

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why is Gloucester County Public Schools (GCPS) changing to a standards-based report card?

GCPS began the transition to a standards-based report card in 2010-2011. The move toward a standards-based reporting system is happening throughout the United States and aligns the information provided to parents on the report with how we are currently teaching and assessing students. Teachers teach a standards-based curriculum and assess students on the standards the students are learning. The traditional elementary report card does not allow teachers to report on how students are meeting expected standards.

Q. Do other school systems use a standards-based reporting system?

Many districts use a standards-based progress report or standards-based report card. Several area school systems have already implemented or are preparing to use a standards-based progress report. These systems include Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Prince William County, and Montgomery County.

Q. What are the standards on the report card?

These standards are the standards contained in the Commonwealth's Standard of Learning. Many of the standards have multiple sub-standards and objectives. If GCPS included all standards on the report card, it would be quite lengthy and not user-friendly for parents. Instead, GCPS will report only on the primary standards for each core content area (Mathematics, Science, English, Social Studies) at each grade level.

Q. How will parents know what standards their child is studying during the reporting period?

Teachers communicate what students in their classroom are studying through classroom newsletters, homework lines/emails, websites, and notes to parents. This information may be sent home weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or quarterly.

Q. Where will parents find specific comments about an individual student?

Teachers will communicate with parents about a student through parent-teacher conferences or other direct communication. Report cards will no longer include student-specific comments. Report cards are intended to be a reflection of student progress and achievement through the grade-level academic curriculum.

Consult your child's teacher or visit the following website for more information: <http://gets.gc.k12.va.us/reportcards/elemreportcards.htm>



Gloucester County Public Schools

A Parent's Guide to the Elementary Standards-Based Report Card 2011-2012

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Instructional Services
(804) 693-6240

Standards-Based Achievement

Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, parents of elementary students attending Gloucester County Public Schools will be able to learn more information about their child's learning through a new standards-based report card. The new report card provides:

- Communication between parents, teachers, and students about the Standards of Learning (SOLs) addressed at each grade level
- More specific information about the important concepts and skills your child needs to master at each grade level
- Information on your child's progress towards mastery of grade-level standards

Teachers will report progress within content areas relative to expected grade-level standards using a three-level rating scale:

S = Successful; meets grade-level standards at this time

P = Progressing, but not meeting the grade-level standard at this time

N = Needs improvement: significantly below grade-level standards at this time

A standards-based report card measures a student's progress according to how he or she is performing on expected standards. It provides detailed information about what a student is learning and can demonstrate in each content area. It is one form of communication from teachers to parents. Teachers will continue to provide information about what students in their classroom are studying through classroom newsletters, homework lines/emails, websites, and notes to parents. This information may be sent home weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or quarterly.

Comparing a Traditional and Standards-Based Report Card

Traditional Report Card	Standards-based Report Card
Students receive grades by subject area and/or strand	Students receive ratings by standard (K-5) in all subject areas using a standards-based rating scale (S/P/N) Students in Grades 2-5 will continue to receive an overall letter grade for core subject areas
Students receive ratings on Social & Behavioral Skills and Work Habits.	Students will continue to receive ratings on the same Social & Behavioral Skills and Work Habits.
Students' grades are cumulative	Students' ratings represent the students' progress at the time of the report card
Students' grades in resource class focused on effort and participation	Students' ratings in resource class assess improvement in content area knowledge and skills for those classes
Teachers can select comments from a list of pre-written choices.	No written comments will be provided; specific comments about a student will be through direct communication with a teacher and/or at a parent/teacher conference.
^ With Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> with accommodations This box will be checked if a student is receiving formal accommodations as indicated in a 504 Plan or IEP.