

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARDS

## WHAT ARE THE NEW COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS?

Academic content standards indicate what students should know and be able to do at each grade level by the end of the school year.

In 2010, California joined the majority of states to adopt a shared set of national learning expectations in mathematics and language arts—the Common Core State Standards. For other subjects such as science, social science, health, the arts and PE, state standards are used to determine students' proficiency.

All the standards can be found online at:  
[www.cde.ca.gov/bs/st/ss](http://www.cde.ca.gov/bs/st/ss)

## WHY IS THE DISTRICT MOVING TO A NEW REPORTING SYSTEM?

The purpose of the new reporting system is to provide parents, teachers and students with more accurate information about students' progress toward meeting content standards. By monitoring the concrete skills and knowledge listed on the report card, we will know whether all students are being exposed to the same curriculum and learning what they should in each grade.

The new system should help us close the gap in achievement among different groups of students. Parents also will be more aware of what their children should know and be able to do by the end of each grade level.

## HOW ARE STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARDS DIFFERENT FROM TRADITIONAL REPORT CARDS?

On many traditional report cards, students receive one grade for reading, one for math, one for science and so on. On a standards-based report card, each of these subject areas is divided into a list of skills and knowledge that students are responsible for learning. Students receive a separate mark for each standard.

The achievement marks indicate a child's progress toward meeting specific grade-level standards. The students' proficiency is reported separately from his or her effort. Student mastery of each skill and concept taught is assessed each trimester giving parents a detailed report on their child's progress.

With the new standards-based reporting system, students are evaluated more objectively according to consistent grade-level standards. The letter grades used in traditional report cards are a more subjective reflection of individual teachers' expectations for student effort and achievement.

## HOW DOES THE NEW REPORT CARD MEASURE MY CHILD'S PROGRESS?

The new report card will use three different numbers to indicate a child's progress toward meeting the end-of-year California and Common Core State standards. The table to the right offers a detailed explanation of what each symbol means.

At the beginning and middle of the year, students also may receive an (X) mark to indicate that the curriculum related to a particular standard has not yet been taught or assessed during the first two trimesters.

### 3 = Meeting Standards

*Student demonstrates grade level expectations for concepts and skills.*

- A student earning a 3 demonstrates understanding of grade level skills and concepts and requires minimal support.
- A 3 throughout the school year indicates strong, excellent work at grade level.
- The 3 mark is the goal for the grade level.

### 2 = Approaching

*Student is progressing toward basic understanding of grade level concepts and skills with assistance.*

- A student earning a 2 has not yet met the standards but is progressing toward achieving skills and learning end of year grade level concepts. Some support from teachers, parents and/or peers is needed.
- A 2 indicates ongoing growth.

### 1 = Needs more time

*Student shows an emerging awareness of concepts and skills.*

- A student earning a 1 is currently not meeting the grade level standards. The student demonstrates an inconsistent understanding and application of knowledge.
- Intervention is needed from teacher and parents.

X = Not addressed at this time