



November 16, 2017

Dear District 97 Elementary School Families,

Last spring, a committee of teachers representing all eight of our elementary schools was charged with revising our K-5 standards-based report card. The committee's goal was to make the report card more user-friendly and accessible, while also ensuring that it aligns with the district's vision and the following purpose statement:

*This report card provides information to families and students regarding student progress toward grade-level standards and behaviors that support learning. It is intended to facilitate communication, illustrate areas of strength, identify opportunities for growth, and guide student goal-setting.*

The first change we made was to reduce the number of standards we report on each trimester. While we have and will continue to teach all of the Illinois State Learning Standards, we believe that condensing the manner and time frame in which we report on them will make it easier for teachers to convey and families to comprehend the progress being made by our students.

We also revised the **Performance Descriptors**, which reflect how your child is performing on each standard on the report card.

## Report Card Performance Descriptors

**\*(E) Excels:** Student excels at current grade-level expectations by applying and utilizing concepts and skills.

**(M) Meets:** Student consistently meets current grade-level expectations for concepts and skills.

**(P) Progressing:** Student is making progress toward current grade-level expectations or demonstrates basic but inconsistent application of essential concepts and skills.

**(N) Not Yet:** Student has not yet demonstrated understanding of current standards and needs more support to develop concepts and skills.

\*Excels (E) does not apply to kindergarten.

In addition, we reduced the number of **Behaviors that Support Learning** (from 13 to seven) and changed the performance descriptors (3-2-1 instead of +/-) to help make the way we report on the behaviors listed below easier to follow and more meaningful.

- Adapts to classroom practices and adheres to expectations
- Exhibits organizational skills
- Participates in classroom activities
- Produces quality work
- Completes work in a timely manner
- Interacts with others in a positive and respectful manner
- Accepts responsibility for actions

## Behaviors that Support Learning - Performance Descriptors

- 3 - Exemplary
- 2 - Meets Expectations
- 1 - Needs Improvement

After distributing the report cards for first trimester on Friday, December 8, we plan to send out a brief survey that we will use to collect feedback on the changes described above. We would greatly appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to share your thoughts with us at that time.

Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen H. Wei".

Helen H. Wei, Ph.D.  
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment