FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Which grade levels and subjects will be using standards-based reporting?

Students in Kindergarten - 5th grade will receive a progress report with standards for English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, Physical Education, and Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (**FLES**).

How often will standards-based progress be reported?

Kindergarten students will continue to receive a progress report twice a year and students in Grades 1-5 will receive a quarterly progress report.

How will the teacher determine a student's performance level?

Throughout the quarter, teachers will continue to collect evidence of student progress through different forms of assessments, such as: writing samples, projects, tests, quizzes, learning tasks, observations, etc.

How will this benefit students?

Students will better understand their progress with specific skills and concepts. Parents will receive more detailed information about specific areas of strength and areas that may need additional study and support.

As the implementation of standards-based reporting is expanded at the elementary level, we will continue to communicate with families and gather stakeholder feedback.

See the district website to find out more about standards-based instruction, assessing, and reporting:

www.apsva.us/standards-based-instruction

If you have any further questions about standards-based grading and reporting, please contact **Sarah Putnam, Director of Curriculum and Instruction** at **sarah.putnam@apsva.us**

Syphax Education Center
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ELEMENTARY STANDARDS-BASED REPORTING

Arlington Public Schools

2019-20
PARENT GUIDE

The standards-based progress report will inform parents/guardians of students' academic progress, based on the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) and APS learning expectations established for each grade level. The progress report will highlight learning successes and opportunities for growth.

INTRODUCTION

In 2019-20, APS will use a standards-based approach to grading and reporting at 11 of our elementary schools. This new form of reporting will include more detailed information about the knowledge and skills students are learning.

Standards-based reporting focuses on what students understand and does not utilize traditional letter grades. Standards-based practices:

- Align to best practices in teaching and learning

- Focus on what students know and can do

- Provide specific information on progress

- Involve students

APS instructional practices support this focus through the use of workshop models, specific feedback, and targeted instruction. Students will set goals, work towards mastery, and self-reflect on their progress.

WHY CHANGE TO STANDARDS-BASED REPORTING?

- **Meaningful**: provides more precise and specific information about a child's progress toward a standard

- **Accurate**: Clear reflection of what the student knows

- **Consistent**: Removes subjectivity in grading and ensures stable expectations

- **Supports learning**: Teachers provide feedback and adjust instruction to meet students' needs

WHAT WILL THE NEW PROGRESS REPORT LOOK LIKE?

For each subject, you will see the Virginia Standards and the degree of proficiency in the standard. Work and social skills will also be reported. Instead of letter grades, the progress report will show the reporting performance level that reflects your child's progress toward meeting the standard. The levels are explained below.

2019-20 APS STANDARDS-BASED REPORTING PERFORMANCE LEVELS

- **Meets Standard**: The student consistently demonstrates mastery of the standard.

- **Approaching Mastery**: The student is in the process of mastering the standard.

- **Developing Mastery**: The student demonstrates initial understanding of the standard with support.

- **Insufficient Evidence**: The teacher does not have evidence to determine a student's mastery level for this skill.