EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Assessment Plan 2023-2024

Kindergarten to Grade 6

September 2023

Patricia Heights
16216 78 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5R 3E6

Phone: 780-487-0550
Email: patriciaheights@epsb.ca
Website: patriciaheights.epsb.ca

Principal: Sandra Marianicz
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School Assessment Plan 2023–2024, Kindergarten to Grade 9

At Edmonton Public Schools, we're committed to success, one student at a time. One of the ways we help all students be successful is by always improving the way we assess and evaluate what students learn. We also want to improve how we report back to you about how your child is doing at school.

This guide will help you understand:

- responsibilities of staff, students and parents/guardians.
- how we will tell you about your child's progress and learning.
- how we assign grades/marks to your child.
- how your child is assessed.
- the steps we take if your child's work is missing or not finished.

What is assessment?

In this plan, we use the term assessment to describe the process of determining what students have learned, and how well they have learned it. Assessment is not just about tests and grades.

Assessment means gathering information about what your child knows, understands and is able to do based on the Alberta programs of study (curriculum) or their Individualized Program Plan (IPP). Teachers cannot base grades/marks on your child's behaviour, effort and work habits unless those behaviours are outlined in the Alberta curriculum for a specific subject.

To find out where your child is at in their learning, teachers use many tools. Conversations, observations and student work are just some of the ways teachers determine students' strengths and where they might need extra help. These activities—conversations, observations and the products students create—help teachers shape their lesson plans. They guide *how* they can help every student meet their learning goals. The activities also help inform the teacher's understanding when making decisions about grade level of programming, course recommendations or grades/marks. The collection of observations, conversations and student work allows teachers to give you a clear and accurate picture of your child's progress in school.

How to support your child's learning

As a parent or guardian, you are your child's first teacher. So, understanding how your child is doing in school is important. Read this guide, and contact the school or make an appointment to see your child's teacher or principal if you have any questions.

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Supporting Student Success

We all have a role to play in helping your child be successful.

You can support your child's learning by:

- working in partnership with school staff.
- providing a quiet place for your child to study at home.
- staying informed and keeping in touch with school staff. This includes reading newsletters and other school materials.
- going to parent-teacher conferences.

Teachers will help your child succeed by:

- providing programming that's suitable for your child.
- providing many opportunities and different ways for students to show what they know.
- giving students who've missed important assessments and activities the chance to complete the work.
- clearly explaining what's expected of students in all courses and how student work will be graded/marked (i.e., course outline).
- keeping detailed, accurate notes describing your child's successes and challenges.
- communicating with you regularly about your child's progress and achievement.
- providing opportunities for you to be involved in your child's learning.

Students have a responsibility for their own learning and are expected to:

- come to school every day and on time.
- finish their assignments, projects and tasks to the best of their ability.
- participate in activities to celebrate learning.
- show that they're learning.
- take advantage of chances to revise or redo assignments or tests so they can show growth in their knowledge and skills.

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Our Communication Plan for Reporting Progress

There are many ways we help you stay informed about your child's learning throughout the year. We encourage you to review your child's reports and attend conferences regularly.

Reporting Periods

September 5, 2023 - December 1, 2023

December 4, 2023 - March 15, 2024

March 18, 2024 - June 26, 2024

Progress Reports Issued

Progress reports will be issued and uploaded to SchoolZone on December 1, 2023, March 15, 2024 and June 26, 2024.

Conferences

Schools must establish at least two formal parent-teacher conferences per school year.

Conference #1: Parent-teacher-student conferences for grades 1 - 6 will occur on November 1 and 2, 2023. Kindergarten will have conferences to review EYE-TA results during the month of November.

Conference #2: Kindergarten - Grade 6 student-led conferences will be held on March 7, 2024.

Conferences may also be booked outside of these times by teachers and parents based on need.

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Individualized Program Plans (IPPs)

For students who need specialized services and supports, the IPP is a working document that is developed within the first two months of the school year. It is a record of your child's progress related to specific goals and strategies. It gives you confirmation that your child's needs are being addressed and provides information about accommodations and supports your child needs to succeed. The IPP is reviewed at least three times a year. We expect you and your child (as appropriate) to provide input into the IPP.

IPP input and planning conferences will take place in September and October and be ready for signatures by the beginning of November. IPP review dates will be December 1, 2022, March 15, 2024 and June 26, 2024. IPPs will be ready for signatures and posted on SchoolZone on December 1, March 15 and June 26, 2024. Upon request, teachers will issue a paper or hard copy.

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Proficiency Assessments

For students learning English, EAL Proficiency Assessments measure English abilities in four areas: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Teachers use a variety of tools each year to help them plan lessons and communicate with you about your child's progress in learning English.

EAL Proficiency Assessments will be communicated to parents via SchoolZone, paper copy, progress reports and conferences. Assessments will be completed by the end of November 2023.

Early Years Evaluation Teacher Assessment (EYE-TA)

The EYE-TA is used to assess the developmental strengths and areas for growth of children as they enter kindergarten and as a tool to identify children who may require specialized services and supports. For the 2023–2024 school year, the EYE-TA is administered to all Kindergarten children in the fall and again in the spring for those children identified as requiring targeted or specialized support or who are new to the Division.

The results of the EYE-TA will be shared with parents/guardians at Parent-Teacher Conferences during the weeks of November 1 - 30, 2023. A written progress report is not required in the fall for children enrolled in Kindergarten. Parents/guardians of Kindergarten children will receive two written progress reports to document learning.

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Grades/Marks and Codes

To determine your child's grade/mark at the end of a reporting period, teachers use evidence of what your child has learned and their professional judgment.

At Patricia Heights School, student grades/marks are reported using descriptors for all grade levels.

Exemplary—A (80–100%)	Proficient—B (65–79%)	Adequate—C (50–64%)	Limited—D (0–49%)
(Adapted from Alberta programs of study)			
• Learning goals are met in an astute and comprehensive way. • Assignments are well crafted, organized in a purposeful fashion, and demonstrate attention to precise details. • Demonstrates an in-depth understanding and degree of skill on summative assessments. • Has assembled an in-depth understanding of the concepts, generalizations and skills fundamental to the program.	• Learning goals are met in a practical and thorough way. • Assignments are complete, organized in a competent fashion, and demonstrate attention to relevant details. • Demonstrates a substantial understanding and degree of skill on summative assessments. • Has assembled a thorough understanding of the concepts, generalizations and skills fundamental to the program.	• Learning goals are met in an appropriate and reasonable way. • Assignments are generally complete, organized in an acceptable fashion, and demonstrate attention to predictable details. • Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding and degree of skill on summative assessments. • Has assembled a basic understanding of the concepts, generalizations and skills fundamental to the program.	• Student has demonstrated insufficient performance in relation to learner outcomes.

Grade Level of Programming (GLP)

GLP shows the current grade level at which a student is being taught. This is usually the same grade in which a student is enrolled. GLP appears on each progress report for English and French language arts, math, science and social studies. GLP also appears for language arts in the target language in bilingual programs.

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Division-Approved End-of-Term and End-of-Course Codes

On your child's progress report, a teacher may use these Division codes for end-of-term and/or end-of-year grades/marks.

IEA	Insufficient Evidence Available	IEA is used only as an **end-of-term** code when a teacher does not have enough evidence about a student's progress to give a grade/mark at the end of a term. IEA is **not** used as a final course code.
NGC	Not on Graded Curriculum	NGC is used only as an **end-of-term** code when a student, identified as having special education needs, is not on the graded curriculum and is issued a progress report. It is also used when a student in Grade 1 or higher is continuing to work toward learning outcomes in the Kindergarten Program Statement. A student with an **end-of-term** code of NGC will have a GLP of <1.
CMU	Course Mark Unavailable	CMU may be used only at the **end of a course** when a student has a code of IEA in at least one term. CMU indicates that a teacher does not have enough evidence over an entire course to give a final grade/mark. CMU may also be used at the **end of a course** when a student has a code of NGC in at least one term. CMU may also be used as an **end-of-term** code for courses that are completed at the end of that term (i.e., Junior High option courses).

Division-Approved Codes for use on Individual Student Reports in SchoolZone:

On your child's individual student reports issued before the end of a term, a teacher may use these Division codes.

The following codes provide information about exceptional circumstances regarding the collection of evidence.

OMIT	Omit	Evidence has already been or will be collected to inform professional judgment.
IEA	Insufficient Evidence Available	Sufficient evidence is not yet available.
RNE	Replaced with New Evidence	This evidence has been replaced with more relevant evidence that demonstrates student understanding of the expected learning outcome.

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The following codes provide information about evaluation of student achievement and growth.

E	Exemplary	The student has exemplary knowledge, skills and understanding of concepts and is able to transfer understanding independently in new situations. The student may require support to further extend understanding of concepts.
P	Proficient	The student has proficient knowledge, skills and understanding of concepts that can be applied in familiar situations. The student may require occasional support to transfer learning to new situations.
AD	Adequate	The student has adequate knowledge, skills and understanding of concepts. The student requires support and/or further experiences to develop a deeper understanding of concepts and apply learning in familiar and new situations.
L	Limited	The student has limited knowledge, skills and understanding of concepts. The student requires support to develop and apply learning in highly structured situations.
IEA	Insufficient Evidence Available	Sufficient evidence is not yet available to provide an informed judgment of the student's achievement and growth.

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How We Determine Student Grades/Marks

At Edmonton Public Schools, we determine grades in a variety of ways.

Formative Assessment

Throughout the year, your child will work on many activities that help them increase what they know, understand and are able to do. These activities show your child's teacher how they are doing, what their strengths are and where they can improve in relation to the Alberta programs of study. This is called formative assessment.

Teachers use this information to adjust their teaching, give your child feedback to help them improve and prepare your child for times when they will receive grades.

Summative Assessment

During the school year, your child will have a chance to show what they have learned in relation to the Alberta programs of study. Using their judgment as professionals, teachers make decisions and determine grades that describe how your child is learning. They base these decisions on what they've seen your child do (observations), discussions they've had with your child (conversations) and the work your child has completed (products).

Missing or Incomplete Student Work

Principals must make sure that teachers communicate with parents/guardians promptly and regularly about missing or incomplete student work. This is outlined in Administrative Regulation GKB.AR Standards for Evaluation, section 4:

4. Principals must work with their teachers to comply with the following:
    a. evidence of student achievement has been collected by the teacher;
    b. communication plans for reporting student achievement and growth to parents/guardians are developed and aligned with school-wide assessment and intervention plans;
    c. a student has been given multiple opportunities and ways to demonstrate his/her learning;
    d. follow up has occurred to determine the reason when a summative assessment item (assignment, test, project, etc.) is missing or incomplete, and that opportunities for the student to fulfill the requirement of the summative assessment item (assignment, test, project, etc.) are provided;
    e. if the student continues to be unsuccessful, the student/parents/guardians will be informed and the teacher will solicit a solution in consultation with the student's parents/guardians to hold the student accountable and/or plan for further learning;
    f. teachers will engage in on-going, timely communication with parents/guardians/students and the principal regarding missing or incomplete work; and
    g. providing 4. b–f have been followed, the teacher can assign the student a mark of zero for that missed summative assessment item (assignment, test, project, etc.).

When your child has missing or incomplete work, we will: support students with the necessary time and support needed to demonstrate their learning. This may include, but is not limited to: quiet spaces for work completion; time set aside in class for work completion; extra practice at home; additional support at recess, lunch, before school or after school; opportunities for a flexible assignment timeline; peer tutoring; ongoing communication between home and school; one-on-one/small group support; etc.

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Curriculum Summaries

Curriculum at a Glance (Alberta Education)

The Role of Homework

Homework is meant to:

- help support your child's learning
- reinforce what your child learned in school
- give your child more practice

At Patricia Heights School, we believe that students are active participants in their learning and that homework is an opportunity for students to practice new learning as well as review and complete already learned material. Homework also provides students with an opportunity to share with their parents what they know and are learning in class. Homework develops good study habits and success in future studies and is intended to help your child learn what is expected of them based on the Alberta Curriculum.

The following are examples of what constitutes as homework at Patricia Heights:

- daily reading/home reading

- practice of learning requiring memorization (basic facts, etc.)

- completion of work not finished in class

- occasional research for long term projects

- reviewing and practicing learned material

- study/preparing for summative assessments

- completion of daily assignments

- working on long term assignments (teachers ensure that longer projects have achievable segments, and that regular monitoring of progress occurs)

Academic Integrity

Cheating is not acceptable. This includes plagiarism (copying someone else's work and passing it off as your own), copying, stealing tests or assignments and getting answers for a test or assignment in advance. Cheating also includes giving answers or work to others to claim as their own.
If your child is suspected of plagiarism or cheating, school administration will meet with them and take action in accordance with Administrative Regulation HG.AR Student Behaviour and Conduct.

Grades/Marks Appeal Process

To appeal the grade/mark your child has been given, contact the classroom teacher. If you can't resolve the appeal with the teacher, the principal will make a decision and explain it to you. The principal's decision is final. A principal's authority to do this is set out in the *Education Act*.

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The Role of Large Scale Tests

What is the Canadian Achievement Test (CAT4)?

The **Canadian Achievement Test (CAT4)** measures students' reading comprehension, mathematics, computation and estimation skills. CAT4 will support instruction and planning for interventions and supports. The CAT4 is administered in the fall and again in the spring to provide information about student growth.

Who takes the CAT4?

- students in Grade 4 to Grade 9 in regular and bilingual programs
- students in Grade 4 to Grade 9 in French Immersion

The CAT4 Fall administration dates are September 18, 2023–September 29, 2023.
The CAT4 Spring administration dates are April 29, 2024–May 10, 2024.

What is the Highest Level of Achievement Test (HLAT)?

The **Highest Level of Achievement Test (HLAT)** measures students' writing skills compared with the Alberta curriculum in language arts. It shows teachers in each school how well their students are doing and how they compare to students across the Division.

Who takes the HLAT?

- students in Grade 1 to Grade 9 in English language arts
- students in Grade 2 to Grade 9 in French Immersion and bilingual programs*
- students in Grade 8 and Grade 9 in Late French Immersion

*the bilingual HLAT is called the bilingual writing assessment tool and is specific to certain languages (e.g,. Chinese bilingual writing assessment tool, Arabic bilingual writing assessment tool)

The HLAT administration dates for students in English Language Arts are April 15–April 19, 2024.

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What are the Literacy and Numeracy Screening Assessments?

Alberta Education mandated Literacy and Numeracy Screening Assessments in the fall for students in Grade 1 to Grade 3. These screening assessments will help teachers identify students in the critical early years who are most in need of additional support. These screening assessments will provide a means to monitor growth over time.

The **Castles and Coltheart 3 (CC3)** assessment is an English word-reading test designed to identify the nature of a student's reading difficulties. The CC3 assesses a student's ability to recall familiar and irregular words, and their ability to sound out non-words that were created specially for this assessment and are meant to be fictitious and without meaning.

The **English Letter Name-Sound (LeNS)** assesses a student's ability to sound out single letters and letter combinations.

The **Provincial Numeracy Screening Assessment** is a collection of tasks designed to help teachers understand their students' underlying knowledge of the number system, basic number operations and proportional reasoning skills.

Who takes the Literacy and Numeracy Screening Assessments?

Students in Grade 1 to Grade 3:

- Castles and Coltheart 3 (CC3) - Grade 1 to Grade 3
- English Letter Name-Sound (LeNS) - Grade 1 to Grade 2
- Provincial Numeracy Screening Assessment - Grade 1 to Grade 3

The Literacy and Numeracy Screening Assessment administration dates will be posted on SchoolZone.

What are Provincial Achievement Tests?

The **Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)** measure how well students across Alberta are learning content as described in the programs of study. Average PAT scores for the school are shared publicly to show how Alberta students are doing, compared to provincial standards. Results from PATs help schools, school authorities and the province monitor and improve student learning.

While PATs are an important part of determining student growth and achievement, they are one part of the assessment process.

According to **Alberta Education**:
"PATs are only one of many ways to evaluate student learning and are not meant to replace day-to-day teacher observations and classroom assessment. They are sources of information that must be interpreted, used and communicated within the context of regular and continuous assessment by classroom teachers."

Who takes PATs?

- students in Grade 6 and Grade 9 in English or French language arts, math, science and social studies write PATs

When are PATs administered?

- PATs are typically administered in the spring (PATs may be administered in January for Division schools in a semestered program).

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- The following are the dates of the Grade 6 PATs for the 2023-2024 school year:

  Wednesday, May 15: English Language Arts and Literature Part A - Written Component

  Wednesday, June 12: English Language Arts and Literature Part B - Reading Component

  Thursday, June 13: Mathematics Part A

  Friday, June 14: Mathematics Part B

  Wednesday, June 19: Social Studies

  Thursday, June 20: Science

The Alberta government requires school divisions to report the scores from Grades 6 and 9 PATs to parents/guardians. We will report the results to parents/guardians in the following way: individualized summary letter of results.

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