

Elementary Report Card Implementation 2011-2012

Gloucester County School Board
Wednesday, November 9, 2011

Adopted Recommendations for 2011-2012

- **Four Reporting Periods/Four Report Cards**
 - No progress reports
 - Parents are frequently invited to conferences and information is disseminated via class/grade-level newsletters, school newsletters, homework hotlines, homework folders, student agendas, etc.
 - Parent/Teacher/Student conferences are always available upon parent request
- **No Report Card Comments**
 - Comments are best-communicated through conferences and/or phone calls, notes, or email (at parent's request)

Adopted Recommendations, Cont'd

- **Change Codes for K-1 Academic areas and all non-academic areas K-5 (Letter grades would continue for academic areas grades 2-5)**
 - S = Successful: meets grade level standards at this time
 - P = Progressing, but not meeting the grade level standards at this time
 - N = Needs improvement: significantly below grade level standards at this time
- "at this time" included to reference student performance as of that grading period

Adopted Recommendations, Cont'd

- **New Codes will be assessed as follows**
 - S = Successful: meets grade level standards at this time; Students demonstrate mastery on 80% of assessments for this standard/content area
 - P = Progressing, but not meeting the grade level standards at this time; Students demonstrate mastery on 70-79% of assessments for this standard/content area
 - N = Needs improvement: significantly below grade level standards at this time; Students demonstrate mastery on less than 70% of assessments for this standard/content area
- "at this time" included to reference student performance as of that grading period

Adopted Recommendations, Cont'd

- **Promotion/Grade Placement**
 - Add "With Instructional Support or Interventions" for students being placed at the next grade level (i.e., Grade 1) but who have not yet mastered all previous (i.e., Kindergarten) grade-level standards
 - Next grade-level teacher will use the report card and other cumulative record information and assessments to begin with the standards not yet mastered
- **For Grades 2-5: Overall Letter Grades will continue to be given in Reading/Oral Language, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies**
 - Each Overall grade will also include standard-specific mastery information

(Reeves, 2011, *Educational Leadership*)

Adopted Recommendations, Cont'd

- **The new Student Information System (SIS), PowerSchool, will be able to integrate Teacher Gradebook, new Report Card format, and Achievement Record documentation required by VDOE to make grading and reporting of student progress a "one stop shopping" experience for teachers**
 - Eliminate redundancy
 - Improve efficiency
- **Technology and Instructional Staff met with PowerSchool consultant in early October to address database set-up for report cards**

Communication with School Staff

- **Information about Report Cards was included in presentations about PowerSchool at all schools in August and September**
- **Principals, Reading Specialists, and the Elementary Report Card Committee have also been consulted regularly as the new reporting system has been implemented**
- **Meetings with elementary Art and Music teachers about new standards for Resource classes; Principals working with PE teachers**

Additional Resources for Staff

- ***Elementary Report Card Overview***
 - Side-by-side comparison of features of the 2010-2011 report card and the revised 2011-2012 standards-based report card
- ***Guidelines for Completing K-5 Report Cards***
 - A step-by-step guide for teachers to walk them through the standards-based report card, especially for those who have not completed a report card in Excel

Standards-Based Report Cards

- Teaching and learning is guided by the Standards of Learning (SOLs)
- Standards describe what students learn at each grade level and in each content area
- Many districts use a standards-based reporting system. These systems include Fairfax County, Isle of Wight, Loudoun County, Prince William County, and Montgomery County, MD.

Standards-Based Report Cards

- Standards-based report cards compare students to the intended outcomes of instruction; traditional grading compares students to each other.
(Guskey, 2011, *Educational Leadership*)
- “In other words, grades are not about what students *earn*; they are about what students *learn*.”
(Brookhart, 2011, *Educational Leadership*)

Questions

- We welcome questions and discussion about the standards-based report card
- Parents can direct questions to their child’s teacher, school administrator, or Office of Instructional Services, 804-693-6240
 - Dr. Bess Worley, Instructional Supervisor, Division-wide
 - Dr. Chuck Wagner, Asst. Superintendent for Instruction