



Your Future **in MIND**

# Guide to Reporting Student Achievement

## 2018 – 2019

*Kindergarten - Grade 12*

### **James Mowat Elementary School**

9625 – 82 Street

Fort Saskatchewan, AB, T8L 3T6

Phone 780-992-1272

[www.jamesmowat.ca](http://www.jamesmowat.ca)

Principal: Mr. Stacey Boyko

Assistant Principal: Mr. John Murphy

*Updated: October 14, 2018*

## About This Guide

We believe every student can learn and experience success. One of the ways we help students learn and succeed is to carefully evaluate their achievement and growth, and to share that information with parents and guardians.

### **This guide will help parents and guardians understand:**

- assessment;
- the responsibilities of students, staff, and parents and guardians;
- how and when achievement information will be communicated or reported;
- how marks and grades are determined; and
- the steps taken when summative assessments are missing or incomplete.

Parents and guardians are the key influences in a child's life. Understanding how a child is achieving in school and how to support that achievement is integral to success in school. Parents and guardians are encouraged to read this guide and contact our school's administration with any questions or if further information is required.

## What Is Assessment?

Assessment is the process of collecting and communicating information about student achievement. In essence, assessment informs students, teachers, and parents about what students have learned and how well they have learned it. Teachers regularly gather information about students' learning through a variety of assessment tools. These tools can include conversations, observations, the submission of student work, and tests or quizzes. Through these feedback opportunities, teachers determine students' areas of strength, and the areas in which students may need more time or practice. All of these opportunities allow teachers to give parents and guardians a clear and accurate picture of student achievement and growth.

Assessment is based on the knowledge and skill areas outlined in the Alberta Programs of Study or a student's Instructional Support Plan (ISP). Teachers do not use a child's behaviour, effort, or work habits to determine grades or marks unless otherwise stated in the Alberta Programs of Study.

# Supporting Student Achievement and Success

In alignment with the [School Act](#), students, teachers, parents, and guardians all have roles to play in supporting and helping students experience success in school.

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

- attend school every day and be on time;
- complete assignments, projects, and tasks to the best of their ability;
- participate in activities that celebrate learning;
- consistently demonstrate their learning; and
- take advantage of opportunities to revise or redo assessments to demonstrate their learning.

## **Teachers will help students succeed by:**

- providing appropriate programming for each student;
- clearly explaining what is expected of each student and how student work will be assessed and reported;
- ensuring students have multiple opportunities and ways to demonstrate their learning;
- giving students the opportunity to redo/complete missed assessments and activities;
- keeping detailed, accurate information describing student successes and challenges;
- providing timely and ongoing communication with parents/guardians, students, and school administration.

## **Parents and guardians can support a student's learning by:**

- working in partnership with school staff;
- providing time and a place for children to practice and complete assigned work at home;
- ensuring regular school attendance;
- staying informed about school events and keeping in touch with school staff;
- regularly accessing student assessment information via PowerSchool; and
- attending Parent-Teacher-Student conferences/interviews.

## Instructional Support Plan (ISP)

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is using the Instructional Support Plan to support programming for students with diverse learning needs. An ISP may be created for students with identified learning needs in Early Childhood Services (ECS) to grade 12. The ISP process aligns with Alberta Education initiatives and supports the success of each and every student.

Parents and/or guardians of students recommended to have an ISP to support his/her learning during the 2018/2019 school year will be contacted by the school in September or early October.

### Features of EIPS' ISP that help make a student's programming more effective include:

- ways in which a student likes to learn which allows teachers to focus on a student's strengths and interests.
- class-wide and more student-specific strategies that increase learning opportunities for all students.
- an online format making the creation, updating, and communication of ISPs more efficient with a plan in place for the ISP to become available online to parents in the future.
- scheduled meetings with parents during the course of the year during which ISP goals and student progress is shared and discussed.

### Course Outlines

Information about the Alberta Curriculum can be accessed from Alberta Education's, [My Child's Learning - A Parent Resource](#). Further specific details about course content can be provided by the classroom teacher.

Teachers send course outlines and assessment plans home in September. You can also find a copy of each teacher's course outline and assessment plan on their e-teacher page by going to <http://jamesmowat.ca/eteachers> and selecting your child's teacher from the drop down menu.

### Determining Report Card Grades

Teachers consider multiple sources of evidence and use professional judgment to determine the report card grade.

## **Formative Assessments**

Throughout the year, students will be given opportunities to participate in or work on many activities which will help them improve their knowledge and skills. These practice assignments, projects, or other activities demonstrate to teachers the areas in which students need more practice and where students can improve. These are called *formative* assessments. Teachers use formative feedback to help guide their instructional plans and to offer students more ways in which they can demonstrate their learning.

## **Summative Assessments**

Summative assessments provide students with formal chances to “show what they know”. Using professional judgment, teachers consider summative assessments, observations, and conversations with students in determining report card grades.

## **Missing, Incomplete, or Resubmitted Student Work**

As outlined in Administrative Policy 360, principals work with their teachers to ensure:

- A. teachers collect reliable and valid evidence that supports their judgment about students' achievement. Teachers may choose to exclude assessments that are inconsistent with the teacher's professional judgment;
- B. students are offered opportunities to redo and resubmit summative assessments;
- C. communication plans for reporting student achievement and growth to parents/guardians/students are developed and aligned with school-wide assessment and intervention plans;
- D. students have been given multiple opportunities and ways to demonstrate learning;
- E. teachers engage in ongoing, timely communication with parents/guardians/students and the principal regarding missing or incomplete work;
- F. follow up has occurred to determine the reason why a summative assessment (assignment, test, project, etc.) is missing or incomplete, and that opportunities are provided for the student to resubmit and/or fulfill the requirements of the summative assessment (assignment, test, project, etc.);
- G. once the student has been given opportunities to resubmit summative assessments, but does not submit missing or incomplete summative assessments, the student and parents/guardians are informed and the teacher, in consultation the student and student's parents/guardians will determine a plan to hold the student accountable and/or plan for further learning;
- H. the teacher, in consultation with the principal, uses professional judgment to determine the impact of the missing or incomplete assignments on the student's grade;

- I. that provided the preceding have been followed, the teacher may assign the student a mark of zero for that missed summative assessment item (assignment, test, project, etc.).

To ensure our students have every opportunity to “show what they know” we follow this framework for rewrites and redos of summative work:

**Step 1:** Your child and the teacher will establish a process for the completion of the rewrite, redo, missing or incomplete work which will include a deadline for completion. The teacher will provide the necessary supports such as drop in support to assist your child with successful completion of the redo, rewrite, missing or incomplete work.

**Step 2:** Your child’s teacher will inform you of the plan to assist your child with successful completion of the redo, rewrite, missing or incomplete work.

**Step 3:** Your child may be required to spend time with the teacher, outside of the scheduled timetable, to complete the redo, rewrite, missing or incomplete work. Parents will be notified of such arrangements.

**Step 4:** Your child’s teacher will inform school administration when there is an assessment rewrite or when there is a pattern of incomplete assignments.

## **Assessment in Kindergarten**

Teachers collect varied assessment evidence throughout the year by observing children in action, by discussing children’s learning with them and by examining children’s products. Teachers create records of assessment evidence in a variety of forms, including notes, checklists, rating scales, photos and videos. As well, teachers may retain direct evidence in the form of samples of children’s work and digital copies.

Teachers will communicate children’s progress to parents throughout the year in a variety of ways. One final report card will be issued at the end of the school year.

Achievement Level	At this time the learner is:
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Excelling in learning expectations</li> <li>● Applying concepts in new or unique learning situations</li> <li>● Independently using skills and strategies</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting learning expectations</li> <li>● Applying concepts in new learning situations</li> <li>● With minimal support, using skills and strategies</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting learning expectations</li> <li>● Applying concepts when rehearsed and highly structured</li> <li>● With high level of support, using skills and strategies</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Approaching learning expectations</li> <li>● Applying concepts when rehearsed and highly structured</li> <li>● With high levels of support, using skills and strategies</li> </ul>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Below learning expectations</li> <li>● Having difficulty applying concepts even when rehearsed and highly structured</li> <li>● Despite high levels of support, is having difficulty using skills and strategies.</li> </ul>
U	Unable to Assess <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Personalized comment to explain the student couldn't be assessed (ISP, vacation, illness, other circumstances, key assessments incomplete or missing)</li> </ul>
ISP	Instructional Support Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Student is on an Instructional Support Plan and may have achievement reported in an alternative format</li> </ul>

## Kindergarten to Grade 6 “Communicating Student Learning” Achievement Scales

### Kindergarten to Grade 6 Learner Attribute Scale



<b>1</b> high levels of support required <i>"inconsistently"</i>	<b>2</b> reasonable support required <i>"with prompting"</i>	<b>3</b> little support required <i>"...often..."</i>	<b>4</b> independently <i>"...consistently..."</i>
---	---	--	--

### Academic Integrity

All students are expected to behave ethically. Cheating, plagiarism (copying someone else’s work and passing it off as one’s own), copying, stealing tests or assignments and/or getting answers for a test or assignment in advance are not acceptable. Unethical behavior also includes giving answers or work to others to claim as their own.

If a student is suspected of unethical behavior, school administration will meet with the student and take action in accordance with [Administrative Procedure 350 - Student Conduct](#).

### Reporting Student Achievement

Communication with parents and students about student achievement will be continuous throughout the year. Communication may include: parent-teacher or parent-student-teacher conferences/interviews, portfolios of student work, student-led conferences, interviews, phone calls, checklists, and informal reports.

## Reporting Periods

Report cards will be issued for our students on:

- Tuesday, November 26, 2018 at 4:00 PM
- Monday, March 18, 2019 at 4:00 PM
- Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 4:00 PM

## Conferences/Interviews

Parent-teacher interviews are scheduled for November and March after report cards go home.

Interviews are scheduled for:

Wednesday, November 28 and Thursday, November 29, from 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Tuesday, March 19 and Wednesday, March 20, from 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Should parents wish to book a time to speak with a teacher or administrator at any time during the school year, please feel free to call the school (780 992-1272) and arrange for a meeting time.

## Grades/Marks Appeal Process

To appeal a grade a student has been given, parents or students are encouraged to contact the classroom teacher. If the appeal cannot be resolved with the teacher, the parent or student shall appeal to the principal who will make and communicate the final decision. A principal's authority to rule on such appeals is set out in the School Act. [Administrative Procedure 391](#) outlines specific appeal process dates.

## The Role of External, Large Scale Assessments

Alberta Education mandates that Student Learning Assessments, Provincial Achievement Tests, and Diploma Exams be administered each school year. Results from these assessments provide school divisions with information about student learning and achievement.

## Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)

[PATs](#) measure how well students demonstrate what they are expected to learn. School and division results are shared publicly to show how Alberta grade six and nine students are doing compared to provincial standards. Results from PATs help schools, school authorities and the province monitor and improve student learning. Note that if students require accommodations in order to write PATs (scribe,

reader, assistive supports), students should have an ISP in place which identifies the use of the accommodation throughout the course of the school year.

PATs will be administered on the following dates for the 2018/19 school year:

- Grade 6 ELA Part A – Thursday, May 9, 2019
- Grade 6 ELA Part B – Monday, June 17, 2019
- Grade 6 Mathematics (Part A & B) – Tuesday, June 18, 2019
- Grade 6 Social Studies – Wednesday, June 19, 2019
- Grade 6 Science – Thursday, June 20, 2019

Students who are absent for the scheduled PAT writing will write when they return to school, provided the exams have not yet been returned to Alberta Education. After that time students will not be able to write the exams. With the permission of the Superintendent or his/her designate, students may be allowed to write PATs early. Students may, through special arrangement with the teacher, write Final Exams other than PATs outside the official exam schedule.

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

**According to Alberta Education:**

- The achievement tests address only those learning outcomes that can be readily assessed by a paper-and-pencil or digital test.
- The clearest picture of students' growth and development is gained when a wide variety of assessment information is considered. The achievement tests provide part of the picture.

Alberta Education expects schools to report the scores from Grades 6 and 9 PATs.

# Three-Year Education Plan/Priorities

## Priority 1: Promote growth and success for all students

### GOAL 1 EXCELLENT START TO LEARNING

Outcome: More children reach social, intellectual, and physical developmental milestones by Grade 1.

### GOAL 2 SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT

Outcome: More students achieve a minimum of one year's growth in literacy and numeracy.

Outcome: The achievement gap between First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students and all other students is reduced.

### GOAL 3 SUCCESS BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

Outcome: More students are engaged in school, achieve excellence, and are supported in their transition beyond high school.

## Priority 2: Enhance high quality learning and working environments

### GOAL 1 A FOCUS ON WELLBEING INCLUDING STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AND STAFF ENGAGEMENT

Outcome: Our learning and working environments are welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe.

### GOAL 2 QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ALL

Outcome: Student learning is supported through the use of effective planning, managing, and investment in division infrastructure.

### GOAL 3 BUILD CAPACITY

Outcome: All staff have the opportunity and are supported in increasing their professional and leadership capacities.

### GOAL 4 A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Outcome: The division uses evidenced-based practices to improve student engagement and achievement.

## Priority 3: Enhance public education through effective engagement, partnerships, and communication

### GOAL 1 PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Outcome: Student learning is supported and enhanced through parent engagement.

**GOAL 2** SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Outcome: Community partnerships support the needs of our students.

**GOAL 3** ENGAGED AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Outcome: The division is committed to ongoing advocacy to enhance public education.