



## Questions about Standards Based Grading

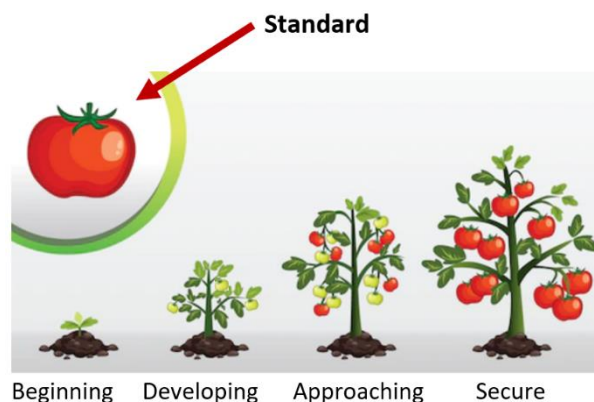
*Some parents may ask questions similar to the ones below. Therefore, you may use the Q&A to help guide your response(s). This document also serves as a reference for all staff.*

**Q:** How will my child better understand the connection between the lesson focus/activities and the standards based report card?

**A:** When teachers review the standards based grading scale with their students, the students better understand the scale and how it measures growth. Students should know that a “Secure” rating means more than understanding the content/standard; it means that they can apply/transfer the standard/skill consistently.

Teachers should:

- Display the report card rating scale and the verbiage and expectations for each rating.
- Display/explain the report card standards specific to the subject area.
- Explain to students that the report card is meant to measure student learning and show growth over time toward attainment of each grade level standard. The graphic below can be helpful with this explanation.



- Communicate and explain the learning target(s) at the beginning of each lesson which are directly aligned to the standard(s). Students are informed of what they will know and/or be able to do by the end of each lesson.

**Q:** How do I know if my child is at the expected level of growth for each standard?

**A:** All students are unique and grow at different rates. The expectation is that students demonstrate growth and understand the skill/standard with little or no assistance (Approaching) by the end of the unit/year. Our marking periods are set to provide families with feedback quarterly. However, the end of a unit may not align with the end of a marking period. Therefore, students may need more time to demonstrate their proficiency.

**Q:** How will I know if my child is not making adequate progress in any skills/standards?

**A:** Any skill rated as Beginning would be an area to focus on so that growth is realized. Ratings on the report card should improve as the student shows growth, especially in complex standards with many facets. Beginning ratings will always include an explanation in the comment section.

**Q:** Why are some standards shaded?

**A:** Skills/standards are shaded on the report card if they are not addressed and will be rated when introduced in the curriculum.

**Q:** Why are science and social studies rated by semesters?

**A:** Science and social studies are both semester courses. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and our uncertainty of our ability to maintain our pacing within each unit, additional time was allotted to address the standards.

**Q:** Why are standards based report cards a more accurate reflection of student learning?

**A:** Student learning is directly linked to the NJSLs and drives instruction. Rating specific skills/standards enables students to focus specifically on key areas so that growth is realized. These standards/ skills will be measured this year on the NJSLA in grades 3-5 for ELA, math, and science. Standards based report cards allow for students and families to monitor growth toward proficiency with the standards.