

December 2008

Report by Janice Edwing, GRIT Committee Member for the MCCPTA Special Education Committee (GRIT- Grading and Reporting Implementation Team)

Some Stakeholder feedback on Standards Based Reporting (from the 11/20/08 GRIT meeting):

1. Teachers are given a good amount of discretion to put together varied data points to support kids grades above and beyond some of the normal assessment tools like math unit testing.

A concern is that the same amount of creativity and initiative is used for all levels and abilities from GT to SPED. One could imagine a scenario (especially this accelerated mode MCPS seems to be in)—that a teacher might look extra hard for data to support a GT child's grades if data (up to that point) wasn't necessarily reflecting the GT status. Where as if a child is known to struggle or be tagged LD and the data up to that point just serves to confirm that level of underachievement... a teacher could not make the same choice to go for an extra data point or two... thereby not necessarily providing both children the same benefit of the doubt... so to speak.

2. Grades of 1,2,3 or 4: Using Reading as the easier example— In standards based reporting it appears *technically*-- a child can perform Above grade level, On grade level or Below grade level and receive grades of 1, 2, 3 or 4 in that respective area. Therefore resulting example grades could be:

- ❖ Tommy reads Above his grade level and gets a 2 as his grade;
- ❖ Benny reads Below his grade level but gets a 3;
- ❖ Mary reads On/within her grade level and gets a 4...

Comparatively, it's been a little hard for parents to grasp this aspect;

Additionally (from the GRIT FLASH REPORT on 11/20/08):

- GRIT planned the calendar for 2008-2009 using priority topics. The calendar will be shared with constituents.
- DCI is developing rubrics and assessments for Grades 4 and 5, standards-based grading and reporting, for use in 24 schools in 2009-2010.
- ES OARS forum was reviewed. It was developed for use by teachers in the 24 implementation schools.
- Communication for special scores has been distributed to secondary principals. See attachment.

The GRIT December agenda includes the following:

- Frequency of posting grades in Pinnacle (3-week rule)
- OSA process for assessing impact of secondary grading and reporting procedures