



**GRADE LEVEL
OF ACHIEVEMENT
REPORTING:**

**INFORMATION
FOR PARENTS**

This booklet has been prepared to help parents understand Grade Level of Achievement reporting, which Alberta Education is implementing, beginning in June 2008 in these subject areas: English Language Arts, French Language Arts (Immersion), and Mathematics.

Grade Level of Achievement reporting will not change the way teachers communicate with you presently about your child's achievement. Teachers will continue to send you report cards regularly, with detailed information about your child's achievement. They will invite you to the school to see your child's work and discuss your child's progress. And they will welcome your call or email any time you want to talk about your child's achievement. Teachers will continue to work with you in a spirit of partnership to support your child's learning.

Grade Level of Achievement will be additional information you receive about your child's achievement. Although GLA reporting will be new to all the Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools this year, it was introduced ten years ago in the Edmonton public school system because parents requested this information about their child's learning. A few years ago the Parkland school system also began reporting GLA to parents. Alberta Education now wants all schools to provide GLA information to parents and to Alberta Education.

Some of the information in this booklet has been adapted from Alberta Education, 2006, *Grade Level of Achievement Reporting Teacher and Administrator Handbook*.

GRADE LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT REPORTING: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

We hope this booklet answers many of your questions about GLA reporting. If you have any questions about your child's GLA, please contact the administrators or your child's teacher.

1. What is Grade Level of Achievement reporting or GLA?

Alberta Education is requiring teachers of grades 1 to 9 to report a GLA for each student who is studying the graded Alberta Program of Studies in English Language Arts, French Language Arts (Immersion) and Mathematics.

GLA will be reported as **at** (AT), **above** (AB) or **below** (BE) the student's enrolled grade level. It will be a broad indicator, summing up the more detailed information you have received about your child's achievement throughout the year in report cards and parent-teacher interviews with the teacher.

Most students are studying the graded Alberta Program of Studies in English Language Arts, French Language Arts (Immersion), and Mathematics and a GLA will be reported for these students. There are some exceptions; see question numbers 8 to 10 on pages 6 to 8.

2. How will teachers determine my child's Grade Level of Achievement?

The Alberta Program of Studies (curriculum) has required learner outcomes for each subject area at each grade level and the teacher will determine the student's GLA in relation to these outcomes.

A student's GLA will be based on the **evidence** of his/her **achievement** of the learner outcomes gathered from a **full range** of classroom work and assessments **throughout** the school year.

Alberta Education recognizes that, within a typical classroom, individual students may demonstrate a wide range of performance. Their performance may be stronger in relation to some learner outcomes and weaker in others. Students do not need to have "mastered" all of the learner outcomes at a specific grade level to achieve an acceptable level of performance at that grade level in the curriculum.

GLA **cannot** be based on a single test.

GLA **cannot** be based on norm-referenced standardized tests developed by a publishing company. These tests are not aligned with the learner outcomes in the Alberta Program of Studies. Grade equivalent scores on such tests are not the same as GLA. Therefore, they cannot be used to determine what grade level of curriculum a student has demonstrated. (See *Grade Level of Achievement Reporting Teacher and Administrator Handbook*, pages 29 to 32, for further information.)

GLA **cannot** be based on factors such as participation, attitude, neatness, effort or behaviour.

Teachers use a variety of methods to gather evidence of students' achievement of learner outcomes. These methods include:

- Observations of what students do and say
- Conversations with students about their understanding of their work.
- Examination of students' work (journals, performance tasks, portfolios, assignments, tests, etc.)

3. How will I be informed of my child's Grade Level of Achievement?

Your child's GLA will be reported as **at** , **above** or **below** his/her enrolled grade level on his/her final report card in June. GLA will be reported annually, beginning in June 2008 for English Language Arts, French Language Arts (Immersion) and Mathematics.

4. Why are we reporting Grade Level of Achievement?

Reporting GLA to Alberta Education will provide valuable information every year to the province, school jurisdictions and schools about the achievement of students in grades 1 to 9. GLA information will help determine how well different programs are working for different groups of students and what can be done to improve student achievement.

GLA information will help inform programming and policy decisions, at the provincial, jurisdictional and school levels.

5. What will Grade Level of Achievement reporting mean for students?

The teachers create assessments that are in relation to the learning outcomes in the Alberta Program of Studies for English Language Arts, French Language Arts (Immersion) and Mathematics.

Having information about students' GLA's, and the learning outcomes they have achieved, will help teachers plan instruction for the range of students' needs and talents.

GLA will involve students more significantly in the assessment process (e.g., understanding learning goals, self assessment and setting goals).

6. Will GLA reporting mean that some students will be retained or accelerated?

GLA reporting will not change Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools' practice with respect to retention or acceleration.

Research shows that retention and acceleration do not improve student achievement. Except in unique circumstances, where a student has been assessed and coded as gifted in a particular subject area, the research supports keeping students with their peer group and differentiating instruction to meet their individual needs and talents.

Teachers in our schools provide horizontal enrichment for students who are achieving the standard of excellence at their enrolled grade level.

Teachers **cannot** report that a student's GLA is above his/her enrolled grade level unless they have taught and assessed the student's achievement of **all** of the learner outcomes at the **higher** grade level, not just some of them.

7. What will Grade Level of Achievement reporting mean for parents?

Parents will know their child's GLA in relation to the graded Alberta Program of Studies.

GLA will be a confirmation of information they have already received throughout the school year to support a child's learning.

8. How will Grade Level of Achievement be reported for students with special needs on Individualized Program Plans (IPP's)?

Most students on Individualized Program Plans are working on the learner outcomes of the graded Program of Studies, although frequently not at their enrolled grade level. For these students, a GLA will be reported on the report card or in the IPP.

There is a relatively small group of students whose programs are not based on the learner outcomes of the graded Program of Studies. These students are working on Academic Readiness, Foundational Skills and/or Life Skills. This is referred to as a non-graded program.

For these students Alberta Education does not require a GLA to be reported. Rather, they require us to report to what degree the students are meeting the goals/objectives of their IPP's.

In very rare instances a student's program is so unique that Not Applicable (N/A) may be reported. In these instances, school personnel will discuss the circumstances with you.

If your child has an Individualized Program Plan, please talk with his/her teacher to find out more about GLA for your child.

9. How will Grade Level of Achievement be determined for students enrolled in immersion programs?

Students enrolled in a French immersion program will receive a GLA in French Language Arts and Mathematics for grades 1 to 9. They will **also** receive a GLA for English Language Arts starting in grade 1.

10. How will Grade Level of Achievement be reported for students taking Knowledge and Employability (K and E) courses?

A GLA will be reported for these students, beginning in Grade 8, the first year in which a student would be enrolled in a K and E course.

The teacher will assess the student's achievement in relation to the learning outcomes in the Grade 8 K & E course. If the student's achievement meets an acceptable standard in relation to these outcomes, the teacher will report that the student's GLA is **at** his/her enrolled grade level.

If the student's achievement does **not** meet an acceptable standard

in relation to these outcomes, the teacher will report that the student's GLA is **below** his/her enrolled grade level.

11. How is Grade Level of Achievement reporting related to Provincial Achievement Tests at grades 3, 6 and 9?

GLA reporting will provide information about student achievement at all grade levels to supplement the information from PAT's.

GLA reporting will provide information about the achievement of some students who do not write the PAT's.

Teachers will be able to use achievement on PAT's as one piece of evidence along with many others collected over the school year to assess students' achievement of learner outcomes and determine their GLA.

The GLA teachers report for students will be generally consistent with PAT results. However, for individual students, the teacher's assessment of the student's GLA may not be the same as the student's PAT results. Teachers can assess all of the learner outcomes for a grade level; the PAT's can assess only those outcomes that can be measured through paper-and-pencil tests, and there are many factors that can affect a student's performance on the day of the test. You can find more information about Grade Level of Achievement reporting at this web site:

<http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/ipr/gla/>