

PARENT GUIDE TO PROGRESS REPORTS



**FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



*Fairfield's schools
are working to
provide higher
quality instruction
than ever before.*

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATH

Partnering With Your Child's Teacher

Our elementary schools utilize a standards-based progress report for all K-5 students. The purpose of a standards-based progress report is to provide detailed feedback to parents and families regarding the progress their child is making toward specific learning standards at the child's grade level.

Understanding Progress Report Marks

Students' ability to meet the learning standards will be determined by using a variety of methods (such as formal, informal, oral and written assessments and teacher observation), which allow teachers to identify whether the child is making adequate progress.



Understanding EMPN

The progress reports use the letters E,M,P,N. The marks are not to be considered like A, B, C, D but rather progress towards standards.

- **Exceeds** grade level expectations
- **Meets** grade level expectations
- **Progressing** toward grade level expectations
- **Does Not** meet grade level expectations



HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL BE LEARNING IN GRADE KINDERGARTEN

What your child will be learning in kindergarten English language arts and literacy

In kindergarten, students will learn the alphabet and the basic features of letters and words. They will break down spoken and written words into syllables and letters and identify the sounds each letter makes. These important skills will enable your child to learn new words and to read and understand simple books and stories. Students will also learn to write and share information in a variety of ways, including drawing, writing letters and words, listening to others, and speaking aloud. Some activities in these areas will include:

- Reading stories and asking and answering questions about the characters, events and lessons of the story
- Naming and writing upper and lower case letters
- Identifying words that rhyme
- Reading common words found in emergent books
- Using a combination of drawing, speaking, and writing to, tell a story, describe an event, give information, or share an opinion

What your child will be learning in kindergarten mathematics

In kindergarten, your child will focus primarily on two important areas. The first is learning numbers and what numbers represent. The second is addition and subtraction. Students will also learn to identify and work with shapes. Some activities in these areas include:

- Counting how many objects are in a group and comparing the quantities of two groups of objects
- Understanding addition as putting together and subtraction as taking away
- Adding and subtracting very small numbers quickly and accurately
- Representing addition and subtraction word problems by using objects or drawing pictures



HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL BE LEARNING IN GRADE ONE

What your child will be learning in grade one English language arts and literacy

In grade one, your child will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will continue to learn the letters and sounds that make up words. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in stories, articles, and other sources of information. In their writing, students will work on putting together clear sentences on a range of topics using a growing vocabulary. Some of the activities include:

- Reading stories and asking and answering questions about the characters, events, and lessons of the story
- Learning and using new words
- Participating in class discussions by listening, responding to what others are saying, and asking questions
- Learning basic rules of spoken and written English
- Writing to describe an event, provide information, or share an opinion

What your child will be learning in grade one mathematics

In grade one, students will work with whole numbers and place value— including grouping numbers into tens and ones as they learn to add and subtract through 20. Students will also use charts, tables, and diagrams to solve problems. Some activities in these areas will include:

- Quickly and accurately adding and subtracting numbers up to 10
- Understanding the rules of addition and subtraction (for example, $5+2=2+5$)
- Understanding what the different digits mean in two-digit numbers (place value)
- Measuring the lengths of objects using a shorter object as a unit of length
- Organizing objects into categories and comparing the number of objects in different categories



HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL BE LEARNING IN GRADE TWO

What your child will be learning in grade two English language arts and literacy

In grade two, students will continue to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in a variety of texts, such as stories, books, articles, and other sources of information including the Internet. In their writing, students will learn how to develop a topic and strengthen their skills by editing and revising. Some activities in these areas will include:

- Describing in their own words information learned from articles or books read aloud
- Describing the reasons that an author gives to support a point
- Participating in class discussions by listening and building on what others are saying
- Learning the rules of spoken and written English
- Writing about a short series of events and describing actions, thoughts, and feelings

What your child will be learning in grade two mathematics

In grade two, students will extend their understanding of place value to the hundreds place. They will use this place value understanding to solve word problems, including those involving length and other units of measure. Students will continue to work on their addition and subtraction skills, quickly and accurately adding and subtracting numbers up through 20 and also working with numbers up through 1000. They will build a foundation for understanding fractions by working with shapes and geometry. Some activities in these areas will include:

- Quickly and accurately adding and subtracting numbers up to 20
- Understanding what the different digits mean in a three-digit number
- Measuring lengths of objects in standard units such as inches and centimeters
- Dividing circles and rectangles into halves, thirds, and fourths



HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL BE LEARNING IN GRADE THREE

What your child will be learning in grade three English language arts and literacy

In grade three, students will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in a variety of articles, books, and other texts. In their writing, students will pay more attention to organizing information, developing ideas, and supporting these ideas with facts, details, and reasons. Some activities in these areas will include:

- Reading a wide range of stories and describing how a story teaches a lesson
- Reading texts about history, social studies, or science and answering questions about what they learned
- Learning and using new words, including words related to specific subjects (such as Science)
- Writing stories with dialogue and descriptions of characters' actions, thoughts, and feelings
- Writing research or opinion papers over extended periods of time

What your child will be learning in grade three mathematics

In grade three, students will continue to build their concept of numbers, developing an understanding of fractions as numbers. They will learn the concepts behind multiplication and division and apply problem-solving skills and strategies for multiplying and dividing numbers up through 100 to solve word problems. Students will also make connections between the concept of the area of a rectangle and multiplication and addition of whole numbers. Some activities in these areas will include:

- Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with automaticity
- Understanding and explaining what it means to multiply and divide
- Understanding and explaining place value patterns
- Understanding fractions as part of a whole
- Reasoning with shapes and their attributes
- Representing and interpreting data



HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL BE LEARNING IN GRADE FOUR

What your child will be learning in grade four English language arts and literacy

In grade four, students will continue to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will read more challenging literature, articles, and other sources of information and continue to grow their vocabulary. They will also be expected to clearly explain in detail what they have read by referring to details or information from the text. In writing, students will organize their ideas and develop topics with reasons, facts, details, and other information. Some activities in these areas will include:

- Identifying the theme or main idea of a story, play, or poem
- Explaining how authors use facts, details, and evidence to support their points
- Learning and using new words, including words related to specific subjects (such as Science)
- Taking notes and organizing information from books, articles, and online sources to learn more about a topic
- Writing research or opinion papers over extended periods of time

What your child will be learning in grade four mathematics

In grade four, your child will use addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to solve word problems, including problems involving measurement. Students will continue to build their understanding of fractions—creating equal fractions, comparing the size of fractions, adding and subtracting fractions, and multiplying fractions by whole numbers. They will also start to understand the relationship between fractions and decimals. Some activities in these areas will include:

- Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing numbers with automaticity
- Solving multi-step word problems, including problems involving measurement and converting measurements from larger to smaller units
- Creating, comparing and computing with fractions
- Classifying shapes with attributes
- Multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers



HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL BE LEARNING IN GRADE FIVE

What your child will be learning in grade five English language arts and literacy

In grade five, students will continue to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will read more challenging literature, articles, and other sources of information and continue to grow their vocabulary. Students will also be expected to understand and clearly summarize what they have learned from readings and classroom discussions, referring to specific evidence and details from the text. Students will write regularly and continue to develop their ability to gather, organize, interpret, and present information. Some activities in these areas will include:

- Comparing and contrasting stories that deal with similar themes or topics
- Explaining how authors use reasons and evidence to support their points or ideas
- Drawing on information from multiple books, articles, or online sources to locate an answer or to solve a problem quickly
- Learning the rules of spoken and written English
- Writing research or opinion papers over extended periods of time

What your child will be learning in grade five mathematics

In grade five, students will build their understanding of the place value system by working with decimals up to the hundredths place. Students will also add, subtract, and multiply fractions, including fractions with unlike denominators. They will continue to expand their geometry and measurement skills, learning the concept of volume and measuring the volume of a solid figure. Some activities in these areas will include:

- Quickly and accurately multiplying and dividing multi-digit whole numbers
- Multiplying and dividing fractions by whole numbers and other fractions
- Measuring volume using multiplication and addition
- Analyzing and determining relationships between numerical patterns
- Measuring and classifying shapes with attributes

Below you will see some key grade level standards and a parent friendly example of the rubric. These will enable parents and teachers to have a productive conversation about how their child is doing in meeting grade level standards. The examples below reflect end-of-the year benchmarks.

Kindergarten ELA Rubrics

Maintains interest and focus during reading	Meeting: A student can focus during reading for 20-30 minutes.
Recognize and name upper and lower case letters	Meeting: A student knows 48 or more letters (upper and lower case combined).
Writes for many purposes in an organized way	Meeting: A student can use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to create a piece of writing.
Applies letter/sound relationship in writing	Meeting: A student uses what they know about letters to spell some simple words and to record sounds phonetically in writing.

Kindergarten Math Rubrics

Adds and subtracts within 5 with automaticity	Meeting: A student can add or subtract numbers within 5 quickly and correctly.
Counts, reads and writes numbers	Meeting: A student can count to 120 by ones and tens.
Understands addition as putting together and subtraction is taking apart	Meeting: A student can break numbers up in more than one way and put them together.
Describes and compares measureable attributes with objects	Meeting: A student can consistently sort objects using more than, less than and equal to when describing how objects are different.
Describes, compares and creates geometric shapes	Meeting: A student can consistently identify, compare and create two and three dimensional shapes.

Below you will see some key grade level standards and a parent friendly example of the rubric. These will enable parents and teachers to have a productive conversation about how their child is doing in meeting grade level standards. The examples below reflect end-of-the year benchmarks.

Grade One ELA Rubrics

Reads and comprehends grade level text	Meeting: A student can read a Level J book.
Demonstrates interest and focus during reading	Meeting: A student maintains interest in reading for 30 minutes.
Uses multiple strategies to problem solve new words	Meeting: A student can independently use meaning, syntax (grammar) and visual (phonetic) information when reading.
Writes for many purposes in an organized way	Meeting: A student can write in a certain genre with supporting ideas and details.
Applies spelling patterns to written work	Meeting: A student applies knowledge of spelling patterns when writing.

Grade One Math Rubrics

Adds and subtracts with automaticity	Meeting: A student can add or subtract numbers within 20 quickly and accurately solving 15-25 problems within two minutes.
Applies properties of operations as strategies to add and subtract	Meeting: A student can break up and put together numbers in more than one way. Students will add and subtract whole numbers within 20.
Measures and compares using standard and nonstandard units of measure.	Meeting: A student can consistently measure and sort objects by using length.
Describes, compares and creates plane and solid figures	Meeting: A student can consistently identify, compare and create two and three dimensional shapes.

Below you will see some key grade level standards and a parent friendly example of the rubric. These will enable parents and teachers to have a productive conversation about how their child is doing in meeting grade level standards. The examples below reflect end-of-the year benchmarks.

Grade Two ELA Rubrics

Reads and comprehends grade level text	Meeting: A student can read a Level M book.
Demonstrates interest and focus during reading	Meeting: A student maintains interest in reading for 35 minutes.
Uses multiple strategies to problem solve new words	Meeting: A student can independently and consistently use meaning, syntax (grammar) and visual (phonetic) information when reading.
Determines the central message/lesson or main idea of a text	Meeting: A student can, with minimal support, identify the central message (fiction) or main idea (nonfiction) with supporting details.
Writes for many purposes in an organized way	Meeting: A student can write in a certain genre with supporting ideas and details.
Applies spelling patterns to written work	Meeting: A student applies knowledge of spelling patterns when writing.

Grade Two Math Rubrics

Adds and subtracts with automaticity	Meeting: A student can add or subtract numbers within 20 quickly and accurately solving 20-42 problems within two minutes.
Applies properties of operations as strategies to add and subtract multi-digit numbers	Meeting: A student can break up and put together numbers in more than one way. Students will consistently add and subtract whole numbers within 1000.
Estimates, measures and compares units of measure	Meeting: A student can consistently estimate, measure, and compare the objects, time, and money using appropriate tools.
Describes, compares, composes and decomposes plane and solid figures	Meeting: A student can consistently sort and describe geometric features of plane and solid figures comparing the similarities, differences and other traits.

Below you will see some key grade level standards and a parent friendly example of the rubric. These will enable parents and teachers to have a productive conversation about how their child is doing in meeting grade level standards. The examples below reflect end-of-the year benchmarks.

Grade Three ELA Rubrics

Reads and comprehends grade level text	Meeting: A student can read a Level P book.
Demonstrates interest and focus during reading	Meeting: A student maintains interest in reading for 45 minutes.
Reads with sufficient fluency to support comprehension	Meeting: A student can read in longer meaningful phrases, use smooth expression and pause guided by the author's message and use of punctuation.
Writes for many purposes in an organized way	Meeting: A student can write in a certain genre with supporting ideas and details.
Edits and revises to strengthen writing	Meeting: A student can, with minimal prompting, revise and edit in order to strengthen writing. She/he can consider audience and purpose.

Grade Three Math Rubrics

Adds, subtracts, multiplies and divides with automaticity	Meeting: A student can add and subtract numbers within 20 quickly and accurately solving 18-26 problems within one minute. She/he can multiply and divide within 100.
Applies properties of operations as strategies to add and subtract multi-digit numbers	Meeting: A student can break up and put together numbers in more than one way. Students will consistently add and subtract whole numbers within 1000. Students will solve two step word problems using four operations.
Understand that a fraction is part of a whole	Meeting: A student can consistently identify fractions as a part of a whole through models and number lines.
Reasons with shapes and their attributes	Meeting: A student can describe categorize and compare shapes based on measurement and attributes.
Solves problems using measurement	Meeting: A student can consistently measure and estimate length, weight and capacity using standard and non-standard units.

Below you will see some key grade level standards and a parent friendly example of the rubric. These will enable parents and teachers to have a productive conversation about how their child is doing in meeting grade level standards. The examples below reflect end-of-the year benchmarks.

Grade Four ELA Rubrics

Reads and comprehends grade level text	Meeting: A student can read a Level S book.
Demonstrates interest and focus during reading	Meeting: A student maintains interest in reading for 45 minutes.
Summarizes narrative and informational texts	Meeting: A student can accurately summarize a variety of texts using a proper sequence of relevant details.
Uses a variety of sources (personal and print) to help compose a text or story	Meeting: A student can, most of the time, use a variety of sources to help write a story or informational piece.
Edits and revises to strengthen writing	Meeting: A student can, with minimal prompting, revise and edit in order to strengthen writing. She/he can consider audience and purpose.

Grade Four Math Rubrics

Adds, subtracts, multiplies and divides with automaticity	Meeting: A student can add and subtract numbers within 20 quickly and accurately solving 21-30 problems within one minute. She/he can multiply and divide within 100.
Use place value and properties of operations	Meeting: A student can break up and put together numbers in more than one way. Students will consistently add and subtract whole numbers within 1,000,000. Students will solve two step word problems using four operations.
Understand that a fraction is part of a whole	Meeting: A student can compare fractions, generate equivalent fractions and multiply fractions.
Solves problems using measurement	Meeting: A student can consistently measure and estimate length, weight, and capacity using standard and non-standard units.
Classify shapes by attributes	Meeting: A student can consistently draw, identify, and measure lines and angles.

Below you will see some key grade level standards and a parent friendly example of the rubric. These will enable parents and teachers to have a productive conversation about how their child is doing in meeting grade level standards. The examples below reflect end-of-the year benchmarks.

Grade Five ELA Rubrics

Reads and comprehends grade level text	Meeting: A student can read a Level V book.
Demonstrates interest and focus during reading	Meeting: A student maintains interest in reading for 45 minutes.
Compares and contrasts characters and main ideas/topic, themes, structures and points of view	Meeting: A student can compare and contrast characters, main ideas, themes, and points of view within and between texts providing text evidence to support opinions.
Uses a variety of sources to help compose a text or story	Meeting: A student can, most of the time, use a variety of sources to help write a story or informational piece.
Edits and revises to strengthen writing	Meeting: A student can, with minimal prompting, revise and edit in order to strengthen writing. she/he can consider their audience and purpose.

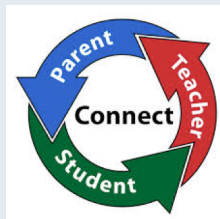
Grade Five Math Rubrics

Adds, subtracts, multiplies and divides with automaticity	Meeting: A student can add and subtract numbers within 20 quickly and they can multiply and divide within 100 solving between 23-33 problems a minute.
Performs operations and estimates with multi-digit whole numbers, decimals and fractions	Meeting: A student will understand that the properties of operations that apply to whole numbers also apply to decimals and fractions.
Creates, compares and computes with fractions and decimals	Meeting: A student will consistently add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers, fractions, and decimals to the hundredths and thousandths place.
Solves problems using measurement	Meeting: A student can consistently use four operations to solve multi-step word problems involving measurement and measurement conversions.
Classify figures into categories based on attributes	Meeting: A student can consistently understand that figures can be classified into categories and subcategories. A student will also recognize that volume is an attribute of solid figures.

Partnering with your child's teacher

Don't be afraid to reach out to your child's teacher—you are an important part of your child's education. Ask to see a sample of your child's work or bring a sample with you. Ask the teacher questions like:

- Is my child at the level where he/she should be at this point of the school year?
- Where is my child excelling?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble?
- How can I help my child at home?
- What can I do to help my child with upcoming work?



For more information on helping your student in English language arts and math, please visit the following sites:

For more information on helping your child become a reader, go to

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-tips-parents-11-languages>

For more information on helping your child learn mathematics (with activities from pre-school to grade five), go to

<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/math/index.html>.



Information contained within was taken from the Fairfield Public Schools teacher rubrics, the Connecticut Common Core Standards www.sde.ct.gov/sde/ccss and the Parent Roadmaps from the Council of the Great City Schools