

# Standards-Based Report Card Fact Sheet

## What grades will use the new standards-based report card?

- The new format will be used in **grades K-4** during the 2014-2015 school year.
- The new format will begin to be used in **grade 5** during the 2015-2016 school year.

## Why did Lumberton School District revise the report card?

- The report card that was in use for grades K-3 did not match the new Common Core standards for Language Arts and Math and, as a result, did not match the curriculum or skills being taught in the classrooms. It was necessary to revise it in order to make it align with new curriculum.
- It is a goal of the Lumberton School District to help parents understand what the new standards require of children at each grade level so that we can work together to help them achieve at the expected level. We saw the standards-based report card as one way to facilitate that.
- The standards-based report card will communicate student progress toward end of grade level learning goals, and the adequacy of that progress, based on the New Jersey Common Core State Standards (NJCCSS) for Language Arts and Math and the New Jersey Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) for all other subjects.
- The new report card will help us to identify areas of strength within each subject and areas where additional time and effort are required in order to help the child meet the end of grade level goal. This will enable teachers to plan instruction for each student that offers support where needed. It will also help parents and teachers work together more effectively to ensure students' academic success.

## How was the report card created?

- A committee of teachers from every grade level, Child Study Team members, and administrators began the process in the spring of 2013. The entire process took approximately 1 ½ years.
- The work was guided by asking several key focus questions based on the research and work of Thomas R. Guskey, an expert in the field of student assessment and standards-based report cards.
- As the committee worked, its members shared report card drafts with their grade level teams, and revisions were made based on the feedback received.

## **What will be the format of the new report cards?**

- The report card for grades 1-4 will look very similar and report on the same standards across grades.
- The kindergarten report card will be unique to that grade level so that we can be more specific in reporting on student progress that relates only to the kindergarten year.
- Under each subject, 3-4 standards will be listed and scored separately based on a 4-point rubric. There will be no letter grade for the subject as a whole.
- Students' work habits will be reported separately from their academic progress. This will enable parents to identify whether any weak area for the child is based on his/her understanding of the skills and concepts being taught or is instead based on behaviors or work habits that need to improve.
- The standards have been translated from "educator jargon" to "parent-friendly" language to ensure that parents understand what their child should know, understand, and be able to do by the end of the grade level. Each marking period will show whether the child is making adequate progress, for that point in the school year, toward the achievement of that standard.
- Samples of the standards-based report cards are available on the district website. Go to the pull-down menu for "Parents" and look for "Report card information".

## **How will teachers determine student scores?**

- Teachers will be gathering evidence of each student's progress throughout the marking period, using information such as:
  - written work
  - completed projects
  - observation of students as they work
  - notes on individual conferences with students
- Teachers will compare this evidence to a rubric that shows what students need to know, understand, and be able to do at that point in the school year.

## **What are some advantages of the new report card?**

- It is a way for parents to see what it is everyone is supposed to be teaching, what it is everyone is supposed to be learning, and how well their children are progressing.
- The new report card will provide more consistency across each grade, because teachers have worked together to create the rubrics that will be used to score students, identifying skills needed for each standard and what is considered adequate growth for each marking period.
- This new approach will help teachers readily identify students who need more support and offer the additional help and practice they need. It will also help teachers identify students who have mastered the standard early so that they can provide them with instructional opportunities to challenge them.

## **What do parents need to know in order to get the most out of the standards-based report card, and where can they find it?**

Knowing what exactly each standard on the report card looks like for their child's specific grade level will help parents better interpret the report card. This information will be made available on the district's website, and parents will be told exactly where to look for it when report cards are issued in the first marking period.

## **How can parents get more information about the standards-based report card?**

- More detailed information is available on district website under the "Parents" pull-down menu. For each grade, it includes a copy of the report card, an explanation of what the standards require at that grade level, and examples of student writing that matches the Common Core expectations for that grade.
- The Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction will offer a more detailed presentation at the PTA's October 15 meeting in the Bobby's Run media center. There will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions at that time.

## Key Comparisons of the previous report card and the standards-based report card

<b>Grades K-3</b>	
<b>Previous Report Card</b>	<b>Standards-Based Report Card</b>
For each subject, students were scored on achievement of <u>skills</u> .	For each subject, students will be scored on progress toward achieving <u>grade level standards</u> .
The teacher decided how to calculate a grade.	Teachers will work from the same rubrics across the grade to determine a student's progress toward the standard.

<b>Grades 4 (and 5 beginning Sept, 2015)</b>	
<b>Previous Report Card</b>	<b>Standards-Based Report Card</b>
A single grade was given for each subject.	Subject areas are divided into standards, and each standard is assessed separately
The teacher decided how to calculate a grade.	Teachers will work from the same rubrics across the grade to determine a student's progress toward the standard.
Work habits may have been calculated into the grade (missing or late work, etc.)	Work habits are reported separately and not calculated into the student's proficiency towards a standard.
The grades were calculated for work done during only 1 marking period.	The scores show a student's standing in relation to achieving end-of-year standards at 4 points during the year. Growth can be seen.