



District 109 Report Card Overview

What is the purpose of Report Cards? Standards-based grading in grades K-5 evaluates academic progress as measured against specific learning standards. Traditional grading (A-F) is used in grades 6-8; however, standards-based learning remains a priority. Students at all levels are given opportunities to continue practicing skills to secure mastery of content. The goal of K-8 education is to support student growth, and the purpose of report cards is to provide meaningful communication to families regarding their child's progress.

In grades K-5, each academic learning standard is assigned an M, P, or N. See descriptors of each below.

Mastery of Grade-Level Standard

The student independently demonstrates a thorough understanding of the standard and consistently applies the knowledge and skills learned.

Progressing Towards Mastery of Grade-Level Standard

The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the standard and/or inconsistently demonstrates or requires support to apply the knowledge and skills.

Not Yet working at Grade-Level Standard

The student is continuing to develop prerequisite knowledge and skills.

Why has my child received a **P for a standard on the first semester report card?** Standards are written at grade-level, and some skills are not intended to be mastered until the end of the year. If you see a **P** in Semester 1, **do not worry**. A concept may have just been introduced or a child may still be working towards consistent application or independence. Some skills, like writing, are a year-long developmental process and most students receive a **P** in Semester 1. Teachers help students work towards mastery throughout the academic year. That is why children come to school! The Semester 2 (end of year) report card is where you would expect to see a child mastering all academic skills and receive all **M**'s.

Is it possible that my child receives an **M for a standard in 1st semester and then a **P** second semester?** Yes, as the school year progresses, the complexity of a standard and/or skill changes. For example, at midyear, a child may be making expected progress as a reader. Assessments in the first semester show that decoding, fluency, and comprehension are developing typically but progress stalls second semester. In math, a child may master multiplication of decimals fluently but then struggle with division. If changes in the child's rate of progress are noted, and the child may not finish the year at benchmark, this will be discussed with parents/guardians at the spring conference.

What does an **N on the report card mean?** An **N** means a child is still strengthening previous grade level standards. While these students may be accessing grade-level instruction in the classroom, their primary focus when working in small groups or individually is on the development of prerequisite skills. The development of educational goals for these students are often decided in collaboration with the family during the development of an individualized education plan or through the tiered intervention (RTI) process; therefore, a marking of **N** is not unexpected. Report card comments and/or goal updates are often the most meaningful forms of reporting for these students.

How is my elementary child's progress measured and reported other than on the semester report card? In literacy, teachers use the Weekly and Module Assessments from Into Reading to determine student progress toward mastery of standards. In the primary grades, additional assessments measure key foundational skills such as print concepts, letter identification, letter/sound correspondence, word recognition, word analysis, etc. As students move through the grades, performance assessments, reading checklists, vocabulary checks, and the learning progressions are also utilized. For

writing, all grades utilize writing checklists and rubrics to measure student progress. In math, students have pre- and post-test cover sheets for each unit to show what standards are being taught and assessed. The combination of a pre- and post-test helps the teacher, child, and parent see growth over time. All information collected is used to plan individual or small group skill and strategy lessons, which include extension and/or remediation.

In grades K-8, each Habit of Success is assigned an M, P, or N. See descriptors below.

M Meeting age-appropriate expectations

The student independently and consistently demonstrates the skill.

P Progressing towards age-appropriate expectations

The student requires occasional prompting and/or inconsistently demonstrates the skill.

N Needs Improvement

The student requires regular prompting and/or rarely demonstrates the skill.

Important Habits of Success Note: The Habits of Success are closely aligned with a child’s social skills and/or executive functioning. These skills continue to develop in students over time. Teachers will be evaluating the age-appropriateness of each child’s demonstration of these skills. Independence and consistency are the markers for an **M**; therefore, some students may be marked a **P** while developing the habits they need to obtain the highest level of success in school. The need for some level of prompting is not entirely atypical. The goal would be growth over time. A marking of an **N** means that the child is having more difficulty than typical, which would generally be communicated prior to the report card.

In grades 6-8, each course is assigned a letter grade. 80% of the grade is based on a student’s demonstration of learning on summative projects, presentations, tests, etc., while **20%** of the grade is based on formative assignments, such as in-class activities and homework. See the grading scale (aligned with DHS) below.

Grade	Percentage
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63
D-	62-60
F	59 and below

Where can I find the curriculum maps on the District 109 website? All curriculum maps can be found on the [Curriculum & Instruction page](#). In the left column, find Academic Subjects, hit the + sign, and then select the subject.

How do I access my child’s report card? Report Cards can be found in **Skyward Family Access** under the **Portfolio** tab in Student Profile. Parents/guardians will need to click on the report card to download.