



How is My Child Doing in High School?



At the Calgary Board of Education, we recognize that the primary purpose of assessment is to improve student learning through ongoing communication between educators, students, and their families. Knowing more about your child's interests, strengths and areas for development are critical to help educators support your child's learning.

Conversations with your child's teachers and school administration team are great places to ask questions and discuss individual concerns related to how your child is doing in high school. Beyond these conversations, and the ones you have at home with your child, there are several ways that you can learn more about your child's learning, progress and achievement.

This document will help you to understand how your child is assessed and how we share information about your child's progress and achievement.

How is my child assessed?

What is assessment?

Assessment includes a continuous cycle of instruction, gathering evidence from a variety of sources, interpreting that evidence and adjusting teaching practice. The grading practices employed by teachers aim to motivate student effort and learning and to generate grades that accurately represent what each student knows and can do in relation to the course outcomes.

To determine a student's current level of achievement in relation to curriculum, teachers use a variety of methods including observations, conversations and products. Grades are assigned based on the learning demonstrated through classroom activities connected to the outcomes; rather than through homework completion, attendance or non-curricular behaviour.

What is Outcomes-Based Assessment?

Outcomes-Based Assessment measures a student's performance of key course outcomes. An outcome describes what a student is expected to know and be able to do, within a particular course.

What can you expect to see with Outcomes-Based Assessment?

- Clear and accurate information about a student's achievement.
- Clear and meaningful feedback about a student's strengths and areas for further growth.
- Student achievement is measured against curricular outcomes.

Why is Outcomes-Based Assessment used?

Outcomes-Based Assessment:

- Encourages students to take an active role in their learning, which increases engagement and motivation;
- Provides students with more opportunities to develop, demonstrate, check and refine their understand of learning outcomes; and
- Enables teachers to assess a student's understanding and achievement of the outcomes, rather than their ability to successfully complete tasks.





How is information about my child shared?

Where can I find information about how and what my child is doing at school?

Report cards are an important record of student achievement, but not the only way that teachers communicate how your child is doing. Ongoing communication between you, your child and their teachers, both formal and informal, helps you understand your child's progress and achievement. By engaging in ongoing communication, the information communicated in the report card is both expected and understood.



- Informal communication occurs on an ongoing basis and serves to build shared understandings of what students know and can do in day-to-day learning experiences. This can include samples of assessed student work, D2L, MyCBE, emails, and student portfolios.
- Formal communication occurs at predetermined times throughout the school year. This includes report cards, Individual Program Plans and student learning conferences.
- Additional opportunities such as celebrations of learning, student performances, "Meet the Teacher Night", open houses, blogs and social media, help you understand what your child is learning by highlighting some of their learning experiences. These do not provide details about individual student progress and achievement.



What does the report card tell me?

Report cards summarize and communicate student achievement at a point in time. At the CBE, students in grades 10-12 can expect to receive a minimum of two report cards a year. Student achievement is reported using teacher comments and a percentage grade.

Please speak to your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns about your child's learning.

