



Fact Sheet on Elementary Standards Based Grading

Report measures student mastery of state standards

The elementary report card is aligned to comply with laws and policies such as the NC Student Accountability Standards and the WCPSS Promotion policy.

The purpose for the standards based report card is to inform students and parents about a student's performance on the grade level standards. This report card measures progress against a uniform standard, rather than other subjective assessments. Information related to growth and overall strengths and needs is captured in the teacher comment section.

Standards based report cards provide a consistent grading scale; work habits and conduct are separate; and teacher comments are specific. Standards based grading has helped administrators and teachers at schools to improve assessment practices, guide instruction of the state standards, and provide more deliberate development of enrichment activities.

The student performance levels of 1 to 4 indicate whether students have met the expectations set by the state in the Standard Course of Study and indicate whether the student has the necessary skills and concepts to be successful in the next quarter or next grade.

Student performance levels

The student performance level is determined with quarterly objectives and assessment data. Work habits and conduct grades are separate from the student's content proficiency.

Level 4 - Extends targeted grade level standards: represents the student exceeding grade level expectations set by the state and that a student will be successful in the next grade or quarter and whose curriculum may be enriched.

Level 3 - Demonstrates proficiency of targeted grade level standard: represents the student meeting the grade level expectations set by the state and indicates that a student has the necessary skills and concepts to be successful in the next grade or quarter.

Level 2 - Inconsistent and needs support to meet targeted grade level standards: indicates that the student has not yet met grade level expectations set by the state and that a student does not have the necessary skills and concepts to be successful in the next grade or quarter. This should alert parents that close communication is needed for further student support. If the student seldom turns in math homework and does not cooperate in group problem solving in math, this student's work habits and conduct grade may indicate Level 2.

Level 1 - Insufficient performance of targeted grade level standards with support: indicates that the student has not yet met grade level expectations set by the state and that a student does not have the necessary skills and concepts to be successful in the next grade or quarter. This should alert parents that close communication is needed for further student support.

Grades are provided twice a year for weekly special classes such as art and music, instead of quarterly. This provides special teachers the time with students they need to assess each student's work.

The standards based report card provides space for teachers to list the individual interventions such as a volunteer tutor, mentoring program, or Accelerated Learning Program instruction in which each student participates.

Reporting on classroom behavior

The standards based report card includes reports on the student's conduct and work habits. In reporting on conduct, the teacher can indicate whether the student meets expectations in cooperating with others, respecting others, and observing rules and procedures. In reporting on work habits, the teacher can indicate whether the student uses time wisely, listens carefully, completes assignments, writes legibly, works independently or seeks help when needed, and completes work.

The Rating Scale for Conduct and Work Habits rates students with a 1 through 3, where students receive

3 - meets expectations

2 - inconsistently meets expectations

1 - does not meet expectations

The standards based report card increases a teacher's ability to communicate with the student and parent about the student's success in meeting the state standards for that grade, as well as reporting on the student's classroom behavior.