

Guide to Student Assessment, Achievement & Growth 2017-2018

Grades 10-12

Jasper Place High School

8950-163 Street Edmonton, AB T5R 2P2

Phone: 780-408-9000

Email: jasper@epsb.ca

Website: <http://jasperplace.epsb.ca>

Principal: David Morris

Updated: September 14, 2017

Guide to Student Assessment, Achievement and Growth 2017-2018, Grades 10-12

At Edmonton Public Schools, we're committed to transforming the learners of today into the leaders of tomorrow. One of the ways we help all students be successful is by always improving the way we assess and evaluate what students learn. We also want to improve how we report back to you about how your child is doing at school.

This guide will help you understand:

- responsibilities of staff, students and parents/guardians;
- how we will tell you about your child's progress and learning;
- how we assign grades/marks to your child;
- how your child is assessed; and
- the steps we take if your child's work is missing or not finished.

What is assessment?

In this guide, we use the terms assessment and evaluation to describe what students have learned, and how well they have learned it. Assessment and evaluation aren't just about tests and grades.

Assessment means gathering information about what your child knows, understands and can show the teacher based on the Alberta programs of study (curriculum) or their Individualized Program Plan (IPP). Teachers can't use your child's behaviour, effort and work habits to decide on their grades/marks, unless that's outlined in the Alberta programs of study for a specific subject.

To find out where your child is at in their learning, teachers use many tools. Conversations, observations and student work are just some of the ways teachers discover students' strengths and where they might need extra help.

These activities – conversations, observations and the products students create – help teachers shape their lesson plans. They even guide *how* they'll explain a concept, to help every student meet their learning goals. The activities also help inform the teacher's understanding so that they may assign each student a grade, course or level of programming. All of this allows teachers to give you a clear and accurate picture of your child's progress in school.

How to support your child's learning

As a parent or guardian, you are your child's first teacher. So, understanding how your child is doing in school is important. Read this guide, and contact the school or make an appointment to see your child's teacher or principal if you have any questions.

Supporting Student Success

We all have a role to play in helping your child be successful.

You can support your child's learning by:

- working in partnership with school staff;
- providing a quiet place for your child to study at home;
- staying informed and keeping in touch with school staff. This includes reading newsletters and other school materials; and
- going to parent-teacher conferences.

Teachers will help your child succeed by:

- providing programming that's suitable for your child;
- providing many opportunities and different ways for students to show what they know;
- giving students who've missed important assessments and activities the chance to complete the work;
- clearly explaining what's expected of students in all courses and how student work will be graded/graded (i.e., course outline);
- keeping detailed, accurate notes describing your child's successes and challenges;
- communicating with you regularly about your child's progress and achievement; and
- providing opportunities for you to be involved in your child's learning.

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

- come to school every day and on time;
- finish their assignments, projects and tasks to the best of their ability;
- participate in activities to celebrate learning;
- show that they're learning; and
- take advantage of chances to revise or redo assignments or tests so they can show growth in their knowledge and skills.

Our Communication Plan for Reporting Progress

There are many ways we help you stay informed about your child's learning throughout the year. We encourage you to review your child's reports and attend conferences regularly.

Reporting Periods:

September 5 - November 7, 2017 (Term 1)

November 8 - January 30, 2018 (Term 2)

February 1 – April 16, 2018 (Term 3)

April 17 – June 27, 2018 (Term 4)

Progress Reports Issued:

November 8, 2017

January 31, 2018

April 17, 2018

June 28, 2018

Interim Reports:

Staff will communicate to parents and students interim marks via school zone on a monthly basis.

Conferences:

Thursday October 12, 2017 and Thursday April 5, 2018

Individualized Program Plans (IPPs): for students who need specialized services and supports, the IPP is a working document that is developed within the first two months of the school year. It is a record of your child's progress related to specific goals and strategies. It gives you confirmation that your child's needs are being addressed and provides information about accommodations and supports your child needs to succeed. The IPP is reviewed at least three times a year. We expect you and your child (as appropriate) to provide input into the IPP.

IPP planning conferences will take place in September.

IPP review dates will be: Strategies and Baseline October 12. Review dates: January 19, April 13, and June 22.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Proficiency Assessments: for students learning English, the ESL Proficiency Assessments measure English abilities in four areas: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Teachers use a variety of tools each year to help them plan lessons and communicate with you about your child's progress in learning English.

Information will be reported to parents on the report card.

- 1) Students are assessed on an annual basis during the month of October.
- 2) Students new to Jasper Place are assessed upon arrival at the English Language Reception Center at Jasper Place School.
- 3) Results are reported to parents via a personalized letter.

Grades/Marks and Codes

To decide on your child's grade/mark at the end of a reporting period, teachers use evidence of what your child has learned and their professional judgment.

Percentages will be the only grades/marks used for formal reporting in Grades 10 to 12.

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

District-Approved Term and End of Year Codes: On your child's progress report, a teacher may use these District codes for term or end of course grades/marks.

IEA	Insufficient Evidence Available	IEA is used only as a term mark when a teacher does not have enough evidence about a student's progress to give a mark at the end of a term.
WDR	Withdrawal	WDR is used only as an end of course mark when a student chooses not to complete a course and the school agrees to withdraw the student from the course. WDR may be used for all courses.
INC	Incomplete	Incomplete is used only as an end of course mark when a student does not withdraw from a Career and Technology Studies (CTS) course and does not successfully complete the course with a mark of 50% or more. No mark is submitted to Alberta Education and the course does not appear on the student transcript. INC is used only for CTS courses.

District-Approved Codes for use on Interim Reports in SchoolZone: On your child's interim reports, a teacher may use these District codes.

OMIT	Omit	Professional judgment indicates that the student is not required to do this task.
NYC	Not Yet Complete	Steps are in place to ensure the student completes the assessment activity.
RNE	Replace with New Evidence	This assessment has been replaced by more relevant evidence that demonstrates the student's understanding of the expected outcome(s).
TBA*	To Be Addressed	The tasks for these outcomes will be assigned later in the course.

***CTS courses only**

How We Determine Student Grades/Marks

At Edmonton Public Schools, we determine grades/marks in a variety of ways.

Formative Assessments

Throughout the year, your child will work on many activities that help them increase what they know and practice their skills. These activities show your child's teacher how they are doing, what their strengths are and where they can improve. This is called formative assessment.

Teachers use this information to adjust their teaching, give your child feedback to help them improve and prepare your child for times when they will receive grades/marks.

Summative Assessments

During the school year, your child will have a chance to show what they have learned up to that point in time (summative assessments).

Using their judgment as professionals, teachers make decisions and give grades/marks to your child. They base these decisions on what they've seen your child do (observations), discussions they've had with your child (conversations) and the work your child has completed (products).

Missing or Incomplete Student Work

Principals must make sure that teachers communicate with parents/guardians promptly and regularly about missing or incomplete student work. This is outlined in Administrative Regulation [GKB.AR – Standards for Evaluation](#), section 4:

4. *Principals must work with their teachers to comply with the following:*
 - a. *evidence of student achievement has been collected by the teacher;*
 - b. *communication plans for reporting student achievement and growth to parents/guardians are developed and aligned with school-wide assessment and intervention plans;*
 - c. *a student has been given multiple opportunities and ways to demonstrate his/her learning;*
 - d. *follow up has occurred to determine the reason when a summative assessment item (assignment, test, project, etc.) is missing or incomplete, and that opportunities for the student to fulfill the requirement of the summative assessment item (assignment, test, project, etc.) are provided;*
 - e. *if the student continues to be unsuccessful, the student/parents/guardians will be informed and the teacher will solicit a solution in consultation with the student's parents/guardians to hold the student accountable and/or plan for further learning;*
 - f. *teachers will engage in on-going, timely communication with parents/guardians/students and the principal regarding missing or incomplete work; and*
 - g. *providing 4. b–f have been followed, the teacher can assign the student a mark of zero for that missed summative assessment item (assignment, test, project, etc.).*

When your child has missing or incomplete work, we will make arrangements for your child to complete the work. This may include:

- Teacher/student discussion
- Contact with parent/s guardians
- Drop in support in the ACCESS room
- Missed assignment room (D.T. Room)
- Peer tutoring in academic support center or teacher's classroom
- Targeted tutorials through subject/department teachers

Course Outlines:

At Jasper Place School, course outlines are provided early in the course, usually in the first two days of school. Please contact your child's teacher(s) if you need one.

The Role of Homework

Homework is meant to:

- help support your child's learning;
- reinforce what your child learned in school; and
- give your child more practice.

At Jasper Place School, our homework policies include teacher's reinforcement of the role of homework in individual classes. If issues arise with homework completion, teachers will work with the student and/or parent to assist and support the student.

Academic Integrity

Cheating is not acceptable. This includes plagiarism (copying someone else's work and passing it off as your own), copying, stealing tests or assignments and getting answers for a test or assignment in advance. Cheating also includes giving answers or work to others to claim as their own.

If your child is suspected of plagiarism or cheating, school administration will meet with them and take action in accordance with Administrative Regulation [HG.AR – Student Behaviour and Conduct](#).

Grades/Marks Appeal Process

To appeal the grade/mark your child has been given, contact the classroom teacher. If you can't resolve the appeal with the teacher, the principal will make a decision and explain it to you. The principal's decision is final. A principal's authority to do this is set out in the *School Act*.

In early July, there will be a day to contact the school to appeal June final marks. When this date is set, we will communicate it to you.

The Role of Large Scale Tests

The Grade 12 Diploma Examinations Program:

- certifies the level of individual student achievement in selected Grade 12 courses
- helps maintain province-wide standards of achievement
- reports individual and group results

For all 30-level diploma courses, the school mark will be weighted at 70 per cent of the total mark, and the diploma examination mark will be weighted at 30 per cent of the total mark. To pass a diploma course, a student must earn a final 'blended' mark of at least 50 per cent.

More information about the Diploma Examination Program is available online at <https://education.alberta.ca/diploma-exam-administration/diploma-examinations-program/>