



**Mount Pleasant Independent School District**

**Instructional Services**

**Standards Based Report Cards**

**What is a standards based report card?**

A standards based report card lists the most important skills and concepts students should learn in each subject at a particular grade level.

**What is a standard?**

A standard tells us what students should know and be able to do. In Texas, these are identified as Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

**How will student achievement on a standard be assessed?**

Student achievement can be assessed in a variety of formal and informal methods.

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Observations | Group Discussions  |
| Portfolios   | Quizzes & Tests    |
| Reflections  | Performances       |
| Interviews   | Graphic Organizers |
| Journals     | Performance Tasks  |
| Games        | Reports            |
| Projects     | Debates            |

**How will student achievement on a standard be reported?**

A standards based report card clearly communicates students progress towards mastery of each standard using a score of:

- 1** = Exhibits skill / concept **with direct guidance**
  - 2** = Exhibits skill / concept **with minimal guidance**
  - 3** = Exhibits skill / concept **on grade level**
  - 4** = Exhibits skill / concept **beyond grade level expectaion**
- N/A = Not assessed at this time

**Will the standards based scoring be comparable to the traditional report card?**

Grades on the traditional report cards & proficiency levels on standards based report cards are not comparable. Standards based report cards are based on content standards.

**How does the standards based report card compare to the traditional report card?**

Traditional report cards use grades, which can reflect student effort & teacher expectations. The standards based report card shows at what level the student understands the standards, as described by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Social behaviors are reported separately. The curriculum (what we teach), the instruction (how we teach), and the assessment are all aligned to the standards.

**What are the benefits of a standards based report card?**

The traditional system may be based somewhat upon what a student actually knows, but can also be mixed with behavior, work habits, attitude, punctuality, & other factors. A standards based report card gives specific information concerning a student's level of proficiency on a given standard. This allows a parent, student and teacher to know exactly what a student's strengths and weaknesses are.

*Standards based report cards are designed to give parents a clearer picture of the strengths and weaknesses of their child's learning.* Instead of letter and number grades, students receive marks that show how well they have mastered a set of age-appropriate skills and where they need to improve.

*The marks on a standards based report card do not include effort, attitude, or work habits (they are marked separately).*

The standards based grading format more accurately reflects how children are learning under the state's standards based academic system.

Concrete skills and knowledge are listed on the report card to help monitor whether all students are being exposed to the same curriculum and learning the skills they should develop in each grade level.

*One of the biggest adjustments for the students and parents is standards based report cards focus on end-of-year goals.*

This means that in the first or second grading period a high-achieving student might have several marks indicating that he is not yet proficient in skill areas. This is normal and to be expected. Students will not meet all of the year's goals at the beginning of the year. Standards based report cards keep teachers and parents focused on the student learning goals from the beginning of the year.

*Ask lots of questions.*

If there is anything about the report card you don't understand or if you are not sure if your child is doing well, ask the teacher to explain the report card.

*Be sure you find out if your child is completing assignments and developing good work habits.*

It is important for parents to be sure they have a complete picture of their child's learning. Some children may be able to show mastery of the standards in the lower grades without good work habits, but that will get more difficult as they progress through the school years.

*Take advantage of the extra information.*

Standards based report cards give you more detailed information about how your child is doing in each skill area. You can use this information to help your child by focusing on skills you are concerned about.

*Establish a positive relationship with your child's school.*

Because report cards are designed to communicate with parents, they need to be easy to understand and helpful to parents. If you have questions about your school's report card, share them with the teacher or principal.



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**Annie Sims Elementary**

**E.C. Brice Elementary**

**Francis Corprew Elementary**

**Vivian Fowler Elementary**