

What is a Standards-Based Report Card?

A standards-based report card communicates a student's progress toward meeting end-of-year learning standards. Teachers assess performance against these learning standards, which are specific and observable grade-level skills articulated in the Waterford Township School District curriculum.

The Waterford Township Standards-Based Report Card reflects the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and this report card will keep parents, teachers, and students focused on the desired year-end learning goals.

Why Standard-Based Report Cards?

In 2016, the state of New Jersey transitioned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, a set of standards that specifically outlines what students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade level. In order to fully communicate a student's achievement with respect to those standards, it was important to shift from a traditional grading system to one that more accurately recognizes students' strengths, as well as identifying areas in need of improvement.



How will teachers determine scores?

Teachers will collect information throughout the trimester, using information such as:

- Benchmark assessments
- Running records
- Work on the Personal Math Trainer (Go Math!)
- Word work
- Writing pieces
- Performance on tests and quizzes
- Projects
- Student observations
- Notes from individual conferences with students
- Classwork and homework

What grading key / assessment scales will be used?

For academic standards, the following scale will be used:

- EX: Exceeds: Exceeding grade-level standard for trimester
- MS: Meeting Standard: Meeting grade level standard for trimester
- PR: Progressing: Progressing toward grade-level standard for trimester
- NI: Needs Improvement: Demonstrating minimal or no progress and is at risk for not meeting grade-level standard for trimester

For Fountas & Pinnell Reading Levels:

- Teachers assess students' instructional reading levels on a scale of AA-Z throughout the year.
- This information will appear in the ELA section of the report card, and a graphic at the top of the report card will indicate the goals for reading levels within each grade level.

For Social Development, Work Habits & Fine Motor Skills:

- An "X" indicates that this is an area of concern

Note: For students receiving modifications, interventions, and/or other levels of support, this level of support will appear under the ELA and Math headings.

Why trimesters?

Because the data collection and information teachers will gather is so comprehensive, we have transitioned to a trimester system for reporting grades. This will provide ample time for teachers and students to work together and for teachers to have the ability to fully document your child's progress. As always, please continue to communicate with your child's teacher in between conferences and report card times to monitor your child's progress in the classroom.

Based on a trimester system, report card distribution takes place on the following dates:

- December 11, 2017
- March 16, 2018
- June 19, 2018

Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place the week of December 11.

Need more information?

- SBRC Presentations will take place at the Parent Interaction meeting on **October 10 at 7:00 P.M. (WES)** and at the November BOE meeting on **November 15 at 7:00 P.M. (WES)**.
- **On December 13, from 6:30-8:30 P.M.**, you can bring in your child's report card to the Thomas Richards Elementary School, and our Supervisor of Curriculum will be available to answer your questions.
- Julie Lyons, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction, will be available at all Back to School Nights to answer additional questions.
- *Coming Soon!* View a sample of the report card, this letter, and other related information (such as Math & ELA rubrics) on our district website under the Parents tab.

Special thanks to the work of the following SBRC Committee members:

Kindergarten: Jessica Schaper
Grade 1: Alison Schafer, Georgiann Raso
Grade 2: Alex Handzus, James Moore, Sandy Romsteadt
Grade 3: Megan Scotti, Alison Dimitratos, Jill O'Donnell
Grade 4: Kathleen Iulicci
Coaches: Christine Manna, Candice Michelini, Ashley Power

A GUIDE TO Standards-Based Report Cards (K-4)



**WATERFORD
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