

NORTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

212 Main Street, Room 200
Northampton, MA 01060-3112
Tel (413) 587-1331 FAX (413) 587-1318 TDD (413) 587-1373

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November 23, 2021

Dear Northampton Public Schools Elementary Caregiver,

Over the past few years, Northampton Public Schools teachers, administrators, specialists, and coaches have been working collaboratively on updating our report cards to reflect the changes to learning standards that periodically occur within the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Curriculum Standards. The current curriculum frameworks can be found here:

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/current.html>

Our intent with updating the report card has been to create reporting systems for caregivers and their children to assess how students are meeting academic goals/content standards to inform educator instruction and support students in a timely manner. In the updating of standards, we also focused on adopting a growth mindset towards student development and proficiency.

While the report cards will look similar in terms of layout and format, a number of the standards have been updated to accurately reflect the skills and content we teach in our classrooms. The Academic Achievement Rating and Habits of Work and Learning (HOWLS) Scales have also been revised to ensure a focus on what students can do and respect for individual student growth.

The following is the Academic Achievement Scale, which will appear on the Elementary Report Cards:

Academic Achievement Rating Scale		
E:	Exemplary	The student provides evidence that demonstrates advanced control/command of the standard. This evidence is defined by a deeper, more independent, and more skilled level of proficiency.
P:	Proficient	The student provides evidence that indicates the student can accomplish the standard at grade level. This evidence represents an independent and skilled level of understanding.
D:	Developing	The student provides some evidence that indicates partial understanding/ skill for the grade level standard. Key components are missing from the description of "Proficient" as determined by the rubric. The student is still working towards command/control of the standard with support.
B:	Beginning	The student provides some evidence that indicates a beginning stage of understanding for the standard. More learning, practice, HOWLS consistency, and evidence of knowledge are needed to approach proficiency. The student requires more support and guidance to accomplish this standard.

P:	See Progress Report	(This code will be accompanied with one of the three codes above).
X:	Not Covered	This item was not covered during the current marking period.

The Explanation of Habits of Work and Learning (HOWLs) has been updated as well and will appear as follows:

Explanation of Habits of Work and Learning (HOWLs)	
C:	Consistently
M:	Most of the time
S:	Some of the time
R:	Requires ongoing support

We thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter and your continued support for your student(s) and our community of learners.

Best,



Karen Albano, M.Ed.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction