

Parent's Guide to Standards-based Grading & Elementary Report Card Pilot

In Cape Henlopen School District, we envision a student-friendly report card with clearly defined learning targets aligned to high-quality, balanced assessments. Our Standards-based report card for English Language Arts seeks to provide meaningful feedback so both students and parents can track student progress toward mastery of key academic concepts and standards, reflect upon strengths and areas for improvement, and identify multiple pathways to deeper learning. Here are some frequently asked questions that come with Standards-based Grading & the Elementary Report Card Pilot for ELA.

What is CHSD's Elementary Pilot Report Card?

For 2017-18, the Cape Henlopen School District will pilot a standards-based grade for reading and writing. Throughout the year administrators and teachers will work together to determine the best way to provide parents with the information they need to understand their child's learning and progress towards meeting the standards. There will be focus groups and a report card committee formed so that all stakeholders have a voice in how students' achievement is graded and reported. Spelling will not be reported as a percentage grade as it has in the past. It will be reported as a competency under the writing as Satisfactory or Needs Improvement. At the end of the school year, a determination will be made as to the success of the process and how to proceed in the coming years.

Will my child still receive teacher comments on the report card?

Yes. Individualized feedback is an essential component of standards-based grading. Effective feedback is a more useful source of information than simply assigning a numeric value or letter grade to student work.

Does it mean that my child is failing if he/she receives a 1 or a 2?

No. Standards-based report cards are not about passing and failing. A 2 shows that a child is making progress toward the standards. If a student receives 1s or 2s, it means his/her work is not yet meeting grade-level standards.

If a student receives 1s all year, does that mean the student will be retained?

Interventions are in place in the Cape Henlopen schools to support learners who are behind in course work. If a student receives 1s or 2s, it means his/her work is not yet meeting grade-level standards. A number of academic supports should be offered to those students who are struggling to meet the established standards. Grade-level retention is not a practice that is generally supported by research, and will be determined after a collaborative process including the family and school.

How will honor roll be determined?

The traditional concept of an honor roll does not easily match up with standards-based grading. Schools will develop the criteria for academic recognition. It is our intention to recognize and acknowledge the academic accomplishments of CHSD students, as well as those who consistently display good citizenship/work habits.

Scoring Guide

4 – Indicates that a student exceeds the standard

The student has exceeded the achievement standard and demonstrates advanced progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy needed for likely success in future coursework.

3 – Indicates that a student meets the standard

The student has met the achievement standard and demonstrates progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy needed for likely success in future coursework.

2 – Indicates that a student is making progress to the standard

The student has nearly met the achievement standard and may require further development to demonstrate the knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy needed for likely success in future coursework.

1 – Indicates that a student is below the standard

The student has not yet met the achievement standard and needs substantial improvement to demonstrate the knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy needed for likely success in future coursework.