



Elementary Performance Reports



Purpose Statement

To increase communication about students' achievement to parents and to create a more consistent curriculum between teachers throughout the district. Our goal is to increase student learning.

WHAT IS the ELEMENTARY PERFORMANCE REPORT?

The Elementary Performance Report is a report card that will be given to parents at the end of each trimester for students in grades K-6. The purpose of the Performance Report is to increase communication about student achievement to parents and to create a more consistent curriculum between teachers throughout the district. The Performance Reports will share information regarding an individual student's progress toward content standards.

WHY ARE WE CHANGING?

For many years Iowa school districts determined what we expected our students to know and be able to do. All public schools in the state are now required to follow the Iowa Core which delineates a rigorous curriculum and requires more complex thinking skills. The Iowa Core helps teachers to take learning to a deeper level by focusing on a well-researched set of standards. The Iowa Core is a student-based approach that supports high expectations for all students and staff. In 2010 the Common Core State Standards were integrated into the Iowa Core and must be fully implemented in our elementary buildings by the 2014-15 school year.

Standards

In a standards-based classroom, the standards remain constant as year-end learning targets. The focus is on a student's performance over multiple opportunities, not simply the grading and averaging of tests, quizzes, and assignments. The emphasis is on learning rather than earning a mark or a grade.

Comparison of Traditional Report Cards and a Standards-Based System

Traditional Report Cards	Standards-Based Reporting System
Subjects by name	Major subjects defined by standards and/or grade level essential skills
Letter grades reflect individual teacher's expectations on student effort AND academic achievement	Academic achievement is reported separately from effort
Curriculum and instruction may not be aligned to standards	Curriculum and instruction are student centered and aligned to standards

Academic Achievement

The grade-level standards are important for student success and should be mastered by the end of the school year. When reporting academic achievement, teachers will use the following ratings:

MS= Met the Standard
 P= Progressing Toward Standard
 LP= Limited Progress Toward Standard
 NA = Not Assessed

21st Century Life-Long Learning Skills

These skills are essential for the students to be successful after the student leaves our schools. Teachers will use the following ratings:

3= Consistently
 2= Sometimes
 1= Seldom or Never



WHY CHANGE BEFORE THE ESSENTIAL SKILLS HAVE BEEN DETERMINED FOR EACH CONTENT AREA?

The process of aligning curriculum is an ongoing practice, so in fairness to our students and parents, we cannot wait until we have everything perfectly aligned before implementing the Iowa Core standards. During the 2011-12 school year, teachers spent time unpacking the math standards to create our essential skills and concepts that clearly identify what students should know and be able to do. Our next steps include refining our understanding of the rest of the standards that have been determined by the state, so that we can provide our students accurate and reflective feedback.

Toward Standards-Based Grading

Our journey to a standards-based system is a process. As we continue on this road, we will continue to align our curriculum in all areas with the Iowa Core. There will be revisions to documents such as the performance report, to the materials we use, and the way we teach. All of this is done with a focus on ensuring a guaranteed and viable curriculum for ALL students.

“Moving toward a more standards-based grading system is a process—not an event. If we aren’t careful we’ll simply dump our old practices into a new report card.”

-Robert Eaker



Cedar Falls Community Schools
1002 West First Street
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613-2214
Phone (319)553-3000