

Report Card

Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION: *What if my child needs accommodations in their learning or is not working at grade level?*

ANSWER: *If your child is not working at the current grade level or needs accommodations or adaptations to the current curriculum, then they will still receive a mark based on the curriculum on which they are working. For example if they are in grade 4 but currently working on grade 2 level outcomes, then they will receive a level based on the level 2 outcomes on which they are working. It will then be communicated **in the comments that they are not currently working at grade level and on which learning goals they are working and/or any accommodations that are being made to help your child succeed. Your child should also have an ISP (Individualized Student Plan) which outlines their needed accommodations and should be reviewed along with the report card.***

QUESTION: *Will my child receive a percentage?*

ANSWER: **Your child will not receive a percentage on the report card.**

Here's why:

- *A percentage mark only tells you where your child stands in relation to others, but gives no information you or your child about **how** your child learns. Our goal as educators is to help students understand "**who they are as learners.**" Every learner has different areas of strength and areas of need. We need to explore and provide the answers to the following questions with each student: What are your strengths as a learner? In which areas do you need more help? How can we provide you with the help you need? In order to provide these insights, we must be assessing students and giving them feedback that helps them to achieve their learning goals. A number just doesn't provide information that can be used to show a student's unique accomplishments, strengths and/or areas of need.*
- *Providing good feedback to students tells them not only where they are but also what steps they need to take to move their learning forward. This starts with assessments that give them that information.*
- *As educators, our ultimate goal is always to produce independent learners. To be independent learners, students need to know which outcomes they know and which they still need to learn.*

QUESTION: *How will this affect my child going into high school or post-secondary school (university or college) where they may get percentage marks ?*

ANSWER: *Our goal is to help your child succeed now and in the future. Changing our assessment practices to be more informative to the child is a huge step toward this goal. The new assessment system is designed to give students **more information** about their learning. This enables them because they will be more aware of the areas in which they need to most improve as well as the areas they are doing well. Thus, they have more power to make informed decisions. For example, they may want to **spend more time working on areas of need while they spend less on those areas mastered. Addressing these areas at younger ages sets them up for more success in later years. Those achieving the learning outcomes “consistently” will have no concerns achieving the “marks” in high school or beyond.** Where needed **for the purposes of entering post secondary institutions, the achievement indicators can be converted to grade percentages.***

QUESTION: *Can I see my child’s work and assessments on an ongoing basis?*

ANSWER: *In the near future there will be a **parent portal** available where you will be able to view your child’s assessments and work on an ongoing basis. As teachers are learning how to use the program and in the early phases of implementation, the parent portal is not yet functioning.*

*In the interim, some teachers are piloting a program called “**FreshGrade**” that will allow teachers to set up student electronic “portfolios” that can be accessed by parents, students and teachers online. Each will have a simple app that will provide easy access to your child’s work, including photos, audio recordings and video, as it is added to their portfolio. Not all teachers are working with FreshGrade at this time, but those who are will be communicating with parents about how to access it.*

Though there are many exciting new technologies on the horizon, they will take time to implement.

However, you may, at any time, contact your child’s teacher by email or phone and set up an interview to see his/her work and discuss learning progress.