

# The K-3 Standards-Based Report Card

## Kiski Area School District

### *“Frequently Asked Questions”*

#### **1. What are standards?**

Standards are what students are expected to be able to do at the end of each grade. Pennsylvania adopted the PA Core Standards in 2014 which set expectations for student learning and provided for greater accountability for student achievement in (ELA) English Language Arts and Mathematics.

#### **2. What is a standards-based report card?**

A standards-based report card differs from a traditional report card in two ways: what it measures and how it reports progress. The standards-based report card lists year-end standards for each content area and shows student progress. At the end of each grading period, the teacher will indicate your child’s *present* performance level in meeting the year-end standards.

#### **3. What does the standards-based report card tell parents?**

The standards-based report card identifies the learning standards to be met at the end of each grade level, provides specific information about your child’s progress towards meeting the year-end standards, and shows areas for continued growth.

#### **4. Why is the Kiski Area School District moving to a standards-based report card?**

The move toward a standards-based reporting system is happening throughout the United States. It aligns the information provided to parents on the report card with how we are currently teaching and assessing students. The previous elementary report card did not allow teachers to report on how students are meeting expected standards. By monitoring the concrete skills and knowledge listed on the report card, we will know whether all students are being exposed to the same curriculum and mastering the skills necessary in each grade level. The new system will help close the gap in achievement among students. Additionally, parents will be more aware of what their children should know and be able to do by the end of each grade level as well as how they are progressing towards these goals.

**5. How does the standards-based report card compare with “traditional” grades?**

On many traditional report cards, 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 divided into a list of skills and knowledge that students are responsible for learning. Students receive a separate mark for each standard. The achievement and growth indicators show a child’s progress toward meeting specific grade-level standards. With the new standards-based reporting system, students are evaluated more objectively according to consistent grade-level standards. The letter grades used in traditional report cards are a more subjective reflection of individual teachers’ expectations for student effort and achievement.

**6. What are the Achievement and Growth Indicators?**

The Kiski Area SD achievement and growth indicators are as follows:

**EE** (Exceeding Expectations), **ME** (Meeting Expectations), **AE** (Approaching Expectations), and **BE** (Below Expectations).

**7. How soon can a student attain a ME (Meeting Expectation) on the Report Card?**

If the teacher has sufficient documented evidence that a student has mastered a particular concept/skill that has been taught and assessed during the nine week period, a student can achieve a ME (Meeting Expectation) on his/her report card during the first nine weeks. Obtaining a ME (Meeting Expectation) during the first three grading periods does not mean that students have reached the goal of proficiency; rather, their progress is meeting the expectations for that period of time. If students continue on that path, they should reach proficiency (the goal) by the end of the year. Final grade level proficiency can only be determined at the end of the year.

**8. Do I need to be concerned if my child receives an AE (Approaching Expectation) or a BE (Below Expectation) Achievement and Growth Indicator?**

If your child receives an AE (Approaching Expectation) or a BE (Below Expectation) at the end of the first semester, you should work with the teacher to see where support at home can assist. The report card provides multiple standards in a subject area, thereby giving an overall performance of a student’s progress. This reporting provides information on areas of strengths and areas where a student needs more support. If a student receives an AE (Approaching Expectation), it means the student is beginning to meet that particular grade-level standard. If a student receives a BE (Below Expectation), it means the student is not yet meeting grade-level standards and is working below where he/she should be.

**9. What if my child receives a ME (Meeting Expectation) in the first semester?**

The ME (Meeting Expectation) indicates that your child is making appropriate progress at this time of year toward overall mastery of the year-end grade-level standards for that subject area.

**10. What if my child falls behind?**

If your child is not making adequate progress toward grade-level standards, a plan will be created to best meet the child's individual needs. A Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII) approach may also be implemented which includes additional instruction at the student's level to support the student's progress toward mastery of the needed skills.

**11. How do I discuss the standards-based report card with my child?**

Parents and teachers should set goals with the child and together work on skills that support mastery of identified learning standards. Student led-conferences provide an opportunity to have these conversations. A student friendly explanation is available. It is posted in the classrooms as well as on the district's website. This can be found by clicking on "*Academics*" located in the gold heading at the top of the district's web page. Once there click on "*Assessments.*"

**12. If I move to another District how will they know what the Achievement and Growth Indicators mean?**

The standards-based report cards contain a legend with a definition for each code.

**13. What resources are available to help parents understand the standards-based report card?**

A Parent's Guide to the Standards Based Report Card is available for parents. It is posted on the website. Follow the same steps listed in question 10 to access this document. Each year the classroom teachers explain the report card at Meet the Teacher Night in September, as well as at Parent Teacher Conferences in November.