



# How Students Are Assessed

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consists of a series of overlapping, wavy horizontal bars in various colors: light blue, green, dark blue, yellow, and dark green. 

Newcomer Family Guide

## Classroom assessments

Your child's teacher will observe and assess your child to measure how well they understand what is being taught. These assessments will be based on the curriculum outcomes and what your child is expected to learn in that grade.

The teacher will give your child regular feedback so they will know how well they are doing. This feedback may be based on conversations with your child, observations of your child during learning, and products that your child creates to demonstrate their learning. Products can include assignments, projects, presentations, and tests. The teacher and school may also use this information to monitor and report on the progress of your child.

### **Types of communication with family about how your child is doing in school:**

- discussions with the teacher
- comments, achievement levels, scores, and percentages on assignments and work samples
- information shared on the "PowerSchool Parent-Student Portal," which can be accessed in the "Students & Parents" section of our website: [Students & Parents | Education and Early Childhood Development \(ednet.ns.ca\)](http://Students & Parents | Education and Early Childhood Development (ednet.ns.ca)).

For further information about types of communication, see the Newcomer Family Guide on "How to Communicate with Your Child's Teacher and School."

# Report cards

## Pre-primary

**Children in pre-primary do not receive report cards.** Your child's early childhood educator (ECE) will provide you with updates on your child's progress. They may share a document with you, such as a portfolio or journal, which describes how your child is doing on their learning journey. The ECE will use observations of your child to design new experiences that will help them continue learning.

## Elementary (grades primary to 6) and secondary (grades 7 to 12)

**Students in grades primary to 12 receive report cards.** A report card tells you how your child is doing in their learning at this point in the school year. Your child may receive a report card halfway into a course, term, or semester, at the end of a course, term, semester, and at the end of the school year. Your local Regional Centre for Education (RCE)/Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) website will have a calendar of when report cards are sent home.

Report cards have two sections:

- The **Learner Profile** section provides information about your child's social skills and work habits.
- The **Student Achievement** section provides information about the skills and concepts your child has learned. This section will tell you if your child is meeting the learning outcomes for their grade level.

## Grades primary to 3

In grades primary to 3, report cards will include comments about your child's progress in language arts and mathematics. Other subjects, such as health, information communication technology (ICT), science, social studies, and visual arts, are "integrated" into language arts and mathematics, so you may also see comments about your child's learning in these other subject areas.

In grades 1 to 3, report cards will also include a grade of WD, DE, ND, or INS:

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>WD</b>  | well-developed understanding and application of concepts and skills              |
| <b>DE</b>  | developing as expected with understanding and application of concepts and skills |
| <b>ND</b>  | needs development with understanding and application of concepts and skills      |
| <b>INS</b> | insufficient evidence to report on achievement of the expected learning outcomes |

The second and third term report cards will include grades and comments as described above, as well as information about progress in music and physical education.

## Grades 4 to 6

In grades 4 to 6, report cards will include comments about your child's progress in language arts and mathematics. Other subjects, such as health, information communication technology (ICT), science, social studies, and visual arts, are "integrated" into language arts and mathematics, so you may also see comments about your child's learning in these subjects.

## Grades 4 to 6 first term grades:

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>WD</b>  | well-developed understanding and application of concepts and skills              |
| <b>DE</b>  | developing as expected with understanding and application of concepts and skills |
| <b>ND</b>  | needs development with understanding and application of concepts and skills      |
| <b>INS</b> | insufficient evidence to report on achievement of the expected learning outcomes |

## Grades 4 to 6 second and third term grades:

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>A</b> | thorough understanding and application of concepts and skills |
| <b>B</b> | good understanding and application of concepts and skills     |
| <b>C</b> | basic understanding and application of concepts and skills    |
| <b>D</b> | limited understanding and application of concepts and skills  |

The second and third term report cards will also include grades and comments about progress in core French (or Mi'kmaw language or Gaelic language where offered), music, and physical education.

## Grades 7 to 12

In grades 7 to 12, report cards include comments about your child's progress in the courses they take. Your child's learning will also be described using the following percentages and descriptions:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>90–100%</b>   | Demonstrates excellent understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes.    |
| <b>80–89%</b>    | Demonstrates very good understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes.    |
| <b>70–79%</b>    | Demonstrates good understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes.         |
| <b>60–69%</b>    | Demonstrates satisfactory understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes. |
| <b>50–59%</b>    | Demonstrates minimal understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes.      |
| <b>Below 50%</b> | Has not met minimum requirements of the course.  |
| <b>INS</b>       | Insufficient evidence to report on achievement of the expected learning outcomes.                                    |
| <b>N/A</b>       | Teachers use "N/A" when the topic was "not assessed" during the reporting period.                                    |

**IPP Report:** If your child follows an Individual Program Plan (IPP) as part of their programming, you will receive updates on their progress in a separate document at each reporting period throughout the school year.

## Grades 3, 6, and 8 provincial assessments

- Nova Scotia provincial assessments measure reading, writing, and mathematics skills.
- They assess what your child has learned throughout their years at school, so students do not need to study for these assessments.
- Teachers support and prepare students for an assessment in the month leading up to the assessment.
- A few months after the assessment, you will receive a report that explains how your child did on the assessment. Teachers can use this information to understand how your child is doing and if they need more support.
- Adaptations to support learning in the classroom are usually available during the assessment. If an adaptation is not permitted for assessment purposes, the Student Planning Team, including the parent/guardian, can decide how to proceed: the student may write without the adaptation or may not write the assessment.
- If your child is new to learning English or French, they may not need to write the assessment.
- If your child has an Individual Program Plan in language arts or mathematics, they may not need to write the assessment.

### To learn more about provincial assessments:

- Contact your child's teacher or visit the [Student Assessment](#) section of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website.

## Contact information

For more information, contact your Regional Centre for Education (RCE) or Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP).

- [Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education](#) (AVRCE)
- [Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education](#) (CBVRCE)
- [Chignecto-Central Regional Centre for Education](#) (CCRCE)
- [Conseil scolaire acadien provincial](#) (CSAP)
- [Halifax Regional Centre for Education](#) (HRCE)
- [South Shore Regional Centre for Education](#) (SSRCE)
- [Strait Regional Centre for Education](#) (SRCE)
- [Tri-County Regional Centre for Education](#) (TCRCE)
- **SchoolsPlus** brings a range of services and supports, and is available in every school in Nova Scotia

For support in your community, contact:

- **YMCA School Settlement** – available province-wide
- **YREACH** – available outside of Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)
- **Immigration Francophone** – available through your School Settlement Worker