

## Sulphur Springs School District



### “FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARD” September 15, 2006

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This year a major goal with the implementation of the new standards-based report card is to provide our parent/guardian community with as much information as possible and to answer your questions. You have been provided with a brochure, a grade specific *Guide* to the new report card and an informative power point presentation at Back-to-School Night. Throughout the year you will also receive some brief “Frequently Asked Questions” to provide you with additional information.

#### ***Is it possible for my child to get a “4” this year?***

Yes, teachers on the Standards-Based Report Card Committee at each grade level have identified standards that a child may receive a “4” on when the student demonstrates a higher level of understanding and application of the standard. **The goal is for all children to demonstrate proficiency, “3,”** but teachers will be able to offer students opportunities to demonstrate their application of the standard that could result in a “4.”

If a student is completing work at their grade level standard the result would be a “3.” A perfect paper on a page in the math book that is only focusing on the grade level standard would be a “3” but extending that learning and demonstrating their success might lend itself to a “4.”

#### ***If my child gets a “3” and they are satisfied with that grade aren’t we accepting mediocrity?***

No, no more than we ever did with a traditional report card. For example, with the traditional report cards a child might have received a “B” and teachers continued to provide instruction and raise their level of expectation for that student. It is the goal of each teacher to take children from where they are in their learning and move them forward. If a child begins the study of a subject and is demonstrating their proficiency with “3s” then the teacher will provide them with extension and enrichment. Parents will continue to let their children know what they expect of their academic work, work habits, and behavior.

#### ***What happens when my child goes to the middle school where they still use the traditional grades of A, B, C, etc?***

When 6<sup>th</sup> graders move to the middle schools teachers meet with counselors and staff from the Hart District. 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers complete paper work on the students, which helps the middle school place students into classes. Report cards, while kept in the student’s cumulative record that is sent on to the middle schools, are not used in placing students in classes for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will continue to be placed into middle school classes just as they have for years. If someone at the middle school wanted to review a student’s report card they would have a better picture of what the student’s progress had been on each of the grade level standards than if they looked at a traditional report card’s grades.

***How will a student's GPA be calculated? How will a standards-based report card impact college applications?***

GPA's are not calculated for elementary school students. Nor do a child's elementary grades impact a GPA in middle or high school. Colleges never refer to a student's report card from elementary school. The years a student spends in elementary school are designed to provide the foundation of skills and knowledge. The report cards provided during these years are to help you, the parent, see the areas where your child excels and where additional help may be needed. The skills and concepts taught in the elementary years build a foundation that will be added to each year.

***Will my child still be able to participate in the EEE Program that was previously linked to their report card grades and effort?***

Yes, again this year the EEE Program, "Excellence and Effort in Education," will be offered to students in participating teachers classrooms. Students will receive their EEE recognition through their report card. The new performance levels (advanced, proficient, basic, below basic) and the marks on the report card for "Lifelong Learning Skills" will be used to qualify eligible students for the EEE program this year. More information regarding the EEE program will be sent home from your child's school.

Thank you for your interest in your child's academic progress. A strong link between home and school is critical to the success of a child in school. If you have questions on the Standards-Based Report Card please contact your child's teacher, the principal or email your questions to [kwright@sssd.k12.ca.us](mailto:kwright@sssd.k12.ca.us).

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathy Wright  
Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services