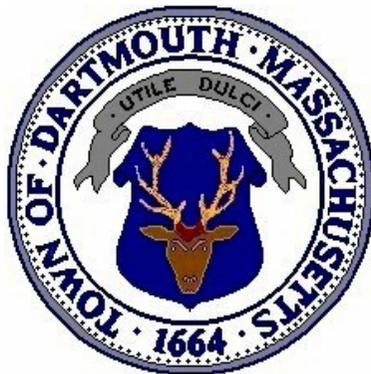


DARTMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Elementary Standards-Based Report Card Parent Guide School Year 2015-2016



We have made some improvements to the report card from last year based on feedback of parents and staff.

- ◆ A blank box indicates the student is "On Track" to meet the end of year standard.
- ◆ A check mark indicates an "Area of Concern" for that standard.
- ◆ The effort scale now has 5 ratings.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

A Standards-Based Report Card serves as a communication tool between teachers and parents. It provides detailed feedback regarding your child's progress toward subject-specific standards, and the skills mastered along the way. A Standards-Based Report Card evaluates all students on the same grade-appropriate skills and enables you to see exactly which concepts and skills have been learned.

Standards-Based Report Cards focus on end-of-the-year goals and track your child's progress toward those goals. **Each trimester report card will reflect the progress your child has made to that point,** leading toward mastery as the year progresses, NOT against an End of Year benchmark, but progress to date. This allows parents and students to have a clear understanding of where the student is currently performing.

In addition to tracking your child's progress toward this mastery, your child's degree of effort and attendance record will be indicated on each trimester report card.

We sincerely hope that this guide will assist you in understanding your child's progress toward mastery of the grade-level skills that have been established. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact us.



Explanation of Terminology

- ◆ **Every major subject area will be given an Overall Performance Rating**

OVERALL PERFORMANCE KEY	
4	The student demonstrates a thorough in- depth understanding of grade level and extended concepts. Performance is characterized by the application of skills with consistent accuracy, independence , and a high level of quality .
3	The student demonstrates a thorough understanding of grade level concepts. Performance is characterized by the application of skills with accuracy and quality . The student may require occasional support and direction.
2	The student demonstrates a basic understanding of grade level concepts. Performance is characterized by the application of skills and strategies with support and direction.
1	The student inconsistently demonstrates the application of grade level concepts. Performance is characterized by limited application of skills and strategies and requires considerable support and direction.

- ◆ An **Effort Rating** for each Overall Performance Rating will be given:

EFFORT SCALE

5 = Outstanding 4 = Good 3 = Satisfactory 2 = Inconsistent 1 = Minimal

- ◆ **Individual End of Grade Level Standards** within each subject area will be rated on a **Standards Scale**. The students will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate understanding of standards-based topics presented each trimester.

N/A: Not applicable will be used for any standard that has just begun to be covered or has not yet been introduced.

STANDARDS SCALE

★ = Area of Strength On Track (to meet end of year standard) ✓ = Area of Concern
N/A = Standard is not assessed at this time

- ◆ Under the **Overall Performance Standard for Reading**, your child's current **reading level** will be designated as:

Above Grade Level

On Grade Level

Below Grade Level

- ◆ In both **English Language Arts and Math**, **Intervention Support** will be indicated as:

YES: if support is provided towards these standards

NO: if support is not provided

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the advantages of a Standards-Based Report Card over a traditional letter-grade report card?

Letter grades are often calculated by combining how well a student met a particular teacher's expectations, performance on assignments or tests, and how much effort the teacher believes was put in. Standards-Based Report Cards provide more consistency between teachers because students are evaluated on the same grade-appropriate skills.

Standards-Based Report Cards evaluate a student's progress toward mastery of an Overall Performance Standard, giving parents a clearer picture of their child's areas of strength or concern within a standard.

What is the difference between a 3 and 4?

A "4" shows **in-depth understanding and advanced applications of grade level standards**; students at this level are stretching themselves above grade level expectations. A "4" indicates that the student's progress exceeds standards because s/he has demonstrated mastery in terms of knowledge, and s/he applies that knowledge in ways that go beyond expectations. Typically, very few students would be at this level of performance. In terms of behavior, students receiving a "4" demonstrate academic and social maturity beyond their years and those of their age/grade appropriate peers.

A "3" is considered **good, solid grade level performance**, with the student right on track in meeting grade level standards.

How can I access my child's report card?

In order to improve communication between schools and families, Dartmouth Public Schools will be printing all report cards for students in grades preK-5. This will also help students set goals and ownership for their hard work. **Report cards will also be able to be accessed online.**