

Grade Level of Achievement (GLA) Reporting Information for Parents

Throughout the school year, parents have had conversations with their child's teachers about learning. As we approach the end of this school year, teachers are gathering and summarizing their observations of student learning throughout the school year so that they can make their final report of student learning to parents. As you can imagine this is a complex task that calls upon a teacher's professional judgment. Since parents have had much opportunity to discuss your child's progress throughout the year, we have the confidence that the final summary of student learning will not be a surprise to parents and students.

Within the June Report Card, parents can also expect to see the Grade Level of Achievement (GLA) reported as additional information on their children's achievement. Along with a performance grade and work habit comment, your child will be assigned a GLA comment for **Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies**. The GLA will be reported on the June report card as a comment indicating your child is working "at", "above", or "below" grade level in relation to the Alberta Program of Studies. This information will also help you fully understand your child's progress and will assist his/her future teachers design appropriate programming for the next school year.

Please call (principal's name) at (school phone) if you have any questions.

Facts about Student Assessment...

Students in Grades 3, 6 and 9 write Provincial Achievement Tests in May and June of each school year. Provincial Achievement Tests provide good information to teachers, parents and students about how students have mastered outcomes of the Alberta Program of Studies. However, it must be noted that these tests may bring results that differ from what is reported through the year-long classroom assessment of student learning since year-long classroom assessments take into account a broader range of program outcomes. What is important to remember is that both sets of results provide valuable information and serve to give a full and complete picture of student learning and achievement.

Students learn at different rates and in different ways. Through the GLA initiative, it may become apparent to parents that their child is working on program outcomes that are below grade level. This information leads some parents to request that their child be retained. There is a large body of research that clearly shows that students learn best when they learn with their age-mates. Retention has been shown to have a negative influence on student learning. It is for this reason that teachers work hard to design programs that meet the individual needs of students within the classes to which students are assigned.