

# Standards Based Assessing and Reporting: Part 1

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If you read the newspaper last week or reviewed the school board minutes from last month, you know St. Croix Central is planning to begin the use of standards based assessing and reporting throughout the middle school and high school, similar to what is already being done 4K-5. Over the next two years, we will build assessments and report cards to replace our traditional report cards in grades 6-12, having this practice implemented district wide by the fall of 2019. In this article, I will provide some background on what standards based assessing and reporting is really all about. In future articles, I will provide more about why we are making these changes and how it will impact the students at SCC.

This isn't a brand new concept to St. Croix Central or other schools. We have been researching and developing this process since 2010. We have been using standards based reporting at the elementary since 2014 and we feel it is time to make this change district wide. Ultimately, standards based assessing and reporting is simply the final step in work we have already been doing. We have used the Wisconsin State Standards to build the curriculum we teach every day. Over the past few years, we have made those standards much more visible and relevant to students by posting them in the form of essential questions and learning targets in our classrooms, attaching them to unit plans or including them in teaching presentations, just to give a few examples. Although we are doing this, we haven't been directly assessing those standards independently, in order to distinguish which standards students have mastered and which ones they still need to work on. We have continued to report student progress to parents in the simple A, B, C, D or F format, which really doesn't provide parents a lot of detail about what their students have learned. If you as a parent have had a student at St. Croix Elementary since 2014, you know how different a report card looks there versus a middle or high school one in its current form.

As we move through the process of extending standards based assessing and reporting through our middle school and high school, we anticipate questions will arise. We will continue to share information in as many ways as possible over the next two years, including follow-up articles to this one, resources posted on our website, parent/community meetings, discussions with students and staff, and anything else we feel will be beneficial. If you want to learn more about standards based assessing and reporting on your own, there are a ton a great examples and detailed information online. Here is a link to a YouTube video that gives a good overview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7m4762pjH8>.

If you have any comments, concerns or questions about what standards based assessing and reporting is all about, please contact anyone on the administrative team or myself directly at 715-796-4500 or [gwebb@scc.k12.wi.us](mailto:gwebb@scc.k12.wi.us). Thanks for all of your support!