

# Connecting Student Learning, Teacher Assessment and the Report Card (Grades 1-6)

Sturgeon School Division is in the process of developing new district report cards for grades 1 through 12. District reporting committees have been researching and discussing effective design of report cards from other districts. They have constructed a prototype at each of the division levels; grades 1-3, grades 4-6, grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. Please find information below about how the proposed report card prototype attempts to link how students are learning in the classroom, to how teachers are assessing the learning, and to how it can be effectively reported to parents.

## **Why are we changing the report card?**

- To better communicate a child's progress and achievement based on the Alberta curriculum
- To provide consistency in reporting among schools throughout Sturgeon School Division
- To better reflect current research on learning and assessment
- To better utilize new technologies in grading and reporting
- To provide consistency in reporting with school districts across Alberta

## **What is the purpose of the report card?**

The most important purpose of the report card is to communicate student achievement to parents. In Sturgeon, we report on student progress and achievement in many ways (agendas, phone calls, emails, progress reports, getting tests signed, etc.). The report card is one method or snapshot of how a child is achieving at a particular time in the school year. The report card is intended to be one of the many ways that teachers report on student progress and achievement.

## **Why are we recommending the use of a numerical descriptor versus percentage grades?**

There are many different ways to represent a child's grade. Having fewer grading categories (numeric descriptors of 1-4; letter grades A-D) along with a description of what that grade means improves the quality of the information for the parent. Percentage grades too often require teachers to combine many assignment marks into one number to represent the child's grade. Too often a percentage alone does not provide meaningful information about student achievement. In the younger grades, percentages are rarely used to describe how well the child is achieving. Describing student performance according to criteria is more beneficial to understanding a child's progress.

## **H**ow does an effort grade look on the prototype?

A broad word like 'effort' on a report card can mean different things to different people. This report card evaluates behavior separate from academic achievement with specific statements that define a student's effort, both as a learner and in the development of social skills.

## **W**hy list or identify the learner outcomes?

In Alberta, we have a curriculum that has a range of learner outcomes for each subject area and grade. These outcomes describe what a child is expected to know and be able to do. The intent of identifying the learner outcomes on the report card is to describe the student's achievement of these learner outcomes based on assessment evidence at the time of the report card. It is important to note that not all outcomes are assessed by the teacher in a formal manner.

## **A**lways striving to get better

In order to better meet the needs and expectations of our school community in reporting student achievement, we are seeking your input into the process as we change the report card. We heard that parents want the report card to be simple and straight-forward, while providing information about their child's achievement and how they are doing in the many aspects of their learning. We heard that it needs to be in a language that parents understand. We heard teachers say that it needs to reflect the assessment methods they use with students and communicate in an effective and efficient manner.

Please use the accompanying questionnaire to evaluate the report card prototype for your grade level. All feedback will be shared with the appropriate reporting committee.

Thank you.

## Parents, We Would Like To Hear From You

As a parent, your feedback is an important consideration for how we can improve the prototype of the new report card. Please look at the proposed prototype report card and answer the following questions.

**H**ow likely is it that you would recommend this report card to a friend or family member?

0      1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

*Not likely at all*

*Very likely*

**W**hy did you rate the report card the way you did?

**W**hat part of the report card could we improve?