

# STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARD FAMILY GUIDE

Learning is a journey. Students learn and grow at different rates. The standards-based report card identifies where your child currently is on his or her educational path so that you, as parents, can work together with teachers to support your child in meeting end-of-year grade level standards.



## What is a standards- based report card?

A standards-based reporting system is designed to inform parents/guardians about their child's progress toward specific learning standards set forth by the Louisiana Department of Education and adopted by the district. In a standards-based system the proficiency indicator represents what is learned – where the student is in relation to the standard.



## A standards-based report card:

- provides a clear message to parents about which skills and concepts students know and are able to demonstrate in relation to established state standards
- helps teachers and students focus on identified end-of-year expectations from the very beginning of the year, giving students a direction for their learning
- aligns instruction, assessment, and grading with standards
- creates a higher level of consistency and continuity in assessing among teachers and across grade levels



# Standards-Based Reporting Terminology

“Progression of Skills” These are the skills needed to be on track to meet the standard by the end of the year.

- “On Track” will be selected for skills that have been taught thus far, and the student is demonstrating that they are on track to meet the standard by the end of the year.
- “Not on Track” will be selected for skills that have been taught thus far, but the student is not demonstrating that they are on track to meet the standard by the end of the year.

“The Standard” indicates what students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of the school year.

- “Not Met” will be selected if the student has not demonstrated progress towards performing at the level of the standard.
- “Progressing” will be selected if the student is making progress towards performing at the level of the standard but does not consistently demonstrate the ability to perform at the level of the standard.
- “Met” will be selected if the student has demonstrated their ability to perform at the level of the standard.
- “Above” will be selected if the student has demonstrated their ability to perform above the standard.

## Frequently Asked Questions

When should I expect to see “On Track” or “Not on Track?”

Because there are skills that have to be in place prior to meeting a standard, you can expect to see these terms being used to describe your child's progress throughout the school year.

When should I expect to see “Not Met,” “Progressing,” or “Met?”

Because the standard represents what your child must know and be able to do by the end of the school year, you can expect to see these terms being used beginning in Quarter 3.

Why would my child receive a “N/A?”

Because of the vast number of standards, not all standards will be assessed each reporting period. If your child has a N/A, it simply indicates that your child did not receive an assessment, or there was not enough data to accurately report progress on that standard for the grading period.

What if my child receives a “Not on Track” or “Progressing,” does this mean he/she is failing?

No. Standards-based report cards are not about failing and passing. Progressing shows that a child is working towards proficiency. Any student may earn a “not on track” or “progressing,” which can be a shock for some families. It's important to know that early scores are not averaged into the final grade—so once your child masters the skills and standards, his/her final grade will reflect that.

Do the performance descriptors on the report card correlate with letter grades?

No. Letter grades are often averaged by combining how well the student met the teacher's expectations and how the student performed on assignments and tests. In a standards-based system the proficiency indicator represents what is learned – where the student is in relation to the standard.

How will I know if my child is “On Track”?

An “On Track” indicates that a student is achieving at the appropriate level of expectations for that grade at the time of the reporting period. The standards-based report card measures how well an individual child is doing in relation to the grade-level standards, not the work of other children.

How will my child receive a “Met”?

A “Met” shows that a student has reached or mastered grade-level expectations on a specific standard. Students have until the end of the year to meet the standard.

How will my child receive an “Above”?

“Above” may be the trickiest to understand. An “Above” indicates performance that exceeds grade-level expectations taught for a specific standard and that the child has a much deeper understanding of the standard, the ability to apply that knowledge, make connections, and extend learning beyond the targeted goal.