

# Student-Directed School Conferences for Elementary Students

Why you should consider student-directed school conferences as a model for determining and reporting progress:

*"The one who talks first and talks the most, owns the challenge the most"...*Doug Cochran-Roberts, M.A., LPC

Elementary-age students can learn to lead their own student-teacher or parent-teacher conferences. In preparation for the conference, students complete activities to identify their interests, skills, and needs in academic subjects and other areas of school life. Students learn to summarize how they are doing in school towards meeting standards. They create and present a plan to build on their strengths and improve in areas of need.

## Student Directed Conferences Lessons

**Lesson Introduction:** purpose, student's role, teacher's role, parent's role

1. Teach students to make introductions
2. Provide a simple agenda for students to follow
3. Report on subject area progress: Teach students to report progress according to the curriculum standard. Reporting can be done orally, by use of a video, or PowerPoint. Progress should be supported by evidence. Documentation:
  - a. Standard-Based: How am I doing?
  - b. Portfolio: student choice
  - c. Portfolio: teacher choice
4. Report on general progress: Interests, strengths, needs (Use assessment tools and lessons to help students identify information in for academic and social areas)
5. Develop an action plan:
  - a. What is the student doing well and will continue?
  - b. What does the student need to work on and identify strategies to help the student succeed?
6. Parent response and partnership to help the student
7. Closing and thank you