THE ELEMENTARY STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARD
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
School District of Palm Beach County

1. **What are Standards?**
Standards are what students should know and be able to do at the end of each grade. Florida adopted the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSS) and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards Access Points in 2008 and Florida's Standards (MAFS and LAFS) and Florida Standards Access Points (MAFS and LAFS) in 2014 to set expectations for student learning and provide for greater accountability for student achievement.

2. **What is a standards-based report card?**
A standards-based report card provides detailed information on how well your child is progressing toward mastery of year-end standards in each subject area. For Kindergarten through grade 5, the report card reflects Florida's Standards and Florida Standards Access Points for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards Access Points for all other subject areas.
A standards-based report card differs from a traditional report card in two ways:
   - what it measures
   - how it reports progress
The standards-based report card lists clusters of year-end standards in each content area and shows student progress. At the end of each grading period, the teacher will indicate your child's performance level and progress towards meeting the year-end standards.

3. **What does the standards-based report card tell parents?**
The standards-based report card:
   - identifies the learning standards to be met by the end of each grade level.
   - provides specific information about your child's progress toward meeting the year-end standard.
   - shows areas for continued growth.

4. **Why is the School District of Palm Beach County using a standards-based report card?**
Palm Beach County teachers are teaching a standards-based curriculum and assessing students on the standards the students are learning. Standards-based reporting systems are being implemented in schools across the United States. This system aligns the information provided to parents on the report card with how students are currently being taught and assessed.

The purpose of the standards-based report card is to provide parents, teachers, and students with more accurate information about students' progress toward meeting content standards. By monitoring the concrete skills and knowledge listed on the report card, we will know whether all students are being exposed to the same curriculum and mastering the skills necessary in each grade level.

This system helps close the gap in achievement among students. Additionally, parents will be more aware of what their children should know and be able to do by the end of each grade level.

5. **Which Palm Beach County schools are using the standards-based report cards?**
    All elementary schools are using the standards-based report cards in kindergarten through grade 5.

6. **How does the standards-based report card compare with traditional grades?**
    The School District of Palm Beach County standards-based report card uses Performance Codes and Standard Codes. The Performance Codes show the overall progress of the student toward meeting the grade-level standards. The Standard Codes measure the student progress for each cluster of standards.

    These Performance Codes and Standard Codes replace traditional grades and indicate the student's progress toward meeting the year-end standard. These codes are not averages of work completed, but rather demonstrate where students are in the process of mastering the standards.

PERFORMANCE CODES	
Based on progress toward meeting the grade standards.	
EX	Demonstrates broad in-depth skill/concept development that most often exceeds grade level standards.
PR	Demonstrates skill/concept development that meets grade level standards.
AP	Demonstrates skill/concept development that is beginning to meet grade level standards.
ND	Demonstrates skill/concept development that is significantly below grade level standards.

STANDARD CODES	
X	Student meeting standards
#	Area of concern
0	Not assessed

On many traditional report cards, students receive one grade for reading, one for mathematics, one for science, and so on. On a standards-based report card, each of these subject areas is divided into a list of skills and knowledge that students are responsible for learning. Students receive a separate mark for each cluster of standards that reflect grade level content.

The student's academic proficiency is reported separately from his or her effort.

With the standards-based reporting system, students are evaluated more objectively according to consistent grade-level standards. The letter grades used in traditional report cards are a more subjective reflection of individual teachers' expectations for student effort and achievement.

7. **What if my child receives a PR?**
   The PR indicates that your child is making appropriate progress at this time of year toward overall mastery of the year-end grade-level standards for that subject area.

8. **Do I need to be concerned if my child receives an AP or an ND Performance Code?**
   If your child receives an AP or an ND, you should work with the teacher to see where support at home can assist. The report card provides multiple standards in a subject area, thereby giving an overall performance of a student's progress. This reporting provides information on areas of strengths and areas where a student needs more support. If a student receives an AP, it means the student is beginning to meet some of the grade-level standards.   If a student receives an ND, it means the student is performing at a level significantly below grade-level standards.

9. **What if my child is falling behind the standard?**
   If your child is not making adequate progress toward grade level standards, a Progress Monitoring Plan (PMP) may be developed in order to identify areas in need of improvement, evidence/research based intervention and evidence based progress monitoring tools. This PMP will be developed and documented accordingly. Students will receive additional support.

10. **How will honor roll and student success celebration be handled?**
    Celebrating student success is a school-based decision. Many schools already have a way to honor student success.

11. **How do I discuss the standards-based report card with my child?**
    Parents and teachers should set goals with the child and together work on skills that support mastery of identified learning standards. Student led conferences provide an opportunity to have these conversations and to support student growth.

12. **How will elementary schools outside of the school district know what the Performance Codes and Standard Codes mean?**
    The standards-based report cards contain a legend with a definition for each code.

13. **What happens when students go to middle school?**
    The transcript of the standards-based report cards will be sent to middle schools when students move from elementary to middle.

14. **What resources are available to help parents understand the standards-based report card?**
    There are grade level parent brochures available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole on the district website to explain the standards-based report card for parents.

15. **What are Florida Standards Access Points?**

    The Florida Standards Access Points reflect the key concepts of the Florida Standards with reduced levels of complexity. They are written to ensure the core intent of the standards, for students with significant cognitive disabilities, which apply to all students in the same grade level.

16. **What is the purpose of Access Points?**

    Access points are designed to frame the instruction and assessment of students with significant cognitive disabilities.

17. **Who determines if a student is working on Access Points?**

    The IEP team conducts a comprehensive review of all student information to determine if Access Points are the appropriate standards to utilize.

18. **How does a teacher determine the performance codes and standard codes for Access Points?**

    The Performance Codes show the overall progress of the student toward meeting the grade-level Access Point standards. The Standard Codes measure the student progress for each Access Point standard.

19. **Where are Florida Standards Access Points located?**

    The Florida Standard Access Points for all grade levels can be located at www.cpalms.org

20. **How are English Language Learners who are still acquiring English language speaking and literacy skills graded?**

    Students are assessed at their current grade level using the appropriate grade-level standards. Teachers consider the impact of the student's level of language proficiency on student performance and will discuss with parents the following: the child's current level of English proficiency, the language supports being provided to the child, the child's opportunity to learn the content, and/or the child's ability to demonstrate the appropriate grade-level standards.