

# REPORT CARD PARENT CONCERNS (FAQ'S)

## Why is SRSD using outcome based assessment and reporting to parents?

All assessment and evaluation of student achievement must be based on the outcomes in the provincial curriculum and the reporting of student achievement must be based on the achievement of curriculum outcomes. Outcomes describe the specific knowledge, skills, and understandings that students are expected to reach by the end of a particular grade level.

## Why does my child not get a grade or percentage mark like the old report card?

All teachers are required to teach and assess the students' learning based on the Saskatchewan Curricula outcomes. Students will be assessed on their personal performance on the curriculum outcomes, not as a comparison to other students in the class. Research has shown that the current grading system does not clearly specify the outcomes to be met by students and does not allow students to know how to improve.

## How will this make a difference for the students, parents and teachers?

Parents, students and teachers have a clear understanding of learning expectations when outcomes are used. Progress reported using a four-level rubric helps students understand what quality work looks like and helps them improve their work. Parents can better understand how they can work with teachers to help their child improve by looking at the rubric expectations for each subject.

## What does each level on the rubric mean?

The following is our achievement scale wording...

**Level 4 – Mastery** – indicates an **insightful understanding** of the grade level outcomes. Students at this level **can apply and transfer knowledge** to novel situations.

**Level 3 – Proficiency** - indicates a **well-developed understanding** of the grade level outcome. Students at this level are competent with the skills and knowledge identified in the outcome and are **on par with curriculum expectations**.

**Level 2 – Approaching** - indicates a **basic understanding**. Students at this level demonstrate **inconsistent understanding** of the stated outcomes.

**Level 1 – Beginning** - indicates **partial understanding**. Students at this level have **limited success** with the stated outcome even **with support**.

- Characteristics of Successful Learners (students' confidence, citizenship, responsibility, and work habits) are assessed separately on the report card. They are not included in the assessment of outcomes.

# REPORT CARD PARENT CONCERNS (FAQ'S) - CONTINUATION

## How is my child's rubric level determined and by whom?

Students are given opportunities to practice skills, concepts, and receive feedback from the teacher. After the learning has occurred, a variety of assessments are used to determine the level of mastery. Classroom teachers who teach the students are responsible for the assessment.

## What types of assessments are used to determine level of mastery?

Practice work and assignments are indicators of student progress toward meeting the outcome and are not included in mastery level determination. Teachers use a variety of conversation, observation and product-based forms of assessment to determine the level of mastery. Rubrics, tests, student conferences and performance tasks will be used as evidence.

## What can I expect as a result of the new reporting requirements?

As a parent, you can expect the following:

- Clear, accurate information about the performance of your child at school.
- A comparison of your child's achievement against provincial curriculum outcomes.
- Information on what your child can do well and where they need to develop further.
- Information about your child's social skills and commitment to learning.
- Teacher comments using plain language.

## What if my child's program does not match grade level outcomes?

We are required to provide all students with an appropriate grade level report card. If your child is working on outcomes not at their grade level this will be indicated on the report card and additional information will be attached in order to provide meaningful feedback on your child's progress. Reports for students with diagnosed disabilities will reflect the individual learning programs that are planned by teachers.

## How will this impact my child continuing their education at a post-secondary institution?

At present, students in High School receive a final course grade as a percentage mark. This fulfills the requirements laid out by the universities and most post-secondary institutions.

## If my child transfers to another school division, will they understand my child's progress?

Yes, this type of report card better communicates specifically what a child has or has not learned. Our report card is based on extensive research and similar report cards are being used throughout the province and country.