



Elementary Standards-Based Report Card 2023-2024

OVERVIEW

The elementary report card is designed to stimulate an ongoing conversation among students, teachers, and guardians about what is expected of students within a rigorous academic program. As such, the purpose of the report card is to provide a clear, concise, and accurate description of each child's progress in three areas:

1. Performance relative to the Pennsylvania Core Standards established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
2. Academic performance relative to Pottsgrove School District's curriculum and grade level benchmarks and expectations.
3. Application of multiple characteristics of a successful learner.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the PA Core Standards?

Academic content standards indicate what students should know and be able to do at each grade level by the end of the school year. In 2010, Pennsylvania joined the majority of states to adopt a shared (and common) set of national learning expectations in mathematics and language arts. These expectations were named the PA Core Standards. In other subject areas (science, social studies, health, the arts, and physical education) state standards are used to determine student's proficiency.

What is a standards-based report card?

A standards-based reporting system is designed to inform guardians about their children's progress toward specific learning standards established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and adopted by the district. Standards are specified learning goals applied to all students and provide consistent targets for students to meet. These targets serve as the basis for the Pottsgrove School Districts' model of curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

In standards-based classrooms, the focus is on a student's performance over multiple opportunities, not simply the grading and averaging of tests and quizzes. Standards provide a

focus for aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The elementary division of the Pottsgrove School District provides students with multiple opportunities each trimester to practice, attain, and demonstrate proficiency on the PA Core Standards and district performance benchmarks.

Why is the district moving to a standards-based report card?

A standards-based report card benefits students, teachers, and families. It allows students to clearly understand a target while viewing progress in relation to grade level expectation. The report card gives teachers across the district a consistent understanding of grading practices. In short, a standards-based report card provides teachers and families more detailed information regarding a child's strengths and needs to help guide both classroom instruction and home supports.

How does the standards-based grading system work?

Report cards have an area that defines the skills and content. Student achievement on specific areas are rated on a scale using 4, 3, 2, 1 as follows:

- 4**—Student's achievement exceeds grade level expectations.
- 3**—Student's achievement meets grade level expectations.
- 2**—Student's achievement is inconsistent, but moving toward grade level expectations.
- 1**—Student's achievement needs continual support on grade level expectations.

The standards on the report card are end of year expectations; however, each trimester your child will be assessed on the skills within that standard that were taught during that trimester.

How does a teacher evaluate a child's learning performance?

In Pottsgrove School District classrooms, teachers collect evidence of a student's achievement through careful observations and examination of the student's work. Data points may include discussions, projects, performance tasks, quizzes, and tests. Teachers record and analyze the data to compile a comprehensive view of each child's progress toward each learning standard.

Why does this report card look different from what I had when I was in elementary school?

Pottsgrove School District emphasizes continual learning progress. In order to best assist each child, teachers need to be clear of where student performance is in relation to specific areas of the curriculum. A letter grade merely tells students and guardians how a student performed on average in a broad area, but does not provide clear feedback that promotes mastery learning.

What are characteristics of a successful learner?

Student's long-term success is dependent upon the work habits a student brings and applies to the learning environment. These learner qualities will be assessed separately from the academic standards. Teachers explicitly instruct and consistently reinforce these skills, emphasizing positive behavior.

How can guardians join the conversation with teachers regarding a child's progress?

Guardians are encouraged to ask questions of teachers to learn more about a child's performance.

Some questions may include:

- What are my child's strengths?
- What does my child need help with, and what can I do at home to help?
- What can we do together to help my child?

Other ways to help your child may include:

- Read a combination of fiction and nonfiction aloud with your child. Select more difficult passages over time.
- Read more informational texts such as newspapers, magazines, manuals, or articles.
- Talk with your child and have him or her explain things.
- Encourage writing at home.
- Help your child practice basic math facts.
- Discuss and "do" real life math with your child.