

# Elementary Report Card History and Evolution

In the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

This document was created in February, 2015. As the committee continues its work and makes adjustments, the document will be revised at least annually in January of each year. The committee membership list will be updated in any year that membership has changed. Questions about the content of this document can be directed to the Department of Elementary Education at 714-8859.

# 1990's

- ▶ Elementary schools throughout the district used a variety of report card styles.
- ▶ Various types of information were included at different schools. For example, some gave a Language Arts grade, while others gave grades for Reading, Spelling, Writing, Penmanship separately from one another.
- ▶ Most schools changed grading from an O, S, N scale to the A, B, C scale around third grade. Some schools continued to use O, S, N for special courses while using A, B, C, for core academic courses.
- ▶ Whether to use + or - with grades was determined by individual teachers or schools.
- ▶ The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (AK DEED) developed standards in reading, writing, and mathematics that were organized by age span.
- ▶ The use of electronic grade books became more widespread.

# Early 2000's

- ▶ Some primary grade (K-2) teachers at various sites created their own report cards. Many integrated a developmental continuum in at least one area, such as writing, and included a portfolio of student work.
- ▶ 2002- Paula Christenson, Director of Elementary Education, initiated a committee of teachers, principals, a school board member, and parents, to create a standardized report card for grades K-2.
- ▶ 2004- All KPBSD Elementary Schools were required to use the same report card for grades K-2, that was developed by the committee convened by Director Christenson.
- ▶ 2004- AK DEED developed specific Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) in reading, writing, and mathematics to define the standards for each grades level 3-10.
- ▶ 2005- The committee expanded to address the report card for grade 3.

# 2006 - 2010

- ▶ 2006- AK DEED expanded the GLEs to include grades K-2.
- ▶ 2007- The committee revised the report cards to reflect the standards instead of developmental levels for grades K-3, assisted by the leadership of Dr. Doris Cannon, who assumed the role of Director of Elementary Education in 2006-07.
- ▶ 2007- The grading scale for grades K-3 changed from O, S, N, and A, B, C, to E for Emerging and P for Proficient, to match the language of the Alaska Standards.
- ▶ The goal to include grade 4 began in 2007. The report card revisions were so time-consuming the goal could not be achieved at that time.
- ▶ The use of electronic grade books became more widespread, and the district adopted Gradequick for district-wide use.
- ▶ 2008- The committee considered the options available, and recommended waiting to implement new report cards for grades 4-6 until a more user-friendly software product could be found.

# 2011 - 2012

- ▶ 2011- PE and Music teachers were brought together to develop a new scoring scale for the report card since the O, S, N and A, B, C systems were both still in use.
- ▶ 2011- The committee and a team of grade 4-6 grade teachers came together to expand the K-3 tool to grades 4-6 and pilot it.
- ▶ 2012- The pilot expanded to include all teachers at K-Beach Elementary and Sterling Elementary Schools.
- ▶ 2012- The committee recommended the district change to Marzano's Modified 0-4 scoring scale for all grades using the new report cards. After review by the District's Instructional Team, a memo was sent from Dr. Cannon in May 2012, informing all sites of the change for the next school year.
- ▶ 2012- The district adopted and implemented PowerSchool as the software system for managing grading and student information.
- ▶ 2012- Following input by community members, parents, school board members, and district employees, the district's 2012-2017 Strategic Plan was developed. The academic success goal is to: "Deliver relevant, rigorous, standards-based curriculum in conjunction with alternative pathways and a flexible approach to ensure that every KPBSD student stays engaged, reaches high levels of achievement and graduates." It is supported in part by action step "1.3 Reporting System: Reflect student learning with improved accuracy through implementation of a standards-referenced reporting system by FY18."

## 2011-12 Committee Members

- Adrienne Bostic
- Amanda Brendtro
- David Brighton
- Tommi Cavanaugh
- Patricia Haywood
- Donny Joachim
- Shanna Johnson
- Suzanne Klaben
- Darcy Marcou
- Jeremy McKibben
- Bill Noomah
- Lisa Renken
- Mike Sellers

# 2013-14 School Year

- ▶ 2013- The pilot group expanded to include elementary teachers at K-Beach Elementary, Sterling Elementary, McNeil Canyon Elementary, and Nikolaevsk School, plus several individual teachers from Mountain View Elementary and Nikiski North Star Elementary.
- ▶ 2013- The committee evolved to include a principal and an instructional coach, in addition to teachers from grades K-6.
- ▶ 2014- AK DEED adopted new standards in the areas of English Language Arts and mathematics.
- ▶ Under the leadership of Dr. Christine Ermold as the new Director of Elementary Education, both parents and teachers were surveyed by the committee during the 2013-14 school year. Changes to scoring practices were implemented in January, 2014 as a result of the parent input, and changes to PowerSchool occurred in an ongoing manner.
- ▶ Following the revisions that were identified as needed in the survey responses, the committee recommended to the District Instructional Team that the new report card was ready to be rolled out district-wide during the 2014-15 school year.
- ▶ May 2014- Leadership teams from all KPBSD schools with elementary grades participated in training in the new reporting system, with the expectation they would use the provided resources to provide personalized training to their teachers in the fall.

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# 2014-15 School Year

- ▶ 2014- Elementary teachers district-wide received site-specific training in standards referenced reporting. Some elementary schools also chose to use provided resources for parent training and education.
- ▶ 2014- All teachers using the 0-4 scale were surveyed in December, with adjustments to professional development offerings, PowerSchool front-loading, and additional resources were created or refined by the committee based on the survey responses.