

Report Card

Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION: *Why are we changing the report cards?*

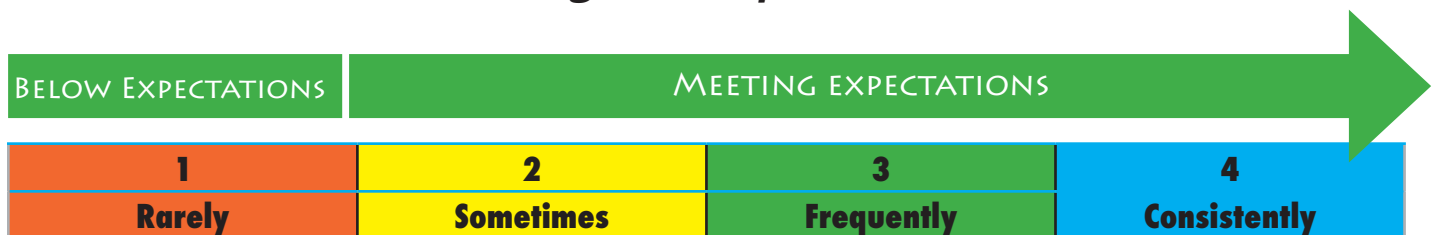
ANSWER: **The new report card is designed to:**

- *provide clear, useful information about how your child is doing in school.*
- *better inform you, as parents, about your child's strengths and struggles in their learning.*
- *use assessments to better inform students about their own learning progress.*
- *provide simplified consistent reporting practice throughout Horizon School division schools.*

QUESTION: *What will the new report cards show me?*

ANSWER: *The new report card will tell you **how often** your child meets the learning outcomes in the separate strands of each subject area. These outcomes are taken from the Alberta Programs of Study:*

- ***This graphic of the new report card scale shows “how often” the student demonstrates understanding of the expected learner outcomes.***



The report card will show:

The STRAND: *Where the learner is going - The strand is the area of instruction in which they have learning goals they are trying to achieve.*

The SCALE (Rarely, Sometimes, Frequently, Consistently): *Tells how often your child is meeting their learning goals. It tells you **where your child is right now** in relation to what is expected in a given subject for that grade.*

The teacher COMMENTS *may address the following: tell you about **the learning your child has demonstrated** this term, **where they are going as a learner**, and **how they can best move forward** in achieving their learning goals.*

QUESTION: *How do teachers arrive at my child's mark?*

ANSWER: *Teachers assess student progress based on the learning outcomes as outlined in the **Alberta curriculum (Program of Study for each subject)**. Assessments must be designed to measure how consistently a student can demonstrate understanding or performance of these outcomes. Several outcomes are grouped together into **strands**. The strands are reported on the report card. Let's take a look at an example from grade 7 language arts.*

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Subject: LANGUAGE ARTS | Grade: 7 |
| STRAND : Responds personally and critically to text | |
| OUTCOMES | |
| Experience various texts | |
| Construct meaning from texts | |
| Appreciate the artistry of texts | |
| Understand forms and genres | |
| Understand techniques and elements | |
| Experiment with language | |
| Focus attention | |
| Determine information needs | |
| Plan to gather information | |
| Use a variety of sources | |
| Access information | |
| Evaluate sources | |
| Organize information | |
| Record information | |
| Evaluate information | |

This is the strand that shows on the report card.

These are the outcomes to be assessed.

A teacher may arrive at the achievement levels based on a collection of observations and notes, scores on daily work, tests, interviews, projects, or other tasks.

These pages show that the (blue) strand called, “**Responds personally and critically to text**” is made of the many learning outcomes below it. To arrive at an achievement level for that strand, a teacher must design activities and assessments that will give the student the opportunity to demonstrate their skill and understanding of the outcomes that make up the strand (grey and white rows) .

QUESTION: *How can I help my child at home?*

ANSWER: *The new report card will give you information about how often your child is able to meet expectations in different strands. This will give you an idea of where your child could use some extra focus. For example, if your child is doing well with understanding math concepts, but struggling with the foundational math skills, that tells you that they need some extra help with learning their math facts. This is something they can do for a few minutes each night, but it can make a huge difference to their learning. Asking the teacher for materials or ways to help is a great first step toward supporting your child's learning.*