



Your Future **in MIND**

# Guide to Reporting Student Achievement

## 2017 – 2018

*Kindergarten - Grade 9*

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### **Fultonvale Elementary Junior High**

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## 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 2016/2017 school year will be contacted by the school in September or early October.

### Features of EIPS' new 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

Students and Parents can find information about course outlines on the school website at [www.fultonvale.ca](http://www.fultonvale.ca) and navigating to the e-Teacher pages for each respective subject and class.

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.

### 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 a formal chance to “show what they know”. Using professional judgment, teachers consider summative assessments, observations, and conversations with student in determining report card grades.

***Final summative assessments in secondary core subjects provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate their learning at the end of a course. In exceptional circumstances alternative final summative assessment arrangements may be made in consultation with school administration.***

## **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.).

**For information regarding student redo procedures at Fultonvale, please refer to [www.fultonvale.ca](http://www.fultonvale.ca) and look in the "About Our School" section.**

Students will:

1. Ensure that criteria and expectations for the assignment are understood and ask for clarification if needed.
2. Keep track of assignment progress and manage time effectively to complete work by the due date. Strategies may include: agenda book, homework board, online agenda, class wiki.
3. Ensure that all assignments are turned in by due date. Accept responsibility and consequences for all late or missed work. All missed work due to absence needs to be completed within a reasonable time as agreed upon with the teacher.

Parents will:


1. Encourage their child to ask for clarification regarding assignment expectations and criteria when needed.
2. Encourage and assist their child with their planning and time management to ensure that assignments are completed and handed in on time.
3. Check the Parent Portal for information. (Junior high only)
4. Access the Communicating Student Learning document at the reporting period. (Elementary only)
5. Let the school know if their child will be absent and make arrangements for homework to be picked up and completed within a reasonable time as agreed upon with the teacher.

## **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.

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



| Achievement Level | At this time the learner is:  |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>5</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceeding learning expectations</li> <li>Applying concepts in Novel or unique learning situations</li> <li>Independently using skills and strategies</li> </ul>  |
| <b>4</b>          | <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>  |
| <b>3</b>          | <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>  |
| <b>2</b>          | <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>   |
| <b>1</b>          | <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> |
| <b>U</b>          | 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>  |

### Kindergarten to Grade 6 Learner Attribute Scale



|  |  |  |                           |
|--|--|--|---------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>high levels of support<br>required | <b>2</b><br>reasonable support<br>required | <b>3</b><br>little support<br>required | <b>4</b><br>independently |
|--|--|--|---------------------------|

*"inconsistently"*

*"with prompting"*

*"...often..."*

*"...consistently..."*

## Junior High Grading Scale

Grades in junior high language arts, math, science and social studies courses will be reported using percentages.

*(Adapted from Alberta programs of study)*

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>80 - 100%</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning goals are met in an astute and comprehensive way.</li><li>• Assignments are well crafted, organized in a purposeful fashion, and demonstrate attention to precise details.</li><li>• Demonstrates an in- depth understanding and degree of skill on summative assessments.</li><li>• Has assembled an in- depth understanding of the concepts, generalizations and skills fundamental to the program.</li></ul>           |
| <b>65 - 79%</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning goals are met in a practical and thorough way.</li><li>• Assignments are complete, organized in a competent fashion, and demonstrate attention to relevant details.</li><li>• Demonstrates a substantial understanding and degree of skill on summative assessments.</li><li>• Has assembled a thorough understanding of the concepts, generalizations and skills fundamental to the program.</li></ul>                   |
| <b>50 - 64%</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning goals are met in an appropriate and reasonable way.</li><li>• Assignments are generally complete, organized in an acceptable fashion, and demonstrate attention to predictable details.</li><li>• Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding and degree of skill on summative assessments.</li><li>• Has assembled a basic understanding of the concepts, generalizations and skills fundamental to the program.</li></ul> |
| <b>0 - 49%</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student has demonstrated insufficient performance in relation to learner outcomes.</li></ul>   |



## Junior High Complementary Courses Grade Scale

| Letter Grade | Description of Achievement Standards   |
|--------------|--|
| <b>A+</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achievement is highly sophisticated and adept.</li> <li>Consistent demonstration of a high degree of effectiveness that <i>may</i> surpass provincial standards for learning outcomes for the subject and grade.</li> </ul> |
| <b>A</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achievement is refined and skillful.</li> <li>Consistent demonstration of a high degree of effectiveness in relation to provincial standards for learning outcomes for the subject and grade.</li> </ul>                    |
| <b>B</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achievement is competent and methodical.</li> <li>Consistent demonstration of considerable effectiveness in relation to provincial standards for learning outcomes for the subject and grade.</li> </ul>                    |
| <b>C</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achievement is marginally adequate.</li> <li>Effectiveness falters occasionally in relation to provincial standards for learning outcomes for the subject and grade.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>D</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inconsistently achieves at an acceptable level.</li> <li>Limited effectiveness or inconsistent performance is demonstrated in relation to provincial standards for learning outcomes for the subject and grade.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>I</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of Achievement Standards</li> </ul>   |

## Academic Integrity

### The Fultonvale Elementary/Junior High School Policy for Academic Honesty

Students at Fultonvale Junior High School must understand that tests, exams and assignments they complete are evidence of their own learning and that cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Aspects of academic honesty include not cheating (copying others' work, using cheat notes), lying (misrepresenting contributions to group work, lying about circumstances to obtain extensions), and plagiarizing (submitting or representing someone else's work as one's own).

Teachers will:

1. On a yearly basis, (at the beginning of the year) communicate and reinforce expectations of academic honesty with students.
2. Respond appropriately to academic dishonesty.

Students will:

1. Complete all work honestly, representing their own knowledge of the outcomes.
2. Accept responsibility and consequences for their actions.

Parents will:

1. Encourage their child to follow all policies regarding academic honesty.

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

Although there are **three formal reporting periods**, 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

Fultonvale will issue a report card to students in grades 1-9 on **November 24, 2017, March 20, 2018 and June 28, 2018**. All report cards will be available digitally and will provide a printed copy as requested by parent. **All final report cards will be available online and accessible via the Parent Portal. Kindergarten formal report cards only are distributed online at the end of year.**

## Junior High Schools

Marks for assignments will be available on the [Parent Portal](#) in PowerSchool. Calculated grades will be displayed throughout the semester. Parents are urged to click on individual grades to review marks that have been awarded for individual assignments.

## Conferences/Interviews

**Interview dates for October are 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>:** Elementary students will be scheduled in through [schoolsinterviews.ca](http://schoolsinterviews.ca). Junior High students are in the gathering space on a walk- in basis for the 10 minute interview. Please contact the teacher to reschedule. **Conference dates in February will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

## **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.

## **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.

## **Student Learning Assessments (SLAs)**

During the 2016 – 17 school year, EIPS grade three students will not be participating in Alberta Education's Student Learner Assessment (SLA) pilot project.

## **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 must have an ISP in place which identifies the use of the accommodation throughout the course of the school year.

For information regarding PATs and other provincial exams, including dates and format, please check the school calendar at [www.fultonvale.ca](http://www.fultonvale.ca) and the Alberta Education website at <https://education.alberta.ca/>.

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.

#### **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.

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

**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.