

**Central Bucks School District
Elementary Report Card
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

1. Why were the new report cards developed?

Based on survey results from both parents and teachers, a report card committee was formed in June 2016 to make a recommendation. This committee consisted of one parent and teacher from each elementary school, curriculum supervisors, principals, and School Board members.

2. What are the main changes in these new report cards?

- The length of the document was reduced from 6 pages to 3 pages.
- The same document will be used during each trimester. This will make it easier to track student growth across the entire year.
- The language used in the Success Standards and the Academic areas was edited to make it more clear.
- Letter grades will be utilized in grades 4 – 6 for all content areas (Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and Writing).
- The report card will now be available through the Parent Portal without having to access the Back-Pack tab. This now matches how report cards are viewed at the secondary level (grades 7 – 12)
- The district will move to a trimester system at the Elementary level. The secondary level (grades 7 – 12) will continue to utilize four marking periods.

3. What are trimesters?

Trimesters divide the instructional year into three grading periods of approximately sixty school days per marking period.

Start of Trimester	End of Trimester
September 5, 2017	December 5, 2017
December 6, 2017	March 15, 2018
March 16, 2018	June 15, 2018

4. Why adopt trimesters?

Reporting achievement three times per year has important advantages for students, teachers, and parents.

- Provides students with more time to master skills prior to being assessed

- Offers additional time for teachers to more carefully plan and deliver instruction that aligns with achievement and growth
- Provides teachers more time to teach, remediate, and/or extend learning prior to reporting
- Enables teachers to collect more meaningful evidence of student learning
- Reduces the emphasis on testing and focuses on quality instruction
- Gives more credible information based on an extended evaluation span

5. When will the district begin using the new report cards?

If approved, the new report cards will be used in the 2017-2018 school year.

6. Are there any changes to conferences?

Two conferences will still be held each year. They will occur in December and March, at the end of the first and second trimesters.

7. Will students receive letter grades?

Letter grades will be received in all content areas (Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and Writing) in grades 4 – 6.

8. Will the report card be sent home?

The final report each year will be sent home in paper form. The report cards at the end of the first (December) and second (March) trimesters will continue to be available through the Parent Portal. Parents may choose to print them at home.

9. How will the new report cards be accessed by parents?

The reports will be accessed through Parent Portal. This means that all report cards, grades 1 – 12, will now be accessed in the same way. All Kindergarten reports will continue to be sent home each trimester.

10. Will teachers still use standards-based grading?

Standards-based grading will continue to be used at the elementary level in all grades (K – 6). Multiple standards will be reported on in all content areas as well as by the specialists (Art, Health & Physical Education, Library, Music, and QUEST).

11. What indicators will be used for standards-based grading?

Teachers will continue to evaluate each standard with the following indicators: Exceeding the standard (+), Meeting the standard (M), Approaching the standard (/), and Limited Progress toward the standard (-).

12. Why are we moving away from using E, M, A, LP as indicators?

We wanted to avoid confusion on the document for parents and students. Having letters represent both percentage grades and standards (especially the letter A for both Approaching and 90% to 100%) was a possible cause for confusion.

13. Why does some information break between pages and columns?

Making this report accessible through the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus is a positive for parents and teachers. It does, however, come with some limitations on formatting. Our Technology department was able to resolve almost all the page and column breaks where a standard was split. The new documents on the website include these changes.