



KPBSD FAQ's for Parents:

Standards-Referenced Reporting

What does Standards-Referenced mean?

In a Standards-Referenced system, a student's status is reported (or referenced) relative to the performance standard for each area of knowledge or skill; however, even if the student does not meet the performance standard **for each topic, he or she moves to the next level/grade with additional supports** in place until he/she reaches proficiency.

Why change from letter grades to a different type of reporting?

A Standards-Referenced reporting system reflects a more accurate picture of what and how well a student knows something in relationship to grade level standards as they are taught.

What are standards, and where do I find them?

The standards are statements of what Alaska's students in grades kindergarten through 12 should know and be able to do so they are prepared for whatever college, career, or community activities they may choose after high school. The standards were updated in 2012 to ensure Alaska's students were adequately prepared to compete globally. The standards are available online at www.eed.state.ak.us/standards/ and are also available at each school and the district office.

How will my child's progress be scored and reported?

In all elementary grades and at teacher discretion in the upper grades, student work will be assessed using the four point scale below. The report cards for the elementary grades will show student achievement on either individual standards or categories of standards called domains (in math), or strands (in English/language arts) while the middle and high school report cards will remain unchanged from previous years.

Standards Referenced Scoring Scale (From Marzano: *Modified and Complete Scoring Scales*)

- 4.0** I exceed all expected parts of the standard by demonstrating more complex understanding.
- 3.0** I demonstrate all the expected skills within the standard.
- 2.0** I demonstrate some of the expected skills within the standard.
- 1.0** With help, I can demonstrate some of the expected skills within the standard.
- 0** Even with help, I cannot demonstrate any of the expected skills within the standard.

In which areas will this scale be used to score my elementary student's performance?

In English/language arts, students will be scored in the following strands: Reading literature, reading informational texts, reading foundational skills, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Depending upon his/her grade level, students will be score in the following domains of math: Counting and cardinality, operations and algebraic thinking, number and operations in base ten, measurement and data, number and operations - fractions, geometry, ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, functions, statistics and probability.



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Should all standards be demonstrated by the end of the year?

Yes. The standards are grade specific; therefore, the goal is to have every student demonstrate proficiency in all grade standards by the end of the year.

If a student does not demonstrate proficiency on all standards, will he/she be retained?

Not necessarily. A student who struggles to meet proficiency will be under review by the Intervention Team at the school. The Intervention Team will develop an intervention plan to assist the student with academics. The goal is to have all students proficient in their grade level expectations. If a student falls short of accomplishing this, the Intervention Team, with the parent, will determine student placement for the following year.

On the elementary report card, science, health, and social studies are comment boxes only. Why are these different?

The comment boxes allow teachers to report the main concepts of study for those subjects. Each unit is comprised of content standards, and parents can request the standards for each unit from the teacher if they would like that information. For the purpose of detailed reporting, the district has chosen to focus on English/language arts and mathematics for grades kindergarten through six. Comment boxes exist to provide documentation on units taught, topics of instruction, and student-specific comments.

Why do music and P.E. at the elementary level grade on participation only?

There are standards for music and P.E.; however, the music and P.E. committee determined that participation and behavior are the essential standards at the elementary level. Comment boxes are available to share units of instruction and participation notes.

Is behavior included as part of an academic score?

No, behavior is not included when determining a student's academic score. While behavior and effort may be commented on in the course comments at the middle and high school level, behavior at the elementary level is assessed and reported on separately based on the community skills listed below.

Respects self, peers & adults
Demonstrates effort
Works cooperatively
Uses time well
Follows directions

Responsible for tools/belongings
Demonstrates appropriate playground conduct
Works independently
Participates in class discussions
Completes homework