



### Why is a standards-based approach to grading more favorable for assessing student performance?

- Grades are now reported to reflect a number of components for each content area versus just one summative grade.
- The *Characteristics of a Successful Learner*, including effort and behavior, are no longer factored when determining what a child knows and is able to do. These skills do, however, play a vital role in a student's education.
- Standards can be explained as student-friendly learning targets that lead to mastery.
- Parents know specific areas for growth that can be worked on to improve student performance.
- Standards-based reporting requires for consistent examination of standards, instruction, and assessment.

## Performance Indicators

Academic Performance Scoring Scale	
4	Exceeds grade level standards
3	Meets grade level standards
2	Near grade level standards
1	Well Below grade level standards
NA	Not assessed during this trimester
*	Score assessed with a modified curriculum

Characteristics of a Successful Learner	
M	Meets grade level standards
N	Near grade level standards
WB	Well Below grade level standards

Performance indicators refer to the progress a student is able to demonstrate toward mastering a particular standard. Work habits and social growth indicators are separated and assessed with a different scale that does not factor into a student's overall grade in each content area.



*"Standards-based grading provides a more comprehensive picture of students' academic progress by identifying areas of strength, as well as areas where additional work may be needed."- Thomas R. Guskey*

## WINDHAM CENTER SCHOOL



### STANDARDS BASED REPORTING:

### A PARENT'S GUIDE TO REPORT CARDS

2017-2018

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## Common Questions

### What are standards?

Standards indicate what students are expected to know by the end of a grade level. In the Windham School District, standards drive our curriculum and are adopted from the Common Core State Standards.

### Why are there many standards for each content area?

The individual standards provide more specific descriptions of the learning expectations in different content areas. This allows teachers and parents to determine specific areas of strength as well as specific areas for student growth.

### What if students meet the standard before the end of the year?

If students meet the standard before the end of the school year, learning continues. Sometimes students will move on to higher-level standards or develop a deeper conceptual understanding of the content area, making connections to additional learning.

### How can I support my child if he/she scores a 1 or 2 on a standard?

It is important to familiarize yourself with the standards for the grade level. Your child's teacher will have suggestions or strategies that you can use at home with your child to help him/her develop a particular skill.

## Common Questions

(continued)

### How are grades on the standards-based report card determined?

Over the course of the trimester, teachers give a variety of assessments to measure students' progress toward mastery of a standard. These assessments are scored and analyzed for trends. A final score is recorded for the report card to show the level of mastery for each standard. It is important to note that standards-based grades do not correlate with traditional letter grades.

### How will students that receive special education services be scored on the standards-based report card?

Students that receive special education services will receive grades on the standards-based report card. In addition, the special education teacher will provide parents with a progress report outlining progress toward individual goals each trimester. A student who is working on a modified curriculum will receive a supplemental report.

### How will students that receive ELL (English Language Learner) support be scored on the standards-based report card?

Students that receive ELL support will receive grades on the standards-based report card. In addition, the ELL teacher will provide parents with a progress report.

## Standards-Based System

- Multiple standards for each content area
- Grades determined by clear criteria for success
- Evidence is utilized to determine student success and achievement toward learning targets
- Scores based on individual standards to provide specific feedback for growth
- Grades determined by professional judgment based on most recent evidence of success

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## Traditional System

- One grade per subject
- Percentage system
- Unclear criteria
- Grades calculated based on assessment averages
- Scores based on grouped standards, not individual standards
- Grades "calculated" based on all evidence throughout grading period, including characteristics of a successful learner