What is a learning continuum?

A learning continuum is a sequence of skills that build in complexity from one level to the next. Initial skills provide the foundation of background knowledge necessary in order to begin learning skills at the next level. The learning skills are cumulative. This means that current instructional skills are in addition to skills acquired at earlier levels.

How were the learning continuums created?

The learning continuums are built upon the Michigan state standards. Key concepts have been identified to focus instruction and demonstrate a progression of skill development.

Why use a learning continuum report card?

The intention of a learning continuum report card is to provide specific information to describe each student's current abilities, the learning they are engaged in, and the next learning for which they are being prepared.

What do the bracketed numbers represent?

The number in brackets represents the Michigan state standard grade level associated with the content.

Where should I look first?

Look at the current instruction column. This describes the content your student is studying at the present time. Next, look at the teacher's comments. This area has been expanded to provide a detailed description of your child's progress in relation to their current instruction.

How do I know if my student is making adequate progress?

The teacher's comments will describe your child's current progress, and, combined with the learning continuums, will identify what your child can do and what they should continue to work on. Bracketed numbers that correspond to your child's expected grade level indicate that your child is progressing at an expected rate. Lower numbers indicate that your child has not yet mastered the foundational skills necessary to be successful at the current grade level and correspond to the skills that require additional practice. Higher numbers indicate your child is progressing at an accelerated rate and is being challenged with content that matches their academic performance.

What does the Independent Skills column mean?

The independent skills column describes the content the student has mastered and can now do on his or her own. These skills are occasionally revisited to provide a link of prior learning to new topics as they are introduced. The current level skills build in complexity upon the independent skills.

Why include a Next Steps column?

By providing a preview of the next steps in learning it is easier to understand why mastery of current content is necessary to continue growing as a learner.

Why are some rows blank?

At the end of the first trimester students have worked with approximately one-third of the learning content for the year. Some items are not listed because they have not yet been introduced. The remaining content strands will be identified on the second and third trimester report cards.

What if the Independent Skills column is blank?

Students working at the kindergarten instructional level are at the beginning stages of building their knowledge base. This does not mean the student is lacking independent skills. It just means that the student is working on the current learning skills collectively.

When should I expect level shifts?

Generally speaking, most shifts in learning content from one stage to the next should be anticipated on the third trimester report card. However, it is important to keep in mind that all students learn at their own pace and some individual skills will shift at different times.

Where can I find the whole continuum?

The entire continuum of skills can be found on our school website under the Academics tab. The web address is renaissancepsa.com/academics.

What is college and career readiness?

Preparation for college begins long before high school. We have to take action now to help our students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in college and their future careers. Setting this as our goal, we can work backwards to identify the skills students need to achieve along the way.