

**ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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April 2, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As Andover Public Schools (APS) continues to improve teaching and learning for all students, we know that parents and families are our most valuable partner. This is especially true as the district adopts new, more rigorous standards for what every child should know and be able to do in each subject area and grade level. The Massachusetts curriculum frameworks set high expectations for students, staff, and schools. Achieving these career and college ready standards requires continuous progress monitoring and providing targeted support as needed.

Like teachers, parents need accurate and meaningful information --particularly information about student strengths and challenges in performing to high expectations--to better understand and support student learning. Standards describe what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level in all subjects.

The report card provides valuable information on your student's performance to the standards. The report card also provides information on your child's work habits, behavior, and effort. The standards based report card is helpful in many ways. First, it clarifies and reinforces consistent, high expectations for all APS students and schools. Second, the report card helps teachers, students, and families focus on the standards throughout the school year. Finally, and most importantly, the new report card provides specific feedback on progress to the standards so students, families, and teachers can work together to set meaningful goals for improvement.

During the week of April 2 - April 6, each of the elementary schools will have an open parent forum where we will ask for your specific feedback on the reporting process, the actual report card, and supporting documents. I've included the schedule below.

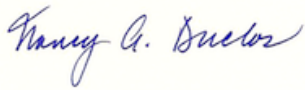
West Elementary	April 2	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Bancroft	April 3	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sanborn	April 5	9:00 am - 10:00 am
South	April 6	9:30 am - 10:30 am
High Plain	April 6	9:00 am - 10:00 am

We specifically are seeking your input on the following questions.

1. What has the report card taught you about your child?
2. What information do you think is missing on the report card about your child's progress?
3. What support do you need in understanding/interpreting the progress report and/or indicators?
4. What are the pros and cons of having 2 report cards and 2 conferences?

We look forward to your presence at one of the forums. Should you not be able to participate in a forum, these questions will be posted on the APS website for public comment.

My best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy A. Duclos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue background behind it.

Nancy A. Duclos

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning