



Branchburg Township Public Schools

240 Baird Road

Branchburg, NJ 08876



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**Branchburg Township
School District**

**K-5 Standards-Based
Report Card**

Information
for
Parents



Branchburg School District
Standards-Based
Report Card
Grades K-5

What is a standards-based report card?

A standards-based report card focuses on the most important skills students should learn in each subject at a particular grade level. In our schools' learning environment, students receive marks that report student progress toward meeting content and performance standards three times a year. Benchmarks for each of the trimester marking periods are used to determine if the student is progressing toward the end-of-year standards. This will give parents and students a better understanding of whether they are making progress toward grade-level goals and state standards.

What is a trimester marking period?

Instead of four quarters our school year will be broken into three marking periods, December, March and June. This will allow teachers to use marking period grading benchmarks to evaluate student progress. Benchmarks may change each trimester to reflect new expectations and material for student growth.



What are the proficiency levels on the report card?

The proficiency level represents a student's progress on the report card. There are four categories, 1-4.

Earning a "4" means the student has advanced understanding and exceeds grade-level expectations and state standards. A student receiving a "4" exceeds mastery in a specific skill. A "4" is difficult to obtain because the student is exceeding grade-level expectations.

Earning a "3" means the student consistently demonstrates proficient understanding and mastery of grade-level standards and rigorous academic expectations. Our goal is for all students to reach a level "3."

Earning a "2" means the student demonstrates partial understanding and is progressing toward meeting grade-level expectations. A student receiving a "2" understands the basic concept or skill, but has not yet reached the proficient level and/or cannot demonstrate that skill independently. A "2" indicates to parents that their child may need extra time for practice and application of that skill or concept .

Earning a "1" means the student does not meet grade-level expectations and is unable or rarely demonstrates the particular skill. A student receiving a "1" is not meeting the grade level standards and interventions may be needed to learn and stay on track with district expectations.

Please keep in mind that these numbers are not indicators of a linear performance from trimester to trimester; rather, they reflect the goals of the current trimester. For example, your child may receive a "2" in a content skill in one trimester, but he/she may not automatically receive a "3" in that same content skill in the next trimester. This can be reflective of the natural progression of skills and curriculum benchmarks that developmentally change or increase in difficulty throughout the year.

We want parents to recognize that our teaching and assessments are directed at ensuring that all students have an opportunity to meet the core content curriculum standards. Different students progress at different rates, so standards may be met in varying amounts of time, with varying amounts of teacher support.



How do teachers determine proficiency levels?

Teachers determine which proficiency level your child has earned by using a report card benchmark. A report card benchmark outlines exactly what your child needs to know and be able to do to earn a 4, 3,2, or 1 on the report card.

Throughout the trimester, teachers assess students. With the standards for that grade level in mind, they 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); and,
- knowledge of what the child is expected to know and be able to do (district curriculum and standards, report card benchmarks).

Using multiple assessments of student performance, the teacher identifies each student's proficiency level for each subject area standard listed on the report card.

How can parents learn more about the grading benchmarks?

The elementary report card benchmarks will be available to parents on the district website in late November, prior to the distribution of the report card.. Teachers will use the October parent conferences as an opportunity to review your child's progress towards the Benchmarks. To fully understand what the standards require students to know and be able to do, parents are encouraged to review the New Jersey Core Curriculum/Common Core State Standards at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/>. A link to the standards is also provided on the District website.

