

What is the purpose of standards-based grading?

The purpose of standards-based grading is to raise student achievement by clearly communicating a student's progress toward learning outcomes in a timely, fair, accurate, and specific manner.



Why a standards-based system?

The Nazareth Area School District uses a standards-based report card for K–6. Our K-6 Report Card provides families with information about children's progress toward Pennsylvania State Standards. In addition, it defines the expectations for mastery on grade-specific skills and knowledge. The report card identifies areas of strength and goals to assist teachers and families in supporting students.

Important Links

PA Core Standards:

<http://www.pdesas.org/Standard/PACore>

ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) Seven Reasons for Standards-Based Grading:

http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational_leadership/oct08/vol66/num02/Seven_Reasons_for_Standards-Based_Grading.aspx



Bushkill Elementary School



Lower Nazareth Elementary School



Floyd R. Shafer Elementary School



Nazareth Area Intermediate School

Nazareth Area School District

One Education Plaza
Nazareth, PA 18064-2397
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Nazareth Area School District

K-6 Standards- Based Report Cards



The Nazareth Area School District has a vision focused on excellence in student learning which utilizes a challenging curriculum, dynamic instruction, technology, the workplace, and community. Our students will become collaborative, competitive, resourceful, and constructive citizens. Our community values of responsibility, honesty, appreciation for diversity, and a strong work ethic will be central in our schools. The community, students, and teachers will work together to demonstrate life-long learning.

What are the advantages of a standards-based reporting process?

- ⇒ Aligns with curriculum, instruction, and assessments
- ⇒ Ensures consistency of expectations across classrooms and across buildings
- ⇒ Communicates specific grade-level learning expectations
- ⇒ Provides specific information to students and families about learning strengths and challenges
- ⇒ Encourages students, families, and teachers to identify goals for continued growth



How does a Standards-Based Report Card differ from a letter-based or percentage-based report card?

Letter-based and percentage-based measures report how students are doing as compared to their classmates. A Standards-Based Report Card measures how well a student is doing in relation to grade level expectations, not the work of other students.

What do the Performance Levels mean?

In a Standards-Based Report Card, there are four Performance Descriptors: 1, 2, 3, and 4. Each descriptor is used to communicate to families how a student is progressing toward meeting grade-level expectations. The score is reported based on the content that has been taught and knowing that the score may change as more content is taught throughout the year. Each Performance Level is related to the grade level expectations:

- 4: Student is exceeding grade level expectations at this time.
- 3+: Student meets expectations with increased understanding and application.
- 3: Student consistently meets grade-level expectations by understanding and applying concepts.
- 2+: Student demonstrates increased consistency in understanding and/or application.
- 2: Student is progressing toward meeting grade-level expectations, but is inconsistent in understanding and applying concepts.
- 1: Student shows minimal progress toward understanding and applying concepts.

Frequently Asked Questions

When was a Standards-Based Report Card implemented in the Nazareth Area School District?

The Nazareth Area School District began using a Standards-Based Report Card in 2007 for Grades K-6.

How many times per year will I receive a Report Card?

NASD uses a trimester system in K-6, so families can expect to receive 3 report cards per year.

I have heard that there are some changes to the Report Card this year. What are they?

The English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Indicators on the Report Card have been revised to align to the PA Core Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Science Indicators were revised to align to the units taught in Grades 1-6, which are aligned to PA Standards and Next Generation Science Standards.



Who can I contact for more information?

Please contact your child's Teacher, Building Principal, or the Director of Elementary Curriculum for more information.