

How do I discuss SBRC grades with my child?

Your child's teacher will talk to their students about the new standards-based report cards. At your parent conference, you and your child's teacher can identify two goals for your child to work on next. At home, discuss the progress your child has already accomplished and what steps your child can take to achieve the new goals.

SAMPLE: FIRST GRADE MATHEMATICS

The following illustrates the type of information that is reflected in a SBRC, including a SBRC Indicator, the corresponding Standard, the Performance Indicator and the Rubric.

Report Card Indicator: "Number Sense and Operations"

Standard: Students will understand numbers, multiple ways of representing numbers, relationships among numbers and number systems.

Examples from Performance Indicators (what the standard looks like in terms of classroom performance):

- 1.N1: Count the items in a collection and know the last counting word tells how many items are in a collection (1 to 100)
- 1.N.2: Count out (produce) a collection of a specified size (10 to 100 items), using groups of ten.
- 1.N.3: Quickly see and label with a number, collections of 1 to 10.

Excerpt from a Rubric: Level 3 on Indicator: "Number Sense and Operations"

3- Understands numbers, multiple ways of representing numbers, relationships among numbers and number systems.

SULLIVAN WEST ELEMENTARY K-6 Standards-Based Report Cards A Parent's Guide



This year, the Sullivan West Elementary School is implementing the use of Standards-based report cards for all students in grades K thru 6. These report cards will provide information on a student's developmental abilities and progress toward attaining learning standards in each subject.

It is our hope that standards-based report cards, together with teacher conferences, will provide a more comprehensive and meaningful lens for you to understand and support your child's learning. The new report card with the parent/teacher conference will answer the question, "What are my child's academic strength areas and what areas can I assist my child in further developing?"

Rod McLaughlin

SWE Principal

Why are we changing to a standards-based report card (SBRC)?

The concepts and skills that all students must master in each subject are defined by learning standards. These standards are the infrastructure of your child's education, providing the foundation for our curriculum, instructional practices, and assessments. A SBRC is the missing piece in this picture.

The new report cards will provide you with more targeted information. The SBRC will show you the progress your child is making during the school year to achieve the standards that they are expected to attain for his or her grade level.

What is different in a standards-based report card?

A SBRC differs from a traditional report card in two ways:

- What it measures and how it reports progress

A committee of teachers identified and selected a SBRC that reflects the knowledge and skills that are embedded in each learning standard. This knowledge and set of skills as defined by the standard's performance indicators are what we will measure and report on the SBRC.

Each quarter, your child's teacher will indicate how well your child is progressing using the following criteria:

- 4- Meets Standards with distinction
- 3- Meets Standards
- 2- Partially Meets Standards
- 1- Not meeting standards

Progress levels on a SBRC provide extremely useful information as they focus on where the child is at a point in time with regard to grade level expectancies. Progress levels when linked to standards

identify specific subject area information and skills that a student must master. Regardless of the teacher your child has the SBRC holds every student in the Sullivan west Elementary to the same standards.

Is a 4 on a SBRC equivalent to a 90 or a 2 considered a low grade?

No. Receiving a level 2 in a particular skill or content area in the first, second or even 3rd quarter usually indicates that a child is making appropriate progress for his or her grade level. It is important to remember that grades on a traditional report card are the result of a number of factors such as how well a student did on a test, performed on an assignments and the level of effort and participation. Progress levels on a standard-based report card indicate how well your child is doing to meet an **end-of-the-year goal**.

How will teachers determine every child's progress level?

The SBRC progress levels are based on student performance on specific tasks and assessments, which are tied to the learning standards. Teachers use a rubric or a scoring guide to make judgments about each child's performance. Comprehension rubrics used to describe the indicator levels on the report card will be available to parents on the SW Elementary school web page @ www.swcsd.org

What if my child is falling behind or has already mastered the standards?

A standards-based report card needs to be viewed in context of the parent conference. Teachers will review examples of your child's work to illustrate your child's progress and discuss your child's performance. The teacher also will show you what your child needs to work on to capitalize on his or her strengths and further develop areas needing development.

The goal is to identify for every child, whether he or she receives a 1 or a 4, the next "manageable stretch."