

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT A COMMON CORE STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARDS

WHAT ARE THE NEW COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS?

Academic content standards indicate what students should know and be able to do by the end of each school year.

In 2010, California joined the majority of states to adopt a common set of national learning expectations in mathematics and language arts – the Common Core State Standards. All the standards can be found online at:

www.cde.ca.gov

WHY IS THE DISTRICT MOVING TO A NEW REPORTING SYSTEM?

The purpose of the new report card is to provide parents, teachers and students with accurate information about students’ progress toward meeting the Common Core content standards. Teachers will assess student progress throughout the year and will evaluate the results and plan instruction and interventions accordingly.

HOW ARE STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARDS DIFFERENT FROM TRADITIONAL REPORT CARDS?

On a standards based report card, each of the subject areas is divided into a list of skills and knowledge that students are responsible for learning. Students receive a separate performance level score for each standard. The achievement performance level indicates a child’s progress toward meeting specific grade – level standards. The student’s effort is reported separately from his or her academic achievement.

HOW DOES THE NEW REPORT CARD MEASURE MY CHILD’S PROGRESS

The new report card will use four different performance levels to indicate a child’s progress toward meeting the end-of-year California and Common Core State Standards. The table at the right offers a detailed explanation of how each performance level indicates progress. Please note that at levels 1 and 2, your student may need intervention.

4	Demonstrates thorough understanding of grade level standard
<i>Student exceeds grade level expectations by independently applying and utilizing concepts and skills.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A student earning a 4 independently applies knowledge in ways that demonstrate higher thinking skills. 	
3	Demonstrates sufficient understanding of grade level standard
<i>Student demonstrates grade level expectations for concepts and skills.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A student earning a 3 demonstrates an understanding of grade level skills and concepts and requires minimal support. A 3 throughout the school year indicates strong work at grade level. The 3 is the goal for the grade level and should be celebrated. 	
2	Demonstrates partial understanding of grade level standard
<i>Student is progressing toward basic understanding of grade level concepts and skill with assistance.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A student earning a 2 has not yet met the standards but is progressing toward achieving skills and learning end-of-year grade-level concepts. Some support from teachers and parents. A 2 indicates ongoing growth. 	
1	Demonstrates minimal understanding of grade level standard
<i>Student shows an emerging awareness of concepts and skills</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A student earning a 1 is currently not meeting the grade level standards. The student demonstrates an inconsistent understanding and application of knowledge. Intervention is needed from teachers and parents. 	

A Parent's Guide:

Common Core Standards-Based Report Cards

Fourth Grade



Washington Union School District

HOW CAN I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE NEW REPORT CARD TO HELP MY CHILD?

Common Core Standards-Based report cards provide detailed information about how your child is doing in each content area. The report card will reflect whether students need extra assistance in certain areas or if they need to be challenged even more. These clearly defined standards allow teachers and parents to work together to ensure that students succeed.

The California Department of Education has created several resources for parents. The informational flyers give an overview of the Common Core State Standards. "The Parents' Guides to Student Success" are created by the National Parent-Teacher Association. These guides offer specific tips how to support your child's learning at in each grade level. Another valuable resource is the Road Maps developed by the Council of Great City Schools.

These resources can be found at the California Department of Education Web site, www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/ccssresourcesparents.asp

To see all the Fourth Grade Common Core State Standards go to the Washington Union District Website, www.washington-union.com and open the curriculum tab for content standards.

Fourth Grade Overview

Mathematics

In fourth grade, students will:

- Fluently add, subtract, multiply and divide multi-digit numbers.
- Use their knowledge of place values to generalize to 1 million and to round multi-digit whole numbers to any place.
- Be able to add, subtract, and multiply fractions in simple problems.
- Understand decimal notations of fractions.
- Measure angles and classify geometric shapes by lines (parallel, perpendicular, etc.) and angles (right, acute, obtuse, etc.)

Language Arts

In fourth grade, students will:

- Produce writing that is developed, focused, organized and edited.
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, details and sequences.
- Be able to group related ideas in paragraphs and sections and provide a conclusion.
- Conduct independent research projects using information from books and the internet.
- Explain major differences in the style and structural elements of poems, prose, drama, etc.
- Know when formal English vs. informal English is appropriate to use

