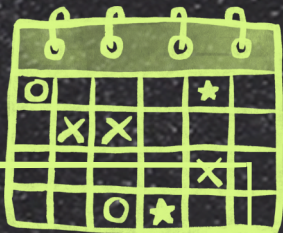


FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions for Students & Families

Understanding Standards-Based Grading & Reporting



What is Skills and Standards-Based Grading?

Standards-Based Grading and Reporting (SBGR) focuses on what students know and can do in relation to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS). Instead of receiving one overall grade per subject, students are assessed on how well they are progressing toward mastery of specific academic skills and content standards.

***Please note, this change is currently being implemented only at our PAC, STEAM, and Sankofa Campuses in Kindergarten through 8th grade.*



What are the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS)?

The NJSLS defines what all students in New Jersey should know and be able to do in each subject and grade level. These standards guide curriculum and instruction in all New Jersey public and public charter schools.

You can learn more here:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/cccs/>

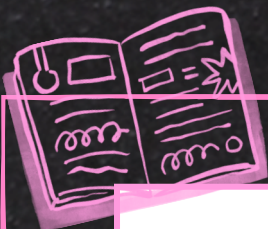


Why are we making this change across our campuses?

This shift helps ensure that:

- Student learning is evaluated based on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, not just classroom tasks
- Teachers, families, and students gain clearer insight into what students have mastered and the areas where they are still growing
- Students focus on learning and growth, rather than just earning points or grades

This grading system reflects best practices for early learning and is developmentally appropriate for elementary and middle school students.



How is this different from traditional grading?

Traditional Grading	Standards-Based Grading
Based on point totals, test averages, and class participation	Based on progress toward specific learning standards
One overall grade for each subject	Proficiency ratings in specific standards for each subject
Combines academics with behavior and effort	Academic progress and behaviors reported separately

What about special subjects such as art or dance?



Special subjects such as art, dance, music, and physical education are assessed using the same proficiency scale as core subjects. Students will receive:

- **4 – Exceeding Expectations:** Consistently demonstrates skills and understanding beyond grade-level expectations
- **3 – Meeting Expectations:** Demonstrates the expected skills and understanding for the grade level
- **2 – Approaching Expectations:** Beginning to develop the skills; more practice and support are needed
- **1 – Not Meeting Expectations:** Shows limited understanding of the skills; requires significant support

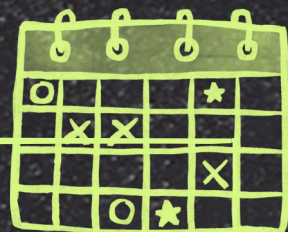
This scale provides families with clear feedback on how students are progressing in specials, using the same consistent system applied to academic subjects.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions for Students & Families

Understanding Standards-Based Grading & Reporting

What will the new report card look like?



- Each subject (i.e., Math or ELA) is broken down into specific skills aligned to NJSLS
- Students receive a proficiency score for each skill or learning goal
- Teachers may also include comments about student progress, strengths, and next steps

Why is this especially helpful for elementary and middle school students?



- Gives a clear, detailed view of academic development
- Helps identify and address learning needs early on
- Encourages a growth mindset; students learn that effort and progress matter
- Focuses on mastery of foundational skills needed for long-term success

Are behaviors, effort, or homework still considered?



Yes, but they are reported separately from academic progress. This helps families see the difference between what students are learning and how they are learning (e.g., organization, participation, responsibility, collaborating, etc.).

Will this affect honor roll or middle school placement?



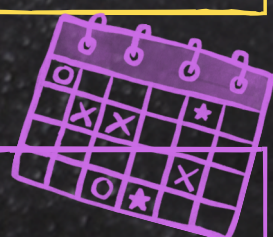
Yes, honor roll will require students to receive proficiency ratings of 3 or higher in all rated standards. Students in the middle grades (6th, 7th, and 8th) will also receive an overall average score for each of the classes they are enrolled in.

How can I support my child?



- Talk with your child about what they're learning, not just what grade they received
- Review the report card together and discuss areas of growth
- Celebrate effort and progress
- Reach out to your child's teacher with questions or concerns

Where can I learn more?



- Visit [MPTCS.org](https://www.mptcs.org) under the "Academics" dropdown for updates and parent resources
- Attend family curriculum nights, monthly principal meetings, and back-to-school nights to learn more
- Review the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at:
➡ <https://www.nj.gov/education/cccs/>
- Contact your child's teacher or principal for personalized support