

Building Principals

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your building principal:

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of the new Report of Student Progress?

The purpose of the Standards-Based Report of Student Progress is to provide more detailed feedback to parents regarding the progress their children are making toward specific learning standards at their grade level. The Report of Student Progress will allow parents and students to understand more clearly what is expected of students and how to help them be successful in a rigorous academic program.

How does the Standards-Based Report of Student Progress compare to the letter grade system?

Letter grades measure how well students do in comparison to their classmates. The Standards-Based Report Card measures how well an individual student is doing in relation to the grade level standards, not the work of other students. This will give parents a better understanding of their child's strengths and weaknesses and encourage all students to do their best. As partners in learning for your children, this progress reporting system is designed to promote meaningful home/school by the use of parent/teacher partnership in supporting the academic and social growth of your child.

How frequently will the Report of Student Progress be distributed?

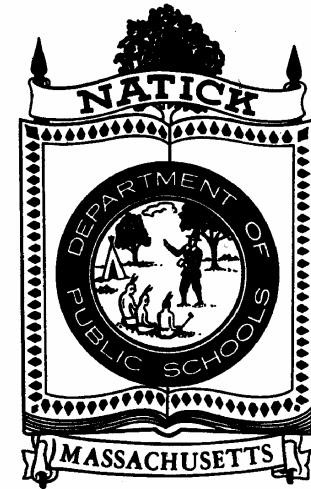
The report will be distributed in January and June. There will be two parent/teacher conferences held in November and March, at which time a conference report will be issued.

How will the ratings of 1-4 be determined?

Student's ability to meet the learning standards will be determined by both their oral and written work. Grade level assessments will be used to help teachers identify whether a child is; (1) not achieving the grade level standard, (2) progressing toward the grade level standard, (3) achieving the grade level standard, or (4) exceeding the grade level standard.

"N" indicates standards that have not yet been addressed given the curriculum sequence.

Natick Public Schools



K-4 Standards-Based Report Of Student Progress

Introduction

The Natick Public Schools utilizes a Standards-Based Report of Student Progress for elementary students.

This report allows for full communication of what students are expected to know and be able to do as set forth in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The format of the Report of Student Progress allows us to define end-of-year learning standards for each grade and determine how well students are progressing to meet the Curriculum Framework benchmarks.

The K-4 Report of Student Progress itself has more specific items relating to the knowledge and skills your child should attain by the end of the year. It uses four numbers as descriptors to reflect your child's progress toward meeting each standard.

The Report of Student Progress allows students to be more aware of what is expected of them. It will give teachers across the district a better understanding of what each child should know and be able to do at each grade level. It will provide parents with a more detailed outline of the expectations in each of the major academic areas (Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies) as well as Art, Music, Physical Education, and Habits of Mind.

We believe that your understanding of what is expected of your child and how well he or she is progressing towards the goals at his or her grade level is very important. We look forward to working together to provide your child with the knowledge, strategies, and tools to be successful learners.

Continuum of Learning

Progress Descriptors

- 4 Exceeding the grade level standard**
 - Demonstrates comprehensive, in-depth understanding of extended skills and concepts
 - Applies skills, without prompting, with consistent accuracy, independence, and a high level of sophistication
- 3 Achieving the grade level standard**
 - Demonstrates proficiency in concepts and skills
 - Applies skills efficiently, effectively, and consistently
- 2 Progressing toward the grade level standard**
 - Beginning to demonstrate proficiency in concepts and skills with teacher support and guidance
 - Applies skills with varied consistency and quality
- 1 Not achieving the grade level standard**
 - Does not yet demonstrate understanding of key concepts and skills
 - Requires considerable teacher support and guidance to apply skills
- N Not assessed at this time**

Half-scores, such as 2.5, will not be given. To earn a particular score a student's work must meet all the criteria of the scoring guide.

Habits of Mind Performance Levels

<u>Usually</u>	Regularly meets expectations
<u>Sometimes</u>	Is inconsistent in meeting expectations
<u>Rarely</u>	Does not yet meet expectations

Reporting of Student Progress Timeline

<u>November</u>	Goal Setting Conference
<u>January</u>	Report of Student Progress
<u>March</u>	Progress and Goals Review
<u>June</u>	Report of Student progress

Standards-Based Grading

Key Terms

Assessment

The ongoing process of gathering data or giving feedback about a student's performance in order to determine a student's strengths and weaknesses, improve instruction, and document student progress.

Benchmark

A reachable target for student learning at various points of the year, as defined by samples of student work.

Curriculum Guide

A document that defines the standards for each content area and provides descriptive statements that indicate how the standards are applied at each grade level.

Performance Levels

The numbers 4-1 will be used on the Standards-Based Report of Student Progress to indicate a student's level of understanding and performance. (see The New Look)

Rubric

A tool used to score or rate a student's oral or written performance. A rubric identifies specific characteristics used to determine the degree to which a standard has been met. For example, if a student earns a "1" on a project, this means that he or she has not met the standards spelled out for this assignment and has not produced grade level work.

Standard

A statement that identifies what students should know and be able to do. Learning Standards for each content area subject and grade span are identified in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. These can be viewed online at the Massachusetts Department of Education's web site: www.doe.mass.edu/mcas or at www.natick.k12.ma.us.