



# Hawthorne School District

## Family Guide to the Elementary Report Card Revisions

California's implementation of the Common Core Standards redefined both the way in which student academic progress is measured and also how it is reported to parents and guardians. In response to these changes, the District began utilizing Common Core-aligned elementary report cards in the 2014-15 school year. In kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, these reporting tools also reflected the fact that the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) system, our system of state assessments, is built around four Achievement Levels (Standard Exceeded, Standard Met, Standard Nearly Met, and Standard Not Met), as opposed to the five Proficiency Levels (Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic, and Far Below Basic) of the previous Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) system.

In order to ensure consistency of achievement reporting and to minimize issues related to contradicting reports of student progress, the District is now revising the report card templates for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade to reflect the same four levels that are used for benchmark assessment reporting, the state assessments, and the kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade report cards. These descriptions provide a clearer and more accurate picture of student achievement that is grounded in what students are expected to know and be able to do at each grade level. We are also reducing the number of individually reported areas in English-language arts from nine to five in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, in order to make progress and achievement in that subject area easier to understand.

For current 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, this transition will result in a shift in the grading scale that will be displayed on their report cards. To better understand this change, please refer to the graphic below:

### Previous 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grading Scale

Grade
A - Advanced
B - Proficient
C - Basic
D - Below Basic
F - Far Below Basic

### New 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grading Scale

Grade
4 - Exceeding Standards
3 - Meeting Standards
2 - Nearly Meeting Standards
1 - Not Meeting Standards

While the implementation of the state content standards and the evolution of the state assessment system have necessitated changes on many levels, these shifts are taking place to provide teachers, families, and students with clearer and more meaningful information regarding areas of strength and areas of need. One thing that has not changed, however, is our commitment to supporting you and your child as he or she acquires the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in today's world.

If you have any questions at all regarding your child's progress or how you can provide additional support at home, please do not hesitate to contact his or her teacher.