

Elementary school report cards are changing this year

updated for 2015-16 school year

Background and purpose

Chesterfield County Public Schools wants to provide parents with detailed information about their children's academic strengths and opportunities for growth. Our teachers also want to provide equity in grading across all elementary schools. This is important because it better identifies where your child is excelling, as well as where your child might need additional assistance.

A committee of parents, teachers and administrators spent two years reviewing options for better reporting student progress. Teachers on the committee piloted several grading recommendations and sample report cards last school year. The result of their collaborative efforts led to the development of a new report card for elementary school students that will debut in the 2015-2016 school year.

Traditional vs. standards-based report cards

Traditional report cards measured many factors, including how students did in comparison to classmates, how well they behaved and the effort they put into their work. Students received a single letter grade. A standards-based report card measures how well a student is doing in relation to the standards and skills identified in Virginia's Standards of Learning. Chesterfield County Public Schools is moving to a standards-based report card. Students will receive an overall indication of progress and specific updates on individual skills that must be demonstrated according to the standards.

Will behavior still be addressed?

Behaviors that make a respectful, responsible 21st-century learner will be reported separately but will not affect the way academic progress is reported. Self-management and responsibility are two areas — along with critical thinking, communication, collaboration and technology literacy — that will be assessed using a 1-4 scale.

How do the new report cards differ from the old ones?

Each report card is unique to the standards taught at that grade level; kindergarten and first-grade report cards are similar as are report cards for grades 2-5. **Grades K-1** will receive a number score indicating their progress during that marking period. In **Grades 2-5**, a traditional letter grade (A-F) will be used for each core subject and a number scale will be used to share progress in each of the areas listed underneath each core subject. Details about letter grades and number scales are printed at the bottom of this page.

How will progress in the resource areas be reported?

Progress in art, music, physical education and world language (in schools where a world language is offered) will be reported using the 1-4 scale.

If I have a question, whom should I contact?

Contact your child's teacher or principal or email ccpsinfo@ccpsnet.net.

Grades K-1 number scale

- 4 = Student's performance exceeds standard/expectation, and student consistently produces outstanding work.
- 3 = Student's performance meets standard/expectation, and student consistently produces quality work.
- 2 = Student's performance is approaching standard/expectation, and student inconsistently applies learned skills.
- 1 = Student's performance is below standard/expectation, and student frequently requires re-teaching.
- NA = This skill or concept was not assessed during this grading period.

Grades 2-5 grade range

- A = 90-100 — excellent
- B = 80-89 — very good
- C = 70-79 — satisfactory
- D = 60-69 — minimal progress
- F = below 60 — failing

Grades 2-5 number scale

- 4 = Student's performance exceeds standard/expectation, and student consistently produces outstanding work.
- 3 = Student's performance meets standard/expectation, and student consistently produces quality work.
- 2 = Student's performance is approaching standard/expectation, and student inconsistently applies learned skills.
- 1 = Student's performance is below standard/expectation, and student frequently requires re-teaching.
- NA = This skill or concept was not assessed during this grading period.



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