more concrete information to students, teachers, and parents about student growth/progress towards meeting grade level learning standards. For example, with the previous report card, students received one grade for reading, and one for math. On a standards-based report card, each of these subject areas is further expanded to include a list of skills and concepts students are responsible for learning. For each standard assessed during that trimester period, students will receive a growth indicator (4, 3, 2, or 1). With this knowledge, parents are better able to guide and support their children, and help them be successful in a challenging academic program. These growth indicators are explained in further detail below.

## **Q: What are the advantages of standards-based growth reporting?**

The learning targets are articulated clearly to the students throughout instruction. Parents/Guardians can see which learning targets students have demonstrated mastery of and which learning targets need continued review, re-teaching and additional practice.

## **Q: How will standards-based report cards affect my child?**

One of the biggest adjustments for students and parent and guardians is that standards-based report cards focus on end-of-the-year learning goals. This means that in the first or second assessment period, instead of getting A's for trying hard and doing well on tests, a high achieving student might have several marks indicating that he or she is not yet proficient in some skills. Although this is normal, since most students will not meet all of the year's goals in the first quarter, it can be disconcerting to parents and students who are used to seeing all A's or B's.

## **Q: How does the standards-based report card compare to the traditional letter grade system?**

Standards-based growth indicator reporting is different from traditional letter grade reporting. Letter grades are typically 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. *Letter grades do not tell parents which skills their child has mastered or whether he or she is working at grade level.* The standards-based report card measures how well an individual student is doing in relation to the grade level standards, not the work of other students. This gives parents a better understanding of their child's strengths and weaknesses, and encourages all students to do their best.

**Q: Can you explain the Levels of Proficiency?**

<b>Level 4 Mastered</b>	Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has an <u>extensive understanding and expert ability</u> to apply the grade level knowledge and skills as defined by the Tennessee academic standards.
<b>Level 3 On Track</b>	Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has a <u>comprehensive understanding and thorough ability</u> to apply the grade level knowledge and skills as defined by the Tennessee academic standards.
<b>Level 2 Progressing</b>	Performance at this level demonstrates that the student is <u>approaching understanding and has a partial ability</u> to apply the grade level knowledge and skills as defined by the Tennessee academic standards.
<b>Level 1 Basic</b>	Performance at this level demonstrates that the student has a <u>minimal understanding and nominal ability</u> to apply the grade level knowledge and skills as defined by the Tennessee academic standards.