

SBG Parent Communication - Deerfield Public Schools District 109

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to update you on our transition to standards-based grading and reporting (SBGR) in Deerfield Public Schools District 109. [I encourage you to read the comprehensive information about SBGR at this link on our District website.](#) The website includes information about the purpose of our 6-8 report cards, overall principles of SBGR, and specifics on how we will be recording and communicating student progress both academically and in terms of what we call “Habits of Success.”

After sending an initial email to all parents in the fall, we received several responses from you. The primary concern parents expressed was not having an overall academic achievement letter grade included on the report card. Based on this concern, we have decided to include an overall achievement letter grade for each subject in addition to the 4-3-2-1 indicators from various strands within each subject ([see the website, under “Specific to Middle School Report Cards” for more details](#)).

A final concern that arose more than once from parents is the misconception that students could not earn “4s” in the SBGR model. This statement is not accurate, and the entire middle school team discussed the issue at a recent half-day inservice dedicated to SBGR. Many children in Deerfield are exceeding grade-level expectations in many areas -- almost all available quantitative data we have collected and analyzed suggests that the majority of our students exceed national standards -- and we expect that they will continue to do so in the future. If students are exceeding grade-level expectations, their grades should reflect that and, therefore, be reported as “4 - exceeding expectations.”

Please contact me with any questions we can answer about this topic. In addition, please feel free to contact our building administrators, our instructional coaches, or our teachers for additional information. Thank you, as always, for your support of teaching and learning in Deerfield Public Schools District 109!