

Standards Based Report Cards Frequently Asked Questions

We have now completed our Standards Based Report Card information sessions. Attached for your reference is the powerpoint from the sessions as well as an article published by Great Schools that addresses the nation's transition to standards based reporting in schools. If you were unable to attend, below are a few key questions that came up through the presentation. If after reviewing you have any further questions please contact Ms. Cat DesRoche (cdesroche@miltonps.org) or Dr. Elaine McNeil-Girmai (emcneilgirmai@miltonps.org)

What is a standards based report card?

Standards based report cards are tied to the Common Core standards adopted by Massachusetts. The standards outline important skills that students should learn in a subject at a particular grade level. Instead of letter grades, students will receive a rating that tells whether a student is Exceeding, Meeting, Progressing Towards or Not Progressing towards a certain standard. Report cards will now be distributed at the end of each Trimester (three report cards per school year).

How should I be thinking about the ratings my student receives on his/her report card?

Here is an example of how to apply our rating system to an everyday activity:

Thinking about Benchmarks



STANDARD: Student will ride a two-wheeled bicycle

Exceeding the Standard Wow! You not only ride a bike on your own, but you can pop a wheelie, jump ramps, and perform other bike stunts.

Meeting the Standard Congratulations! You are successfully riding a bike by yourself.

Progressing Toward the Standard You are pedaling well and staying upright as long as someone is holding on and giving you a little push.

Not Meeting The Standard You are riding a tricycle.

These standards are unfamiliar to me, are these the complete Common Core Standards?

While these standards are a representative selection of grade level standards, they are not exhaustive. These standards show the main focus within each content area. Some standards were combined in order to consolidate information. For more information about Common Core State Standards, visit:

<http://www.corestandards.org/what-parents-should-know/>

How are teachers assessing my child's progress within a particular standard? Is it just one or multiple measures of assessment?

Teachers have multiple measures to assess each standard. These include classroom participation in discussions and activities, workbook and journal entries, reading conference and assessment date, writing assignments and district-wide formal assessment measures.

If my child meets a standard in Trimester 1 and is then progressing towards a standard in Trimester 2, what does that mean?

Throughout the academic year, the expectations and the demands of a standard increases. It is reasonable that a student may get a 'Meets Standard' in Trimester 1 and, because the demands increase through the year, get a 'Progressing Towards Standard' in subsequent terms.

It is a long time between September and December, how will I know if my student is having difficulty with the switch to three semesters?

Throughout the academic year, teachers will continuously focus on communicating concerns about academic progress. You are also always encouraged to communicate concerns and questions to your child's teacher. In previous years, Grade 4 & 5 students also received progress reports midway through the term. This year, while we transitioned to a new reporting system we did not have written progress reports for students. In Terms 2 and 3, families in Gr. 4 & 5 will receive written progress reports if there are concerns about progress.

What can I expect at this year's Family/Teacher Conference? What can I do to prepare?

Report cards will be sent home on December 6th. Family conferences will occur the next day, December 7th . Similar to conferences in the past, you can expect for teachers to talk about your student progress including areas of strength and areas for growth. Teachers will also be prepared to answer any questions you may have about your student's experience at school, show student work samples, and provide you with an overall sense of how your student is doing. If you feel you need a more in depth follow-up meeting, you are welcome to schedule that with the classroom teacher after Family Conferences.