


THE NEW STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARDS (SBRC's)

A tool for teachers to report on student progress with new standards-based measures
November 2004

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District
First Grade Progress Report



First	Last	ID Number	School	Teacher	Grade	School Year																																																																														
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WHAT THEY ARE

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's (SMMUSD) standards-based report cards, used at grade levels 1-5, are easy-to-understand reports of student progress on standards achievement.

The report card contains 3 areas:

- The top of the report card contains the indicators of progress toward the standards. For the first and second recording periods, students will receive a number from 1 to 5. On the second page, students will receive a different indicator to reflect progress (see "Grading").
- The left side of the column contains the standards for your child's grade level.
- The right side of the column contains your child's progress for the first reporting period.

WHY THEY WERE DEVELOPED

Standards guide a school's expectations of students. Parents need to know if their children are making progress towards mastery of the standards. SMMUSD developed its standards-based report card as a clear and logical method for reporting student progress. The district and all of our elementary schools are serious about standards. This report card allows teachers to report achievement of the standards.

HOW THEY WERE DEVELOPED

A district committee composed of teachers and administrators designed the report cards containing the academic performance standards for each grade level. Last year, the report cards were piloted at several schools in the district. All of the schools in the district will be using this report card in grades 1 through 5 during the 2004-2005 academic year.

WHY THEY'RE VALUABLE

A student has to achieve all of the academic standards in all core subject areas - reading, language arts, and math -- in order to be successful in his or her grade level. The standards-based report cards not only gives parents the definition of the standard, but also provides a reference or check list to show that a child has achieved one standard but not another. With the standards-based report cards, the district has 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 the children are doing at it. Science, social studies and the other subjects reported on side two have not yet been translated into standards-based reporting, and so a different scale is used on the second page of the report card.

(Continued)

GRADING WITH SBRC's

Grading is different from previous report cards. During the first and second trimesters, students will receive a number score (on a 1-5 scale) for each of the standards, and an overall number score for the four major curriculum areas included on the first page of the report card: reading achievement, writing achievement, listening and speaking achievement, and math achievement. These numbers are "Indicators of Progress Toward Standards" – that is, they indicate how well the student is progressing toward mastering the standard.

- 5 – ADVANCED
- 4 – PROFICIENT
- 3 – MAKING GOOD PROGRESS TOWARD PROFICIENCY
- 2 – MAKING SOME PRGRESS TOWARD PROFICIENCY
- 1 – MAKING LITTLE PROGRESS TOWARD PROFICIENCY
- N/A – NOT ASSESSED AT THIS TIME

The key difference is that student achievement is based on an end of the year benchmark in each curricular area. Thus, a student may not be proficient in November, simply because he/she would not be able to achieve mastery of a standard or skill that California state standards require by the end of the year.

A student making progress will receive a "3" rather than a "4" or a "5" even if his or her grades are very good. Remember, proficiency is measured by the ability to master end of the year standards. Most students will receive a score of "2" or "3" – indicating that they are making "some" or "good" progress towards proficiency.

A score of "3" indicates that the student is making adequate progress toward mastery of the standard and the teacher believes the student will attain proficiency by the end of the year. A score of "2" indicates that a student is making some progress toward mastery of the standard, but that the teacher is less certain at this time that the student will attain proficiency by the end of the year. A student with a "2" is probably in need of some additional intervention in order to support and possibly accelerate his/her learning.

Parents should not expect that students will receive scores of "4" or "5" -- since that would indicate full mastery of the standard at the proficient or advanced level. Proficient and advanced mastery is the goal for the end of the school year.

In June, the student will receive marks that relate to their achievement of mastery of state standards. The scores for the third trimester will be as follows: **Adv – Advanced, Pro – Proficient, Bas – Basic, BB – Below Basic, or FBB – Far Below Basic.**

The remainder of the curricular areas, as well as the personal and social growth and work habits areas – included on the second page of the report cards – will be scored using the following set of indicators: + representing "consistently meets expectations", ✓+ "usually meets expectations", ✓ "sometimes meets expectations", - "rarely meets expectations", N/A "not assessed at this time."

HOW HAVE THE TEACHERS PREPARED FOR THE NEW REPORT CARD

Staff members at different school sites are familiarizing themselves with the new report card at grade level team meetings, during professional development time, and/or through meetings of a district level Standards Based Report Card committee. Representatives from Educational Services are available to meet with staff members at schools sites upon request. Additionally, teachers familiar with the computer-based version of the Standards Based Report Card are assisting other teachers in becoming familiar with the report card and computer-based preparation of the cards.

HOW WILL THE NEW STANDARDS BASED REPORT CARD HELP YOUR CHILD?

Parents will receive more information on the progress of their children. Instead of one reading grade, you now have a list of standards that better indicate weaknesses and strengths of your child. Teachers, along with parents and guardians, can now work with their children on areas of weakness.

CONCLUSION and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The SBRC will do a much better job helping you understand how your child is doing during the year and if he/she needs help to achieve proficiency. More information on the California state standards is available on-line at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/>.