

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARD FOR PRIMARY GRADES

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Some public school districts and competitive private schools have implemented a Standards-Based Report Card (SBRC) to reduce the emphasis placed on letter grades while focusing more attention on mastering objectives. This new report card is helpful as it ensures greater consistency of expectations from teacher to teacher, increased student and teacher focus on the standards from the very beginning of the year, better information for parents to guide their children and learn about their skills, and more accurate data on whether their children are ready for the next grade level.

Standards are the learning and developmental expectations each student is expected to achieve by the end of the school year. Simply, standards describe what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level in all subjects. With a SBRC, students are graded based on their progress in reaching standards. A SBRC is designed to give parents more details about how their children are progressing. On the report card, parents are provided with their child's level of proficiency and information on their work habits.

The numbers displayed in a SBRC replace traditional letter grades to provide more accurate feedback to parents and students. These report cards also remove some of the subjectivity of letter grades; a teacher is not making the assessment based on averages of homework and tests, but on the development towards the standard. In addition, de-emphasizing letter grades addresses the negative impact felt by students who perceive themselves as poor or failing students beginning in kindergarten. These perceptions may be difficult to overcome. Also, de-emphasizing letter grades would help avoid situations where students judge classmates' intellectual abilities based on grades received on traditional report cards.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. explore the implementation of a Standards-Based Report Card (SBRC) for primary grades in Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and,
2. provide a response on the review of a SBRC implementation on or before the August 2014 Miami-Dade County School Board meeting.