

# First Grade Benchmarks and Rubrics for Reporting Student Progress

## Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

### 1. What is standards based grading?

Standards based grading is an intentional way for teachers to track their students' progress and achievements. It is based on the progression of growth as students show signs of mastery or understanding of skills. Each subject, math and reading, is broken down into smaller "learning targets". Each target supports a Florida Benchmark that students should master in school by the end of the year.

### 2. Why is the district moving to standards based grading in first grade?

The district is moving to standards based grading in first grade to provide consistency of student expectations across the district. Reporting student progress using this type of grading scale will define student expectations for each grading period across the year, as well as, demonstrate student progress towards mastery of a benchmark.

### 3. What is my child being graded on using standards based grading?

Your child will be graded on specific **reading and math benchmarks** that are critical for success in first grade. (See *Parent Guide* for details.) You can find a link to the Parent Guide on the district website, as well as, your child's school website.

### 4. How is my child being graded?

Teachers will use a rubric to determine how students are progressing toward mastery of the benchmarks. A "3" on the rubric means that your child has met end of year, grade level benchmark. The performance levels are below:

<b>Definitions of performance levels that are used on the report card:</b>	
<b>4</b>	The student has an <b>advanced</b> understanding and <b>exceeds</b> <i>end of year</i> , grade level benchmark mastery. A student receiving a 4 shows self-motivation and demonstrates this advanced knowledge at school.
<b>3*</b>	The student demonstrates <b>mastery</b> on <i>end of year</i> , grade level benchmark. A student receiving a 3 shows solid knowledge and has proficient understanding of concepts and skills.
<b>2</b>	The student is <b>approaching</b> <i>end of year</i> , grade level benchmark mastery. A student receiving a 2 understands basic skills and concepts but is not yet independent. The student is applying concepts and skills with increasing success.
<b>1</b>	The student is <b>beginning</b> progress towards <i>end of year</i> , grade level benchmark mastery. A student receiving a 1 benefits from additional support.
<b>L</b>	The student has <b>limited</b> progress towards <i>end of year</i> , grade level benchmark mastery.
<b>Z</b>	The benchmark is not assessed during this quarter.

*\*The score of 3 is the grade level expectation and is what all students should meet by the end of the year.*

### 5. My child received 4's on the report card that was used the first half of the year. Why isn't my child receiving a score of 4 on this report card?

Since the benchmarks are **end of the year expectations**, a 4 would mean students have mastered the benchmark and are working at an advanced level. You should expect to see your child's performance level grow across the year from a score of 1 to a score of 3 or 4 by the end of the year.

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### **6. How will science, art, music, physical education, and the responsibilities of a learner be graded?**

These areas will be graded using the following codes:

- E- Excellent
- S- Satisfactory
- N- Needs Improvement
- U- Unsatisfactory

### **7. Will my child receive a progress report?**

No, your child will not receive a progress report prior to receiving the report card.

### **8. How can I view my child's report card?**

You will be able to view the report card in the Parent Portal as you have done in the past.