

Deer Lakes Elementary School



Guide to the Standards Based Report Card

Overview

This guide serves to explain the standards based report cards for grades K-5 at Deer Lakes. The report card is one important communication tool used to inform the important people at home of their child's progress with respect to the Pennsylvania Core Academic Standards and the Deer Lakes elementary curricula.

What is a Standards Based report card and its purpose at Deer Lakes?

A standards-based report card provides an accurate description of each child's progress related to the Pennsylvania Core Academic Standards established by the PA Department of Education and the academic performance relative to the Deer Lakes School District's curricular benchmarks.

The intent of this report card change is to describe a student's learning progress to their families based on the district's learning expectations. This information is intended to share learning successes and to guide improvements when needed.

What information does the report card contain?

The report card will have specific learning targets that convey PA Core Standards for each grading period. These targets will describe what students should know and be able to do at their grade level. In addition to the core subject areas student progress will also be reported in music, art, technology and wellness. The report card will also contain information regarding characteristics of a successful learner and the student's attendance.

How does a teacher evaluate a child's learning performance?

In our classrooms, the focus is on a student's performance over multiple and varied learning opportunities, not simply the grading and averaging of quizzes and tests. Each grading period provides students multiple opportunities to rehearse and meet grade level benchmarks at Deer Lakes. Teachers collect evidence of a student's achievement through careful observations, examination of the student's work, discussions, projects, performance tasks, quizzes and tests. Teachers record this data, analyze and compile that information about each child's progress on a frequent basis, and finally use this information to evaluate each child's progress toward each learning standard.

What grading marks are used and what do they mean?

For the skills under English language arts, math, science and social studies the following grading marks will appear:

E – Exceeds standard

Student exceeds grade level expectations.

M – Meets standard

Student consistently meets grade level expectations.

P – Progressing towards standard

Student working towards meeting grade level expectations.

N – Needs improvement

Student not meeting grade level expectations.

For the skills under characteristics of a successful learner the following grading marks will appear:

- + Skill demonstrated consistently
- Skill not demonstrated consistently

Why are letter grades not used on our report cards?

At Deer Lakes, we want to place an emphasis on continual learning progress. To best convey a clear sense of what a child currently knows and what they still need to know, we need to be aware of where they are in specific areas within the curriculum. This report card provides a clearer image of what occurs in the classroom. A letter grade or percentage merely tells the student and parent how he or she performed on average in a broad area such as reading or math, but typically does not provide the sort of feedback that fosters mastery learning or the intrinsic motivation to learn and to grow in a specific area and to a specific standard. The grading marks of **E**, **M**, **P** and **N** will follow each learning standard on the report card and provide more specific information about how well your student is progressing to mastering a particular grade level standard

Should “Exceeds standard” be the goal for all students?

Wanting your student to receive all E (Exceeds standard) marks on their report card is a good thing but not appropriate for all students. Each student needs to reach their maximum potential in all areas, and the State of Pennsylvania provides us with grade level learning standards to guide their learning. The goal is to get each student a mark of M (Meets standard) to meet the Pennsylvania Core Standards which is the equivalent to an A or B letter grade on a traditional report card. For the student that has the ability to consistently exceed the standard, an E is appropriate as their ability above the grade level standard. Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) will receive a report card that is completed based on their instructional level. Students will continue to receive a progress report based on their IEP goals. The indicators on the report will be used to indicate their progress towards their instructional level standards.

Here is a sample of the Standards Based Report Card:

Deer Lakes Third Grade Report Card

Grading Key

E – Exceeds standard

M – Meets standard

P – Progressing towards standard

N – Needs improvement

English Language Arts

Foundational Skills	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4
Spelling/Phonics				
Spells words correctly using common patterns and grade level sight words				
Fluency				
Reads grade level text with purpose and understanding				
Vocabulary				
Describes the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in grade level text				
Reading Literature				
Describes how characters respond to major events and challenges in the story				
Uses literary skills to better comprehend the story (Examples: main idea and key details, story structure, point of view, characterization, genre)				