

Comprehensive Reporting Committee June 2010 Statement of Review

The Comprehensive Reporting Committee (CRC) has been working throughout the 2009-2010 school year to analyze methods that clarify communication pertinent to a student's learning progress while determining the most appropriate course of action in exploring means to accomplish this goal.

At this time, the CRC is continuing to analyze the results of a District-wide parent survey. The survey, which the CRC developed, provided for multiple opportunities for parents to respond and add input into their thoughts and needs related to communication specific to student learning. For example, initial analysis revealed that 71% of parent respondents are generally satisfied with the current report cards that they receive from the different schools. In addition, 97% find that specific feedback in the form of teacher comments is very important; in particular, 86% noted that the "Habits of Mind" feedback (effort, participation, attitude, etc.) should be included on a report card. Furthermore, 80% of the respondents listed "Letter Grades" as an effective tool for clarifying student progress on report cards. 82% also indicated that a scheduled parent-teacher conference is an essential tool in the communication process between the school and home especially when the report is published in advance of the conference. Finally, the CRC has determined that the process of educating our community specific to their child's progress in meeting or exceeding the expectations of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks is a step that requires continued emphasis and attention given that only 33% of the respondents felt that form of communication was important on a report card.

Moving forward, the CRC will be working together to implement a pilot report card in grades 1-5. In order to maximize success, the CRC is planning to gather data on a number of questions in advance of actual implementation. For example, there are numerous questions that need to be answered in order to study potential impacts on student learning, a teacher's work load and their ability to focus on instruction, time efficiencies related to completing a new reporting tool, survey and communication tools that will clarify success and/or failures of the reporting pilot, potential costs, and synthesis of the CRC survey results with the desired feedback that parents feel is necessary to help their son or daughter improve academically and as learners.

The CRC will continue to work throughout the subsequent school year and will meet additionally each month to collaborate on the process of the design, implementation, and problem solving of a grades 1-5 reporting tool that will hopefully provide more clarity to parents, students, and teachers in the overall partnership between the schools and home.