

April 24, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Parents, Students, and Staff

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all parents, students, teachers, support staff, and division staff for working together in these challenging times, as we – as a community – continue to navigate this new journey of faith and learning at home.

Last week, I invited you to share one or two words that best describe what this experience of faith and learning at home and online has been like for you and your child. We have captured your responses in an [interactive word cloud](#) as our fourth community story, which is posted on [our website](#) (gsacrd.ab.ca). The words that were used confirm that this remains a challenging time for many students, parents, and families. However, many of you also shared words that indicate how you have adapted, grown, and thrived – even in these extraordinary circumstances. And while there is more we can do to adjust to this new temporary reality, we can also be proud of what we have accomplished. Thank you for sharing your thoughts!

One of the primary goals, of the Minister of Education, for at-home and online learning is to focus on **program continuity by teachers evaluating what has not yet been covered in their classes and prioritizing remaining learning outcomes based on what is manageable at home** ([Student learning during COVID-19: Guidelines](#)). As noted in my most recent communication, we have worked together as a community to develop answers to your questions about assessment and reporting. Throughout this week, I have also received questions about organizing for student learning, timelines, and specialized supports and services.

Responses to these questions are noted in the Qs & As starting on page two of this letter. These answers are based on our Division's [Student Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting](#) (*Administrative Procedure 365*) and on our experiences navigating online learning. Thank you for asking questions, sharing your concerns, and providing input.

We look forward to continuing to work with you as partners in your child's education in this faith and learning journey. Let us all continue to do our part to keep our community safe by following the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer and all levels of government. You can find credible, up-to-date health and safety information about COVID-19 as follows:

- [Government of Canada](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html): <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>
- [Alberta Government](https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx): <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>
- [Alberta Health Services](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx): <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx>
- [City of St. Albert](https://stalbert.ca/city/eps/preparedness/resources): <https://stalbert.ca/city/eps/preparedness/resources>
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019): <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Thank you for your continued efforts to journey in faith and learning with your school community.

God bless!

David Keohane

Superintendent of Schools

Student Assessment, Evaluating, and Reporting *Qs & As*

ELEMENTARY (K – 6)

Q: Will my child get a schedule for learning for each week and how to organize time?

A: *My child will work with his/her teacher and receive an overview of learning for the week to provide guidance on how to organize time and tasks.*

Q: Will my child receive supports for learning?

A: *Supports for learning, such as counselling, and supports to carry forward IPP goals and strategies will continue and need to be addressed through the classroom teachers and, ultimately, the school principal. Division staff are working with schools to provide supports.*

Q: When will the school year end?

A: *Learning continues until the last day of school (June 26).*

Q: Will my K-6 child get a report card. If so, when?

A: *Yes, your child will get a report card at the end of June.*

Q: What will the Kindergarten report card look like?

A: *Your child will receive a report card that reflects your child's skill level on the Kindergarten Program Statement, using the following descriptors. The focus will be on Literacy and Numeracy:*

<i>SI</i>	<i>Consistently demonstrates the skill independently.</i>
<i>SM</i>	<i>Skill is emerging with minimal support.</i>
<i>SD</i>	<i>Skill is emerging with direct support.</i>
<i>N/A</i>	<i>No assessment available.</i>

Q: What will the Gr. 1-3 report card look like?

A: *Your child's report card will include Religion, English Language Arts, French Language Arts (French Immersion), Math, and a General Comment. Your child will receive a grade of 1 to 4 for one to three outcomes in these subjects: ELA, FLA, and Math. Your child will receive "Meets or Not Yet Meets" for Religion. All other subject areas will not be visible on the report card, or, if they are listed, such as Physical Education and Health, they will not be graded. "Growth As A Learner" will not be graded on the report card for term three.*

Q: What will the Gr. 4-6 report card look like?

A: *Your child's report card will include Religion, English Language Arts, French Language Arts (French Immersion), Math, Social, and Science, and a General Comment. Your child will receive a grade on a 1-4 scale for one to three outcomes in English Language Arts, French Language Arts (French Immersion), Math, Social, Science, and a General Comment. Your child will receive "Meets or Not Yet Meets" for Religion. Some schools have chosen to list Phys. Ed. and Health; your child will receive "Meets or Not Yet Meets" for these subjects. "Growth As A Learner" will not be graded on the report card for term three.*

Q: What does the 1-4 scale look like?

A: *In AP 365, the following scale is used for Grades 1-6 report cards:*

Achievement Level Conversion	Descriptor	Percentage Conversion
4	Work is excellent at grade level and provides evidence of an in-depth understanding and application of the learner outcomes	80% - 100%
3	Work is proficient at grade level and provides evidence of a solid understanding and application of the learner outcomes	65% – 79%
2	Work is adequate at grade level and provides evidence of a basic understanding and application of the learner outcomes	50% - 64%
1	Work is limited at grade level; however, work demonstrates a beginning understanding of the grade level learner outcomes	Below 50%
M	Work meets or exceeds the expectations of the learner outcomes	
NYM	Work does not yet meet the expectations of the learner outcomes	
N/A	No evaluation possible due to lack of evidence	
IPP	Refer to IPP for goals and progress	

Percentage conversions are based upon Alberta Education standards. Teachers are not required to use percentages.

Q: How will grades be determined?

A: *Grades will represent the best evidence that has been collected by the teacher to make a judgement about your child's demonstrated learning on an outcome. Examples of online learning evidence include teachers' notes – based on one-on-one and small group conversations, assignments, and performance tasks (e.g. problem-solving, writing, reading) completed and submitted to the teacher. Teachers are being creative about how to gather formative evidence about your child's online learning and will use the data collected to assign an achievement level.*

JUNIOR HIGH (7 – 9)

Q: Will Gr.7-9 students get a schedule for learning for each week and guidelines for organizing time?

A: *Your child will work with his/her teacher and receive an overview of learning to provide guidance on how to organize time and tasks.*

Q: Will my child receive supports for learning?

A: *Supports for learning (e.g.: counseling) and supports to carry forward IPP goals and strategies will continue and need to be addressed through the classroom teachers and, ultimately, the school principal.*

Q: When will the school year end?

A: *Learning continues until the last day of school (June 26).*

Q: Will my Gr.7-9 child get a report card and when?

A: *Yes, your child will get a report card at the end of June.*

Q: What will the Gr. 7-9 report card look like?

A: *Your child will get a report card that has Religion, English Language Arts, French Language Arts (if your child is in French Immersion), Math, Social, Science, and Physical Education/Health (Meets/Not Yet Meets).*

Q: Will there be grades for 7-9 options?

A: *Teachers are not required to assess options, as per the minimum ministry guidelines; however, some students have continued options where applicable in their schools. When there is enough evidence for the teacher to assess your child's performance on outcomes since the start of the pandemic, your child will receive a grade based on a scale of 1- 4 or a percentage (%), whichever has been commonly used at your child's school. If your child has not been able to complete enough evidence, then your child will receive the grade that he/she had earned at the start of the online learning journey.*

Q: How will grades be determined in grades 7-9?

A: *In Gr. 7-9, grades will represent the best evidence that has been collected by the teacher to make a judgement about your child's demonstrated learning on an outcome. Because there are fewer outcomes and more time to learn over the course of this reporting period, different types of evidence will be collected, including the teachers' notes – based on one-on-one and small group conversations, assignments done while online and in full view of the teacher, and performance tasks (e.g. problem-solving, writing, reading) done online. Exams and quizzes may be assessment evidence for certain courses. Final exams are not required to make these determinations.*

SENIOR HIGH (10 – 12)

Q: Will Gr.10-12 students get a schedule for learning for each week and guidelines for organizing time?

A: *Your child will work with his/her teacher and receive an overview of learning to provide guidance on how to organize time and tasks.*

Q: Will my child receive supports for learning?

A: *Supports for learning (e.g. counseling) and supports to carry forward IPP goals and strategies will continue and need to be addressed through the classroom teachers and, ultimately, the school principal.*

Q: When will the school year end?

A: *Learning continues until the last day of school (June 26). Unit-planning and teaching may end prior to June 26, but teachers support course completion for students until the end of June.*

Q: What will the Gr. 10-12 report card look like?

A: *Your child will get a report card that looks like a transcript (list of courses and grades) at the end of June. If you require additional documentation for post-secondary applications, then please visit My Pass for a Detailed Academic Report for post-secondary applications. The report card will list all courses your child has completed. Alberta Education expectations are that high schools will continue to provide percentage marks for courses as assessed or evaluated by the school to support students using these percentage marks within their high school transcript for scholarships, post-secondary, and employment purposes. Schools will provide a final mark of 'P' for pass for Unallocated Credit Courses (which is done for courses that have modules that cannot be taught online).*

Q: Will my grades 10-12 child receive a grade in options/electives/CTS courses?

A: *For grades 10-12 students, where the students can continue completing the electives/CTS courses for the modules that can be completed, a grade will be assigned. For modules that cannot be completed, the teacher requests that the remaining credits attached to unfinished modules for CTS courses be waived by the school principal. For courses that cannot be delivered online or through other accommodations, the principal has the authority to award unallocated credits to meet elective credential course requirements to ensure student Unallocated Credit Courses. This is done on a case-by-case basis for the purposes of program continuity and post-secondary requirements.*

Q: How will grades be determined in grades 10-12?

A: *In grades 7-12, grades will represent the best evidence that has been collected by the teacher to make a judgement about your child's demonstrated learning on an outcome. Because there are fewer outcomes and more time to learn over the course of this reporting period, different types of evidence will be collected including the teachers' notes – based on one-on-one and small group conversations, assignments done while online and in full view of the teacher, and performance tasks (e.g. problem-solving, writing, reading) done online. Exams and quizzes may be assessment evidence for certain courses. Final exams are not required to make these determinations.*