



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Understanding Your Child's Report Card

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District uses the California State Standards in English language arts and mathematics. Your child's report card reflects his or her progress toward achieving these rigorous standards, as well as progress in other academic subject areas. Equally important, the report card provides information about your child's work habits and citizenship.

Rather than being graded on each state standard (of which there are many), students are given marks on a strand or cluster of standards within a subject area. The marks used for academic subjects are as follows:

- **4 – Masters Standards:** The student demonstrates mastery of a strand or cluster of standards that are expected by the end of the school year. Mastery is a high bar, and generally not achieved until the end of the year.
- **3 – Approaching Mastery:** The student has mastered or nearly mastered some – but not all – of the standards within a strand or cluster. The student is well on the way toward mastery by the end of the year.
- **2 – Making Some Progress Toward Standards:** Since the beginning of the year, the student has demonstrated growth toward many of the standards within the strand or cluster. With continued work and support, the student may reach mastery by the end of the year.
- **1 – Making Little Progress Toward Standards:** The student has demonstrated little progress toward mastery since the beginning of the year. Considerable work and support will be needed in order for the student to achieve mastery.

Areas that have been taught during the reporting period are indicated with a  $\sqrt{\quad}$ . If many of the standards have not been addressed during the first reporting period, the student may receive N/A, meaning that that strand or cluster of standards is not assessed at this time.

During the winter reporting period, you will want to see your child “making some progress toward the standards” or, perhaps, “approaching mastery” of the standards. It is our goal to have students reach mastery of the state standards by the end of the year. The teacher's comments will help to explain specific standards and areas in which your child demonstrates strengths and areas that need additional focus. As always, if you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, please discuss these with the classroom teacher.

While this guide provides detailed explanation of the California State Standards that are included on the report card, more information about the grade-specific student outcomes can be found on the National PTA's website: <http://pta.org/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2796>