

South Country

Central School District

A tradition of quality...A future of excellence

Standards Based Report Cards Q & A

What are standards?

Standards are statements of what students should know and be able to do. The district curriculum is aligned to the New York State Common Core Learning Standards. These standards at each grade level show a progression of learning that builds upon each grade level of instruction.



Why a standards based report card?

Helps students, families and teachers understand what students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of each grade level

Supports students, families and teachers in monitoring progress toward grade level standards

Ensures equity through student achievement and accountability

Standards set clear goals for success and a pathway from grade to grade

Helps teachers adjust instruction and design intervention

The Academic Standards Key is used to demonstrate a student's level of understanding

What is the difference between a 3 and a 4? When a student is performing at a level 4 they are able to

extend their learning into new situations. They have outstanding and exceptional skills. They are consistently performing beyond the standards for the grade level. When a student is performing on a level 3 they have comprehensive understanding and perform consistently with good quality. Students at a level 3 are performing on grade level.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS KEY	
4	EXCEEDING GRADE LEVEL STANDARDS
	Demonstrates extended understanding with exceptional skills
	Applies and extends learned skill
	Produces work of outstanding quality and accuracy
3	MEETING GRADE LEVEL STANDARDS
	Demonstrates comprehensive understanding
	Demonstrates consistent skill improvement and applies learned skills
	Produces work of good quality
2	APPROACHING GRADE LEVEL STANDARDS
	Demonstrates partial understanding
	Develops skills at an inconsistent quality
	Produces work of inconsistent quality
	Requires extra time and instructional teacher support
1	BELOW GRADE LEVEL STANDARDS
	Demonstrates minimal understanding
	Beginning to develop skills
	Seldom completes quality work
	Requires extra time and constant instructional teacher support

1

BELOW GRADE
LEVEL
STANDARDS

Minimal understanding,
beginning, incomplete

2

APPROACHING
GRADE LEVEL
STANDARDS

Partial understanding,
inconsistent, with support

3

MEETING
GRADE LEVEL
STANDARDS

Comprehensive
understanding, good,
consistent

4

EXCEEDING
GRADE LEVEL
STANDARDS

Extended, outstanding,
exceptional

WHAT IS NEW ABOUT THE 2017-2018 ELEMENTARY REPORT CARDS?

The elementary report cards have gone through revisions over the past 2 years. During the 2016-2017 school year a committee was formed to make revisions and look at the grade level standards to ensure alignment with the NYS CCLS and that each grade level was aligned vertically.

The first thing you will notice is that the report card is now presented in two columns in a portrait layout, rather than the trifold we previously used. This allowed for the report card to be read with greater ease.

The **independent reading level** is now provided on the report card to support independent reading at home. A student's independent reading level represents what they can read without support and therefore is a better indicator for families and students to use when at home reading independently. The goals for independent reading are indicated by grade level on the report card. Teachers will still be completing Benchmark Assessments to determine a student's instructional level as this is the level they will work with teachers in guided reading. Please speak with your child's teacher if you have concerns about their reading level.

Math Fluency is now included on the report card under a separate subheading. Refer to the chart below for each grade level's fluency. Students grow in fluency over the course of the year. Please speak with your child's teacher if you would like to understand more about how fluency develops over the course of a school year.

Grade	Required Fluency
K	Add/subtract within 5
1	Add/subtract within 10
2	Add/subtract within 20 ¹ Add/subtract within 100 (pencil and paper)
3	Multiply/divide within 100 ² Add/subtract within 1000
4	Add/subtract within 1,000,000
5	Multi-digit multiplication

In 2017 New York State adopted the Next Generation Standards. The report card committee reviewed the drafts of the math and literacy standards as they wrote this report card and reserved some changes. It should be noted that NYS has prescribed a timeline with full implementation of the Next Generation Standards in 2020. The current report card will be reviewed for any revisions necessary for alignment with the Next Generation Standards.

A FEW MORE QUESTIONS...

Can a student perform at a level 3 and then move to a lower level in the next trimester?

Yes. Expectations change from one trimester to the next. This means a student may meet the grade-level expectations during the first trimester, but as the expectations increase and content changes, the student may not demonstrate the same level of proficiency during the next trimester.

How can I help my child if they are approaching or below grade level standards?

Speak with your child's teacher. The teacher will be able to share what they are working on in class and what you can support your child in with practice at home. Review the comments on the report card as teachers will indicate to you what they are working on in class and how you can support your child at home. Encourage your child to engage in problem solving by asking questions and providing feedback. Nightly reading and practice in math skills will always help a child in progressing in their learning.