

#### 4 Exceeding the Standard

**Student exceeds grade level expectations by *independently* applying and utilizing concepts and skills.**

- A student earning a 4 independently uses and applies knowledge in ways that demonstrate **higher level thinking skills** to achieve **end-of-year grade level standards**.
- Typically, few students perform at this level.

#### 3 Meeting the Standard

**Student demonstrates grade level expectations for concepts and skills.**

- A student earning a 3 demonstrates understanding of grade level skills and concepts **and requires minimal** support to achieve end-of-year grade level standards.
- A 3 throughout the school year **indicates strong, excellent** work at grade level.
- A 3 indicates the goal for the grade level and **should be celebrated**.

#### 2 Approaching the Standard

**Student is progressing toward basic understanding of grade level concepts and skills with assistance.**

- A student earning a 2 is progressing toward achieving skills and learning end-of-year grade level standards but has not yet met the standards. **Some support** from teachers, parents and/or peers is needed.
- A 2 **indicates ongoing growth**.

#### 1 Not Meeting the Standard

**Student shows an emerging awareness of concepts and skills.**

- A student earning a 1 demonstrates an **inconsistent understanding** and application of knowledge of end-of-year grade level standards and is currently not meeting the grade level standards.
- A 1 indicates **significant support is needed** from teachers and parents.

### HOW DOES A STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARD HELP PARENTS?

Standards-based report cards provide detailed information about how a student is doing in each subject. In addition, they:

- Promote more meaningful conversations at parent/teacher conferences
- Reflect grade level standards and expectations so parents gain a complete understanding of student progress
- Enable teachers and parents to work together to ensure student success

### RESOURCES

Parents' Guide to Student Success

<http://pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583>

Common Core State Standards

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

## A Parent's Guide: Standards-Based Report Cards for Elementary

Lincoln Public Schools

1624 Lonsdale Avenue, Lincoln, RI 02865

401-721-3300

[www.lincolnps.org](http://www.lincolnps.org)



Dear Families,

The Lincoln Elementary Schools are excited to roll out our new, standards-based report card for the 2014-2015 academic year. This much anticipated shift represents positive changes in several areas.

### **Common Core State Standard Alignment**

Our report card is now aligned with the Common Core State Standards. This shift creates a clear and specific reporting tool for parents. Additionally, it allows for all students to be evaluated on specific grade- appropriate skills.

Student scores will be based on a 4 point scale. This represents categories as follows:

- 4 – Exceeding the Standard
- 3 – Meeting the Standard
- 2 – Approaching the Standard
- 1 – Not Meeting the Standard

Report Cards will now be communicated each trimester (November, March, and June). Reporting grades three times a year benefits students, by providing additional time for mastery of skills.

These report cards are designed to communicate with parents and make a positive difference in a student's learning and growth. They should be helpful and easy to understand. To help make this change a successful one, we will continue to provide additional information. We look forward to helping our students continue to achieve high academic standards.

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## **WHAT ARE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS?**

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Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a shared set of national learning expectations in mathematics and language arts that define what students should understand and be able to do at each grade level by the end of the school year.

Rhode Island adopted these standards along with the majority of states. For more information about CCSS go to:

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

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## **WHY IS LINCOLN USING A STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARD?**

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The purpose of a standards-based report card is to provide parents, teachers and students with more accurate information about a student's progress toward meeting grade level content standards.

The standards-based report card will help us close the gap in achievement among different groups of students. In addition it will provide parents with a clear understanding of end-of-year expectations.

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

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On many traditional report cards, students receive one grade for reading, one for math, one for writing and so on. On a standards-based report card, each of these subject areas is divided into a list of skills and knowledge that students are responsible for learning. Students receive

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a separate rating for each standard. Our report card also includes learning behaviors that reflect skills necessary to be a successful student.

The achievement ratings indicate a child's progress toward meeting specific grade-level standards. The student's academic proficiency is reported separately from his or her effort.

With a standards-based report card, students are evaluated more objectively according to consistent grade-level standards. The letter grades used in traditional report cards are a more subjective reflection of individual teachers' expectations for student effort and achievement.

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## **HOW DOES A STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARD MEASURE STUDENT PROGRESS?**

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The standards-based report card will use a 4 point rating scale to indicate a child's progress toward meeting the end-of-year Common Core State Standards. The rubric offers a detailed explanation of what each rating means.

A shaded block indicates that the curriculum related to a particular standard has not yet been taught or assessed.