



An Innovative District Delivering Educational Excellence

Westonka Primary School Report Card Frequently Asked Questions

What is Standards Based Learning?

Standards Based Learning (SBL) is a grading system used in many schools across the country. This approach focuses on progress toward statewide standards for each course.

- Each course has standards that are grouped into components.
- Your child's progress toward each component will be evaluated, and students will receive ongoing feedback about their progress.
- Your child's personal management, which includes behavior, effort and timeliness, will be reported separately at the end of each term.

How does a four level grading scale work?

The standards based grading scale of Beginning Standard, Approaching Standard, Meets Standard and Extends Standard does not translate to an A through F grading scale.

The expected outcome for students in first through fourth grade is a Meets Standard. When a student receives a Meets Standard it correlates to the student meeting all grade level expectations for that particular standard at a proficient level.

On occasion, students may be given the opportunity to extend the standard. This usually involves going in-depth in a particular topic or moving to the a higher grade level standard.

How will the grade level scale be communicated on the report card?

Beginning Standard (BEG)	The student has not met the grade level expectation
Approaching Standard (APR)	The student is approaching grade level expectations
Meets Standard (MET)	The student has met grade level expectations
Extends Standard (EXT)	The student has met grade level expectations and can apply skills and content beyond grade level standards

What should I expect my student to receive for a grade on their report card?

Students will receive a variety of grades based on the standard and expectations. Ultimately, the goal for each student is to receive a Meets Standard (MET) on their report card. When a student receives a Meets Standard (MET) it correlates to the student meeting all grade level expectations for that particular standard at a proficient level. Students in GATES programs are



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expected to receive a Meets Standard (MET) according to the GATES standards and expectations based on accelerated Minnesota State Standards.

What does a student report card look like in Standards Based Learning?

There are two main parts of a Standards Based report card, Academic Achievement and SOAR standards. Academic achievement is based on what knowledge and skills (related to the academic grade level standards) students demonstrate. SOAR (SOAR = Safe, Own it, Achieve, Respect) standards measure student levels of expected behavior in school.

Why are we adopting Standards Based Learning practices?

Standards Based Learning provides more concrete and specific feedback about progress toward academic standards than an individual letter grade. It puts the focus on the learning rather than the accumulation of points and gives students more authentic feedback on their progress toward the academic standards.

What are the guiding beliefs of Standards Based Learning?

Research has shown measuring students' progress based on district and state standards is most effective in advancing learning. Standards Based Learning ensures that students' "grades" clearly represent their level of mastery of grade-level learning targets. The best preparation for the world beyond school is to learn essential content and skills well.

If a student has an IEP (Individualized Education Plan), will he/she be assessed using Grading for Learning?

Yes. In general education classes, student progress will be measured by their growth toward grade-level standards. In special education pull-out courses, the IEP goals will be the guide. Progress on the IEP goals will be reflected on the individual progress report.

Will students be ready for the Grandview Middle School and beyond?

Yes. This is the foundation for all standards based grading that will be used at GMS and beyond.