

# WILLINGBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WILLINGBORO, NEW JERSEY 08046-2847



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Good afternoon Willingboro Family,

For the 2019-2020 school year, Willingboro Public Schools has joined the long list of public elementary schools throughout New Jersey in transitioning to Standards-Based Report Cards in our three elementary schools (Grades 1-4). The purpose of the Elementary Standards-Based Report Card is to provide more detailed feedback to parents regarding the progress their children are making toward specific learning standards at their grade level. Our goal is simple - to improve student learning by reporting grades that are accurate, consistent, meaningful, and supportive of learning. The shift to standards-based learning and standards-based reporting helps us reach that goal.

A portion of the district website dedicated to the Elementary Standards-Based Report Card was created and announced this past summer ([click here to view](#)). It contains a F.A.Q (Frequently Asked Questions) with detailed information regarding how to interpret a child's progress as indicated on each report card throughout the school year, along with actual drafts of the report cards and scoring rubrics themselves. For the purpose of convenience, this F.A.Q is listed below:

### **1. What does a standards-based report card (SBRC) do?**

This report card communicates specific grade-level learning standards and measures your child's learning progress and achievement towards those standards. Along with identifying your child's strengths, this report card will help foster more high-quality conversations between you, your child, and your child's teachers. Doing so can result in the development of meaningful goals for continued growth.

### **2. When will my child receive a standards-based report card?**

Our new standards-based report card cycle is based on three formal reporting periods called trimesters.

<b>Grade 1 - 4 Trimester 1</b>	BEGIN: 9/5/19	Progress Report on Parent Portal & Sent Home: 10/22/19	END: 12/10/19	Report Card on Parent Portal & Sent Home: 12/20/19
<b>Grade 1 - 4 Trimester 2</b>	BEGIN: 12/11/19	Progress Report on Parent Portal & Sent Home: 1/27/20	END: 3/17/20	Report Card on Parent Portal & Sent Home: 3/26/20
<b>Grade 1 - 4 Trimester 3</b>	BEGIN: 3/18/20	Progress Report on Parent Portal & Sent Home: 5/11/19	END: 6/16/20	Report Card on Parent Portal & Sent Home: 6/25/20

### **3. What does the standards-based report card (SBRC) look like?**

A draft of the SBRC at all four grade levels is available to view [HERE](#).

#### **4. What are the performance indicators on the standards-based report card?**

The performance indicators represent a student's progress on the report card. There are three indicators (1-3).

- An indicator of "3" means that the student currently demonstrates an understanding and application of a particular piece of knowledge and/or skill that is expected at that grade level.
- An indicator of "2" means that the student is currently demonstrating progress towards an understanding and application of a particular piece of knowledge and/or skill that is expected at that grade level
- An indicator of "1" means that the student is currently demonstrating limited progress towards an understanding and application of a particular piece of knowledge and/or skill that is expected at that grade level.

We want parents to recognize that our instruction is directed at ensuring that all students have an opportunity to meet state standards. Please keep in mind that different students progress at different rates, so standards may be met in varying amounts of time, with varying amounts of teacher support.

#### **5. How do teachers select performance indicators on the report card?**

Throughout each trimester, teachers assess students both formatively and summatively. Formative work includes homework, classwork, and small quizzes. Summative work includes unit competencies, some of which are performance-based. With the standards for that grade level in mind, teachers consider:

- *knowledge of the child (How does this child learn best? In what way does this child communicate his/her learning?)*
- *evidence of student performance (work samples that have been collected, student performance on activities and assessments, teacher anecdotal notes)*
- *knowledge of what the child is expected to know or be able to do (district curricula and standards)*

After going through this process, the teacher assigns a performance indicator for each content standard on the report card. Teachers select which performance indicator your child has earned by using a series of grading rubrics. These rubrics ([click here and scroll down to view](#)) outline what your child needs to know or be able to do in relation to the content standards on the report card.

#### **6. Will there still be conference opportunities to discuss my child's progress?**

Yes. WPS will continue with the usually scheduled parent-teacher conferences in the fall and spring at all elementary buildings. We strongly encourage parents to schedule a conference at both parent-teacher conference sessions (fall and spring).

#### **7. Will there still be Progress Reports distributed for my child?**

Yes. WPS will continue with Progress Reports in the same manner as has been done in the past. The format of the Progress Report has not changed. The only thing that has changed is the frequency of the Progress Reports. With the move to a Trimester system, parents will receive 3 Progress Reports as opposed to the 4 they received last year under the old Marking Period system. The Progress Reports will be issued at the midway point of each Trimester.

*For more information, please access the Standards-Based Report Card Presentation [here](#) that was made to the Willingboro Public School Board of Education in July 2019.*

We hope you have found this information to be helpful and we look forward to informative discussions regarding your child's progress. For additional information on the Standards-Based Report Cards, please visit <https://www.willingboroschools.org/> and search the **Curriculum** section under the **Explore** tab.

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Blachford', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Dan Blachford

Interim Superintendent of Schools