

Interpreting Standardized Assessment Results

When teachers look at what a child has achieved and accomplished, they look at a variety of **assessments**. Here at SFA we use a variety of assessments to determine what our students have achieved. Some of the assessments we use are: *tests, projects, self assessments, oral presentations, portfolios, journals, observations, essays*. Using a variety of assessments helps teachers to see the child's accomplishments and achievements overall as a whole. SFA also uses **Standardized testing** such as the Stanford 10 to determine a child's achievement compared to other students of the same grade level. These scores are compared to **norms** which are *scores that are normally predicted for a student of that age level*.

Standardized assessments help teacher to:

- Test to see what level a child is at
- Determine if a child has made grade level benchmarks
- Monitor strengths and weaknesses
- Evaluate curriculum effectiveness
- Show growth from year to year
- Improve instruction

Although Standardized score are important for teachers and parents to look at, they only show one piece of a child's achievement. Think of standardized assessments as only one piece of the puzzle in evaluating the achievement of a student.

The Standardized Achievement Test that is used in the Archdiocese of Boston is the Stanford 10. This Standardized assessment was adopted this year to give schools more information about the student community. The

Stanford 10 is a way of documenting knowledge and skills that haven't been attained compared to other students of the same grade level.

You will be receiving a summary of your child's standardized testing results. There are several features that will help you to determine your child's performance on the Stanford Standardized Achievement Test.

Learning snapshot: gives a general overview of strengths and areas of improvements

National Grade Percentile Bands: This chart tells you how your child performed compared to other students in the same grade level. The number on the left hand side of the chart gives a **PR** or Percentile Rank. This score tells the percentage of students across the nation whose scores were equal to, or lower than your student's score. 50 is the average.

Subject Area description: This gives information about the test and some activities that you can do at home to help our child in the particular area.

Again, remember that standardized results only give one aspect of your student's achievement. However, these scores can be helpful in determining the areas your child has strengths in and areas that need to be developed. At home, you can learn to foster strengths and give support in areas of need.

If you have any questions about interpreting the results of your home report, I would be happy to go over the home report with you. I can be contacted at the school by phone 781-848-0842 or by email

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