

General information about the 2017-18 provincial assessments and future plans

Changes in methodology:

Department staff in both sectors have been collaborating to establish a common methodology for analyzing assessment results, building on long standing practices in the Francophone sector.

This approach has been applied to the new Grade 10 assessment implemented in 2017-18, and will be used for the Grade 4 assessment when it is officially implemented this school year. The approach will also be used in 2018-19 for the Grade 6 assessment, which will undergo a thorough analysis to ensure appropriateness for students and alignment with the overall assessment program.

Students who do not participate in the assessment:

In the past, the percentage of students who did not write was included in the *Below Appropriate* achievement level for all assessments other than the Grade 9 English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) since all students participate unless exempt. Calculation of results for the new Grade 10 assessment excludes students who did not write. This change will apply to the calculation of all assessment results beginning this school year. Exemptions from participation will continue to be reported as *Below Appropriate* achievement for all assessments other than the ELPA and second language oral proficiency assessments.

Plans for next year:

The **Grade 4 assessment pilot** was conducted in 2017-18 in all schools for reading, mathematics and science. The pilot phase assesses the appropriateness of test items and does not generate results of student achievement. The official assessment will be implemented this spring, and student results will be available for the first time in the fall of 2019.

The **Grade 2 reading assessment** will be replaced. With the reintroduction of Grade 1 French Immersion, the English Reading Assessment would not be appropriate for students in the immersion program. Consultation has begun for development of a more authentic, age-appropriate assessment process for Grade 2 literacy, building on the work of the Priority Delivery Unit on early literacy. As this will involve the development of a new assessment process for Grade 2, we anticipate a two-year gap in being able to report achievement results. We anticipate results in the fall of 2021.