

What is a Standards-Based Report Card?

A standards-based report card lists the most important skills students should learn in each subject at a particular grade level based on the state standards. For example, in math, a first grade report card might list these skills:

- Count by 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's
- Use addition to solve problems
- Recognize/write numbers 0-100

Instead of letter grades, students will receive a plus (+) if their progress shows at least 80% mastery of an individual skill, and a minus (-) if their progress shows below 80% mastery of an individual skill.

Students will also receive these same markings for effort and work habits. Teachers will use checklists, rubrics, observation, detailed notes, and written assessments to show student mastery.

How can parents help children succeed in school?

- ◆ Help your child with homework.
- ◆ Encourage your child to spend more leisure time reading rather than watching TV.
- ◆ Talk with your child and communicate positive behaviors, values, and character traits.
- ◆ Keep in touch with the school.
- ◆ Express high expectations for your child and encourage his/her efforts to achieve.
- ◆ Read to your child often.
- ◆ Make sure your child gets plenty of rest.

Families play an important role in educating children and developing a lifelong love of learning!

Why Use Content Standards?

- ◆ The standards-based reform is an effort to increase student achievement by setting high academic standards and working to help all students achieve the standards.
- ◆ All students are expected to be proficient in their grade level standards by the end of the school year.
- ◆ A complete list of the grade level standards can be found on the Mississippi Department of Education Website, www.mde.k12.ms.us.

What are State Standards?

State standards are the list of skills that students should learn at each grade level and subject area from kindergarten through high school. These lists are the state content and learning standards. In Mississippi they are referred to as *"The Framework"* or *"The Competencies"*. Teachers are responsible for teaching the skills listed for their students' grade level. The No Child Left Behind Law drives schools and educators across the country to center their teaching on content and learning standards.

How will the Standards-Based Report Card Help Students?

- ◆ Students know their academic expectations.
- ◆ Students can get help on academic skills sooner.
- ◆ Students are focused on learning goals from the very beginning of the year.
- ◆ Students are able to make connections between classroom lessons and the content standards.
- ◆ Students are able to distinguish between level of performance to meet personal academic goals.

What does DOK mean?

DOK means Depth of Knowledge. Each objective of the Mississippi Curriculum Framework has been assigned a Depth of Knowledge (DOK) level based on the work of Norman L. Webb. DOK levels help administrators, teachers, and parents understand the objective in terms of the complexity of what students are expected to know and do. Standards vary in terms of complexity. Some objectives expect students to reproduce a fact or complete a sequence of steps, while others expect students to reason, extend their thinking, synthesize information from multiple sources, and produce significant work over time. Four levels are used in the frameworks: Level 1 (Recall), Level 2 (Skill/Concept), Level 3 (Strategic Thinking) and Level 4 (Extended Thinking). More information about DOK can be found at www.mde.k12.ms.us.

How will the Standards-Based Report Card Help Parents?

- ◆ The revised report card will provide parents with detailed information about their child's academic progress toward achieving grade level standards.
- ◆ Parents can identify their child's academic strengths and needs.
- ◆ If a child struggles in learning a standard, parents will know exactly what area to provide review and practice at home.
- ◆ The Standard-Based Report Card provides a focused and detailed profile of a child's academic performance.



Kindergarten and First Grade Standards-Based Report Cards

Lamar County School District

300 North Street
Purvis, MS 39475
601 794-1030
Fax 601 794-1012

www.lamarcountyschools.org

The mission of the Lamar County School District is to empower all students with the knowledge and skills to create their own futures; to become passionate, lifelong learners; and to contribute cooperatively to a diverse and changing world.

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