

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### WHAT ARE STANDARDS?

A standards-based report card provides parents with specific information about their child's achievement relative to each standard. Academic standards are a set of learning goals for each grade level and subject area. These grade specific learning goals identify the content and skills students must achieve by the end of each school year. These standards increase in complexity as students move from one grade level to another. The school district curriculum, aligned to academic standards, is available on the district website. You may also review all K-12 academic standards on the PA Department of Education website at [www.pdesas.org](http://www.pdesas.org).

### HOW DOES STANDARDS BASED GRADING DIFFER FROM TRADITIONAL GRADING?

The student's grade more accurately represents the progress toward mastery of standards than traditional grading. Standard based grading measures students' knowledge of grade-level content over time by reporting the most recent, consistent level of performance. Letter grades alone do not tell parents which skills their child has mastered or whether he/she is working at grade level. The standards based report card gives parents a better understanding of their children's strengths and areas to improve, so as to encourage students to work to their full potential.

### WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES OF SBG?

The purpose of the standards based report card is to provide feedback that is more detailed to parents regarding the progress their children are making towards specific content indicators at each grade level. This report card allows parents and students to understand more clearly what is expected at each grade level. With this understanding, parents will be better able to guide and support their child, helping him/her to be successful in a rigorous academic program.

### WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF SBG?

The advantages of standards based grading are that learning targets are clearly articulated throughout instruction and parents can see which targets have been mastered and which ones need re-teaching and/or re-learning.

### WHAT IS CONSIDERED GRADE LEVEL PERFORMANCE?

Grade level performance means meeting the common core state standards for that particular grade level. On the rating scale, a 3 would indicate that the child has met the grade level standards.

### HOW CAN I EXPLAIN TO MY CHILD WHAT SCORE HE/SHE RECEIVED?

It is important that parents and teachers have honest conversations with students. Some concepts and skills are more difficult to grasp than others, but given time and motivation students can continually challenge themselves. Attitudes are contagious and it is important that adults involved convey to the child that learning is a process that needs to be respected. *A score of 2 while learning a new skill or concept is appropriate. A score of 3 demonstrating mastery is to be celebrated. A score of 4 indicates a strength being recognized that is above and beyond the grade level expectations.*

### WHAT TOOLS ARE TEACHERS USING TO IDENTIFY A NUMBER VALUE TO THE STANDARD?

Teachers collect evidence of students' achievement through observation, examination of student's work, discussions, projects, performance tasks, quizzes and tests. Teachers record information about each child's progress on a frequent basis, analyze and compile this information, and use this data to evaluate a child's progress towards meeting grade level standards. We are continuing to work on consistently providing common assessments across all grade levels.

### HOW ARE STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES OR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING NEEDS AFFECTED BY STANDARDS BASED GRADING?

Students with an IEP, 504, or English Language Learning needs will continue to receive the accommodations they are eligible to receive and they will continue to receive appropriate support and/or interventions.