

Frank J. Smith

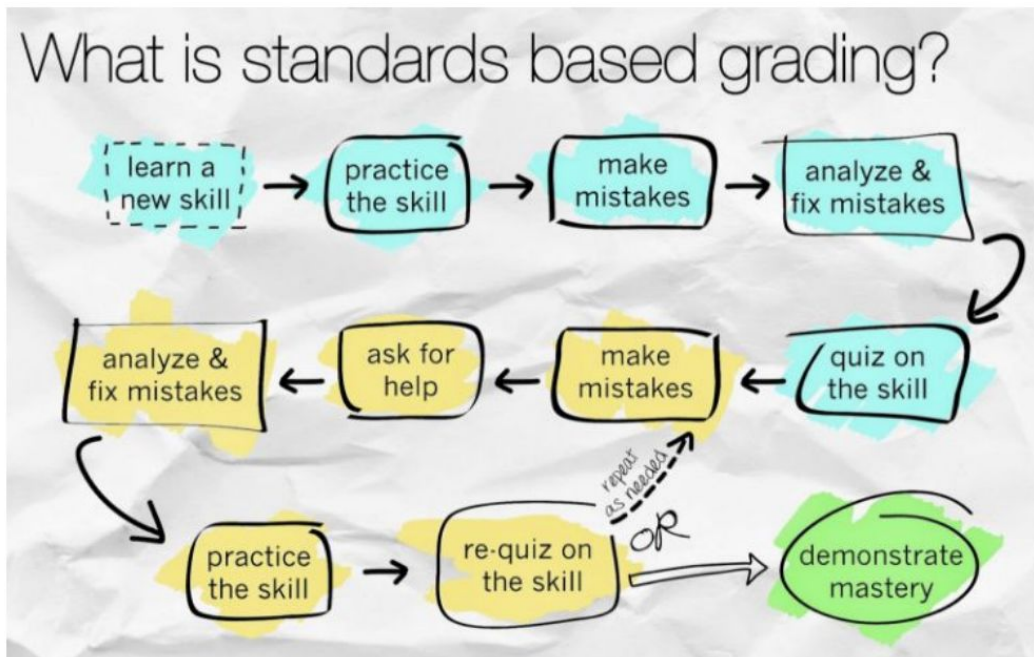
Standards-Based Report Card Q & A

The East Hanover School District uses Standards-Based Report Cards (SBRC) for grades K-2. In the 2018-2019 school year, the SBRC will also be used to report progress for students in grades 3-5. A SBRC benefits students, teachers, and parents/guardians by stating what is expected in the academic content areas, and how well the student is progressing towards his/her grade level standards for those areas.

Throughout the 2017-2018 school year, teachers and administrators began a review of our report card. A teacher committee was formed to examine the current report card with the goal of crafting a more valuable home-school communication tool. They found that very little change was needed at this time. Some standards have been revised to align with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS). Additionally, the key was changed to align with the newly updated Central School key. We think that you will find it more parent friendly.

1. What is Standards Based grade reporting?

A Standards-Based grade reporting system is designed to inform parents about their child's progress towards achieving specific learning standards. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) establish high and challenging performance expectations for all students. They describe what students should know and be able to do, and serve as the basis for our curriculum, instruction and assessment model.



Source: Google Images

2. Why do we use a SBRC? What is the purpose of the SBRC?

A SBRC provides more information to parents about student progress. On a traditional report card, students receive one grade for reading, one for math, one for science, and so on. On a Standards-Based Report Card, each of these subject areas is further expanded by a list of skills and knowledge that students are responsible for learning. Students receive a separate grade for each item on the list.

The purpose of the Standards-Based Report Card is to provide feedback that is more detailed to parents regarding the progress that their child is making towards specific content indicators at each grade level. It allows parents and students to

understand more clearly what is expected at each grade level. With this understanding, parents are better able to guide and support their child and to help him/her be successful in a rigorous academic program.

3. Can a student exceed the standards for his/her grade level?

The goal for all students is to meet grade level expectations. However, there are times when a student may meet grade level expectations with distinction. When a student’s performance is characterized by the ability to apply skills with consistent accuracy and independence, and a high level of quality, the student would earn an a grade of **Exceeding Standard (ES)**.

4. How can a parent help his/her child to understand his/her grades?

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. A grade of **Approaching Standard (AS)** while learning a new skill or concept is appropriate. A grade of **Meeting Standard (MS)** demonstrating mastery is to be celebrated. A grade of **Exceeding Standard (ES)** indicates performance beyond grade level expectations.

5. What changes can I expect on the FJS Report Card?

Grading Scale

ES	Exceeding Standard	The student is meeting grade level expectations with distinction. Performance is characterized by the ability to apply skills with consistent accuracy and independence, and a high level of quality.
MS	Meeting Standard	The student is meeting grade level expectations. Performance is characterized by thorough understanding of concepts and skills.
AS	Approaching Standard	The student is progressing toward grade level expectations. Performance is characterized by the ability to apply skills with increasing success. Performance varies regarding accuracy, quality, and level of support needed.
NS	Needs Support	The students is not meeting grade level expectations. At this time performance does not demonstrate understanding of basic concepts and skills. Performance is inconsistent even with guidance and support.
NA	Not Assessed	This standard was not assessed during the current trimester.
*	Modified Content	

Companion Rubrics

Another update, includes detailed companion rubrics for each standard on the report card.. The rubrics will ensure greater accuracy and consistency in the reporting of student growth as well as provide a clearer picture of student progress at different points in the school year.

Please feel free to contact Kristen Kearney at kkearney@easthanoverschools.org with any questions.