General Information Bulletin
Alberta Provincial Student Learning Assessment

2015–2016 School Year

Pilot

SLA
Student Learning Assessment

Alberta Government

This document was written primarily for

Students	
Teachers	✓
Administrators	✓
Parents	
General Audience	
Others	

The General Information Bulletin presents directives of the Minister of Education, under the authority of the Alberta Regulation 177/2003, Student Evaluation Regulation, pursuant to the *School Act.*

In this bulletin,

a. "Executive Director" means the Executive Director, Provincial Assessment Sector, Alberta Education,
b. "Student" means a student as defined in the *School Act*, and
c. "Director" means the Director, Examination Administration, Provincial Assessment Sector, Alberta Education.

This bulletin is a compilation of several documents produced by Alberta Education and is intended to provide Student Learning Assessment information to the education community.

The intent is to provide easy access for superintendents, principals, and teachers requiring information about all aspects of the Student Learning Assessments.

Contents

Introduction to the Student Learning Assessment Program

Purpose of the Bulletin

This bulletin outlines the key features of the Student Learning Assessment Program and lists the specific directives issued under the authority of the *Ministerial Order on Student Learning (#001/2013).* The information provided is intended primarily to assist school authorities, administrators, and classroom teachers in implementing the Student Learning Assessment Program in their authorities and schools.

General Information about Student Learning Assessment (SLA)

The Grade 3 SLA supports student learning by assessing literacy and numeracy through the lens of current provincial programs of study. This aligns with the goals of the *Ministerial Order for Student Learning* at http://www.education.alberta.ca/department/policy/standards/goals.aspx.

The SLAs are specifically designed to fulfill the purposes of assessment described in the section below.

Every effort is made to ensure that the SLAs respect diversity.

Purpose Statements for Assessment

Assessment is a process, and the primary purpose of assessment is to improve student learning. To facilitate this, assessment information can be used by:

- a student to be informed about, to reflect upon, and to initiate activities to enhance his or her learning;
- parents to have meaningful conversations with their child and their child's teacher(s); and
- a teacher to assist in meeting the learning needs of a student.

Assessment information is also available to enhance instruction for students. To facilitate this, assessment information can be used by:

- a teacher to be informed about, to reflect upon, and to initiate activities to enhance his or her instruction;
- a principal to strategically support instructional practices and address the organizational needs within the school;
- a school council to give advice about the learning opportunities, resources, and services provided by the school;
- a superintendent to allocate resources appropriately and promote effective instructional practices;
- trustees to create or amend authority policies and to guide their advocacy work; and
- Alberta Education to be informed about the implementation and delivery of curriculum.

Assessment information also assures Albertans that the education system meets the needs of students and achieves the outcomes of the *Ministerial Order on Student Learning*.

Alberta Education will continue to work with stakeholders to determine the best approach with which to assure Albertans the education system is meeting the needs of students and achieving outcomes.

Provincial assessments are meant to complement, not replace, day-to-day teacher observations and classroom assessment. They are sources of information that must be interpreted, used, and communicated within the context of regular and continuous assessment by classroom teachers.

Grade 3 Student Learning Assessment Pilot

The second-year Pilot for Grade 3 SLA (SLA3) will take place in Fall 2015 (see *Schedules and Significant Dates* section).

Through conversations with stakeholder groups, Alberta Education has heard that more time is needed to ensure the SLA3 is a valuable assessment tool for teachers, parents, and students before transitioning from Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) to SLAs in Grades 6 and 9. The second-year of the SLA3 Pilot administration will allow further opportunities to ensure that the SLA is a valuable tool. Working with our key stakeholder organizations, we will monitor the success of the Pilot, and the SLA3 will remain in the Pilot phase until we are certain we have it right. Therefore, we will continue with PATs in Grades 6 and 9 until we are all ready to transition to SLAs at these grade levels.

Similar to last fall, **participation in the Grade 3 SLA Pilot is optional at the school authority level**. As a reminder, the Grade 3 PATs were concluded in June 2014. Reporting at the school, school authority, and provincial levels will not occur until the SLA3 has transitioned from Pilot status to regular, full provincial administration.

Structure of SLA3

The four components of the SLA3 in English and in French are:
- digital interactive literacy questions
- literacy performance task
- digital interactive numeracy questions
- numeracy performance task.

The SLA3 will continue to reference the current Grade 2 provincial programs of study until the implementation of new programs of study.

For detailed information on the format of Student Learning Assessments, please refer to the ***Grade 3: Literacy and Numeracy Information Bulletin*** at
http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/department/ipr/slas/resources-teachers-admins/ (English)
http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/francais/ipr/eae/resources-teachers-admins/ (French).

SLA3 Pilot Administration

The SLA Application is located at https://public.education.alberta.ca/assessment/ and provides access to the:
- SLA Teacher Dashboard
- SLA Student Login
- Practice Questions
- Released Questions.

Digital Interactive Questions: The digital interactive literacy and numeracy questions will be administered directly through the SLA Application. Teachers will use the SLA Teacher Dashboard (https://extranet.education.alberta.ca/assessment/) to administer the digital interactive questions. Students will have access to the questions via the SLA Application (https://public.education.alberta.ca/assessment).

Performance Tasks: The literacy and numeracy performance tasks will be administered primarily via pencil-and-paper. The documents necessary for administering the literacy and numeracy performance tasks, as well as all other pertinent materials and resources, will be available on the SLA Teacher Dashboard (https://extranet.education.alberta.ca/assessment/).

Prior to administering the SLA3, it is essential that school administrators and teachers review the SLA User Guide to the Extranet and the SLA User Guide. These documents are available at http://education.alberta.ca/department/ipr/slas/resources-teachers-admins/ and include information regarding:

- instructions on how to set-up access to the Extranet and the SLA Teacher Dashboard
- pre-administration set-up of students and classes
- how to use the SLA Application
- technical requirements to administer the digital SLA components.

Administration Dates
The Pilot administration period for the SLA3 **digital interactive questions** is September 14 to October 9, 2015.
The Pilot administration period for the SLA3 **performance tasks** is September 14 to November 1, 2015.

Teacher Preview of SLA Digital Questions and Performance Tasks
Teachers will have preview access to all 2015 digital interactive questions and performance tasks beginning September 1, 2015, to assist in preparing for the Fall 2015 Pilot administration. Student access to the SLA digital interactive questions will only be available during the administration window indicated in the Schedules *& Significant Dates* section.

Home Education Students
School authorities that administer the optional Pilot SLA3 are expected to provide the opportunity for Grade 3 students enrolled in home education programs to participate in the assessment. Since home education programs are supervised by either public or private school authorities, it is the responsibility of the school authority to:

- ensure these students have access to the SLA3 (digital interactive questions and performance tasks)
- mark the performance tasks and share the results with parents.

To facilitate the administration of the SLA3 to home education students, the supervisor of home education students can create class groups in the SLA Teacher Dashboard specifically for these students.

Preparing Students for the SLA3

To prepare students for the SLA3, teachers should provide students with opportunities to engage with the SLA practice questions as well as the released questions from the 2014 SLA3 Pilot. The practice questions familiarize students with the digital interactivity of the SLAs. However, the practice questions are not examples of the content or complexity of the SLA3 questions. The released SLA3 questions, however, contain approximately 50% of the total number of previously administered SLA3 questions. The purpose of released questions is to familiarize teachers and students with examples of content, questions types, and digital interactivity on the SLA. Both practice questions and released questions can be accessed on the SLA Application at https://public.education.alberta.ca/assessment/.

Ensuring SLA Success

This section outlines how to ensure a successful administration of the SLAs.

- Prior to the administration of the SLA3, teachers and school administrators should access the documents found under https://education.alberta.ca/department/ipr/slas/.
  Documents found on this site include:
    - Grade 3: Literacy and Numeracy Information Bulletin
    - Ministry Application and Web Standards and SLA Technical Requirements
    - Quick Facts for:
        - Administrators
        - Teachers
        - Parents
    - SLA User Guide to the Extranet
    - SLA User Guide
    - Other supporting documents
- Teachers and school administrators should also review the SLA How to Videos found at https://education.alberta.ca/department/ipr/slas/support/.
  Videos found on this site include:
    - Promising Practices for SLA Administration
    - SLA Teacher Dashboard Administration
    - Alberta Education Account and SLA Access Request
    - Accessing and Interpreting SLA Reports
- School administrators, teachers, and school authority staff will work together to ensure that technical requirements are met and technical infrastructure is ready to administer the SLAs. Refer to the Ministry Application and Web Standards and SLA Technical Requirements available at https://education.alberta.ca/department/ipr/slas/resources-teachers-admins/.
- Principals need to ensure teachers have access to the Teacher Dashboard prior to the administration of SLAs. Instructions for this process are outlined in the SLA User Guide to the Extranet, available at https://education.alberta.ca/department/ipr/slas/resources-teachers-admins/.
- Teachers must read the SLA User Guide and the instructions pertaining to the use of the SLA Teacher Dashboard and the SLA Application. The SLA User Guide provides information to set up the SLA Application before students participate in the assessments. The SLA User Guide is available at https://education.alberta.ca/department/ipr/slas/resources-teachers-admins/.

- It is important for teachers to plan in advance when they will administer each component of the SLA3. Spreading the various SLA activities throughout the administration period will contribute to maintaining a balance between other classroom activities and will reduce student anxiety and fatigue. The digital interactive questions and performance tasks must be completed within the official administration timeframes outlined in the *Schedules & Significant Dates* section.
- By November 16, 2015, detailed digital individual student and class reports will be available for schools and teachers. Teachers and school administrators will be able to access individual student and class reports through the SLA Teacher Dashboard (https://extranet.education.alberta.ca/assessment/). New for 2015, a print function has been built into the SLA Teacher Dashboard to allow teachers and administrators to print individual student and class reports. Schools are expected to share students' SLA3 individual results with students' parent(s) or guardian(s).

Schedules & Significant Dates

Significant Dates: Fall 2015 Pilot Administration
The SLA3 **must** be administered according to the dates and times indicated in this schedule.

September 1, 2015	SLA Teacher Dashboard is made available to teachers to preview digital interactive questions and performance tasks, set up their class lists, print performance tasks materials, and prepare for administration
September 8, 2015	Deadline for school authorities to advise Alberta Education's Exam Administration Team of their participation in the Fall 2015 SLA3 Pilot
September 8, 2015	Deadline for authorities to request access to paper-only versions of the SLA for students who are not permitted to use or cannot access technology
September 10, 2015	Deadline for school principals to submit Grade 3 school enrollment data to the Provincial Approach to Student Information (PASI)
September 10, 2015	Deadline for principals to approve access for Grade 3 teachers on the Extranet[*] [*] Principals need to have an Extranet account setup prior to Grade 3 teachers requesting access via the Extranet (available at https://phoenix.edc.gov.ab.ca/)
September 14 – October 9, 2015	The **4-week** timeframe during which schools administer the SLA3 **digital interactive literacy and numeracy questions**
September 14 – November 1, 2015	The **7-week** timeframe during which schools administer the SLA3 **literacy and numeracy performance tasks**
November 16, 2015	• Teachers and school administrators can access individual student reports and class reports (digital and print) via the SLA Teacher Dashboard • Parents can access their child's individual results report (including a print copy) via their child's school

Security & Assessment Rules

Security of Materials

All materials for the SLAs must be kept secure for the entire duration of the specified administration period.

Submission of Student Responses and Results

During the administration of the digital interactive questions, the SLA Application directly marks students' responses and submits the results to Alberta Education.

The performance tasks are expected to be marked locally by teachers. However, neither student responses **nor results** are submitted to Alberta Education for the 2015 Pilot. Completed performance tasks and their results can be kept as part of a student's portfolio.

Student Learning Assessment Rules

The SLA rules listed below apply to the administration of **all** SLA components.

Assessment Pilot Administration Supervision

1. All SLAs must be administered according to the specified directions. This is the key responsibility of supervising teachers.

2. Supervising teachers may not provide assistance to students writing SLAs that would undermine the validity or reliability of student responses.

3. No changes or alterations of any kind may be made to students' responses.

4. Although suggested durations are provided for each SLA component, there is no set time limit to complete a component. Extra time is not an accommodation; it is a universal support in the SLAs.

5. Teachers must locally mark the performance tasks using the Performance Task Descriptors (rubric) and the Exemplars of Student Responses provided in the Teacher Dashboard.

Use of Dictionaries

One purpose of the literacy performance task is to determine what students can write **independently**. This will support the teacher in designing instruction to meet individual strengths and areas for growth. To ensure this purpose can be fulfilled, students **shall not use** published or personal dictionaries for the performance task.

Use of Calculators

In keeping with the intent and specific outcomes in the programs of study, students **shall not use** calculators at any time for the digital interactive numeracy questions or numeracy performance task.

Student Learning Assessment Pilot Administration Directives

Student Learning Assessment directives identify requirements and expectations related to the administration of this provincial assessment. These directives are issued by the Minister of Education under the authority of the *Student Evaluation Regulation, Alberta Regulation 177/2003* pursuant to the *School Act*. The directives in this section outline the steps that should be taken to prepare for, supervise, and complete the administration of all Student Learning Assessments.

The following directives outline general requirements and expectations related to who should write SLAs and under what conditions.

Who Participates in Student Learning Assessments

Similar to last fall, participation in the Grade 3 SLA Pilot is **optional at the school authority level**. School authorities are asked to advise Alberta Education's Exam Administration Team of their participation, via their Assessment Contacts, by September 8, 2015. Within participating school authorities, students registered in Grade 3 and ungraded students in their third year of schooling write the SLA3, subject to the following caveats and/or exceptions:

1. A superintendent may, on an individual basis, excuse a student from writing the Student Learning Assessments for the following reasons:
    a. the student is not capable of responding to the assessment
    b. participation would be harmful to the student.

    Upon advice from the teacher, the principal in consultation with the parent/guardian, shall recommend to the superintendent that a student be excused from writing Student Learning Assessments. Teachers will identify excused students to Alberta Education via the SLA Teacher Dashboard. Instructions regarding this process are provided in the SLA User Guide at http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/department/ipr/slas/resources-teachers-admins/.

2. If a parent withdraws a student from participating in writing the SLAs, the school shall indicate that the student is absent. Teachers will identify absent students to Alberta Education via the SLA Teacher Dashboard. Instructions regarding this process are provided in the SLA User Guide at http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/department/ipr/slas/resources-teachers-admins/.

3. Students in English as a Second Language programs and those in special education programs shall complete the Student Learning Assessments, unless excused by the superintendent under the conditions noted in point 1.

4. Students who are repeating Grade 3 shall write the SLA3 in their repeating year.

5. A private-school student shall complete the SLA3. In applying Point 1, the principal of the private school shall act as the superintendent.

6. A home-educated student at a level equivalent to Grade 3 must be given the opportunity to write the SLA3, according to the published schedules, and under the supervision of the associate board or associate private school, in accordance with the *Home Education Regulation, Alberta Regulation 145/2006*.

7. Students are expected to write all four SLA3 components in their language of instruction (English or French).

8. English language SLAs are not administered to French Immersion and Francophone students.

Who Supervises Student Learning Assessments

A teacher supervises the administration of SLAs. If a student is home-schooled, the parent can supervise the SLAs. However, performance tasks SLAs written by home-schooled students must be marked by the supervising teacher of the school authority.

Who Marks Student Learning Assessments

Digital Interactive Questions: Student responses to the digital questions are collected and marked by Alberta Education.

Performance Tasks: Performance tasks are marked locally by teachers and as such, schools and authorities can determine the marking process. Below are four possible scenarios:
Scenario 1: A teacher may mark his/her own students' responses.
Scenario 2: Teachers within the same school may collaboratively mark student responses.
Scenario 3: Teachers within a school authority may collaboratively mark student responses.
Scenario 4: Teachers from a number of neighbouring school authorities collaboratively mark student responses.

Student Enrollment for Participating in Student Learning Assessments

Prior to the administration of the Student Learning Assessments, school principals are required to ensure school enrollment data is accurately entered into PASI. If students are not entered into PASI, they will not be able to access the SLA Application.

Adherence to the Official Assessment Administration Schedules

School and school authorities are expected to administer Student Learning Assessments within the official administration timeframes (see the *Schedules & Significant Dates* section). Given the flexibility afforded by the administration windows, no requests for schedule changes will be granted. It is advisable to plan ahead and spread the various SLA activities throughout the administration period in order to maintain a balance between other classroom activities and reduce student fatigue.

Language of the Student Learning Assessments

The Student Learning Assessments are comprised of four components.

English Students	French Immersion Students	Francophone Students
Digital interactive literacy questions	Questions interactives de littératie en format numérique	Questions interactives de littératie en format numérique
Literacy performance task	Tâche de rendement en littératie	Tâche de rendement en littératie
Digital interactive numeracy questions	Questions interactives de numératie en format numérique	Questions interactives de numératie en format numérique
Numeracy performance task	Tâche de rendement en numératie	Tâche de rendement en numératie

The Literacy assessments are available in English, French (Immersion), and French (Francophone). The English, French Immersion and Francophone Literacy components differ from each other and reflect the expectations and programs of study of their respective programs. **Grade 3 students in French Immersion or Francophone programs do not participate in the English Literacy assessments.**

The Numeracy assessments are available in English and French. The French numeracy assessments for both French Immersion and Francophone students do not differ from each other and are translated from the English version.

Technical Requirements and Contingency Plan

Technical Requirements

Technical requirements for the administration of the Student Learning Assessments can be found in the *Ministry Application and Web Standards and SLA Technical Requirements* document at
https://education.alberta.ca/department/ipr/slas/resources-teachers-admins/.
Please note that Alberta Education no longer supports the Mozilla Firefox browser.

Contingency Plan

Principals, teachers, and technical staff are required to have a contingency plan in place for the administration of the Student Learning Assessments. The plan should solve any potential technical issues such as loss of connectivity, as well as other unforeseen circumstances that may impact SLA administration. The flexibility afforded by the SLA administration period should be taken into consideration when creating a contingency plan. Schools that encounter difficulties can defer administration to a different date within the official administration timeframes (see *Schedules and Significant Dates* section).

Client Services Help Desk

For technical assistance or questions regarding administration of the Student Learning Assessments, contact the Client Services Help Desk:

Telephone: 780-427-5318
Toll-free within Alberta 310-0000
Press option #9 for SLA support (September – November 2015)
Email: cshelpdesk@gov.ab.ca
Office hours:
Monday to Friday 8:15 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Assistive Supports for Students

Alberta Education is committed to supporting the learning needs of all Alberta students so that they may have fair and equitable access to educational opportunities, including participation in the Student Learning Assessments. To ensure accessibility, Student Learning Assessments have been designed to incorporate as many digital supports as possible.

Assistive Support Options
The following table outlines the assistive support test settings that administrators, teachers, and/or students can select for the writing of the Student Learning Assessments.

Setting	Options	Description and Notes
Language	English (default)	All literacy and numeracy questions are available in English.
	French (default)	All literacy and numeracy questions are available in French.
	Braille	Braille versions are not available for the 2015 Pilot.
Deaf or Hearing Impaired	Transcript for all listening activities is provided for 2015 pilot.	A transcript is available upon request at exam.admin@gov.ab.ca. Text may be communicated to the student in a manner suitable to the student's requirements.
Print Size	No zoom (default) The zoom option is controlled by the student.	The option to change the font size on each question is available.
Text-to-Speech	English and French **literacy** instructions: text-to-speech	The option for students to have audio is available for the instructions portion of the assessment, with the exception of some listening activities and videos.

	English and French **literacy** assessment parts and source material: no text-to-speech (default) or reader	The administrator of the assessment has the option to provide a reader for students who meet the Learning Support Guidelines (see below).
	English and French **numeracy** instructions, assessment parts, and source material: text-to-speech	The option for students to have audio is available for the instructions, sources, and the questions.

Assistive Support Guidelines

The following guidelines outline general requirements and expectations related to the use of assistive supports when administering the SLA3.

Literacy Assessment (Digital)

If a student's Individual Program Plan or Learning Plan indicates the need for the support of a reader, this support may be utilized for the SLA3 literacy assessments.

A student may be provided with a reader if the following conditions are met:
- The student's parents, teacher, and administrator have agreed that this support is necessary.
- The student has an IPP or Learning Plan explaining how the student's reading needs will be addressed.

If a reader is utilized, individual results should be interpreted in a way that reflects the use of this learning support.

Literacy Assessment (Performance Task)

If a student is unable to respond to the performance task in written form, the student's verbal response should be recorded and/or scribed. This response will then be marked by the teacher. A student may be provided with a scribe and/or reader if the following conditions are met:
- The student's teacher, parents/guardians, and school administrator have agreed that this is an appropriate support.
- The student has an IPP or Learning Plan explaining how the student's written communication needs will be addressed.

Requesting Paper Version of Student Learning Assessments

Schools or school authorities that have policy to not use technology or do not have access to technology to complete the SLAs may request a paper copy. School authorities are asked to submit their requests for a paper copy to Alberta Education's Exam Administration Team by September 8, 2015. The paper-only version enables all four components of the SLA3 to be administered in a paper format.

How to Request a Paper Version
1. Requests must be sent to exam.admin@gov.ab.ca.

2. Requests must be received by the deadline specified in the *Schedules and Significant Dates* section.

3. Requests must include:
   - the rationale for the request
   - the name(s) and four-digit school codes of the school(s) included in the request
   - for each school, the number of students writing the SLA paper version
   - a contact person and email address to allow Exam Administration staff to follow up on the request.

Paper Version Administration
Schools that are approved for the use of the paper version will be shipped all printed materials required to administer the SLA.

Paper Version Assessment

Student Question Booklets: Students will respond to questions directly in the booklet and the booklets must be shipped back to Alberta Education for marking and reporting. Return shipping instructions will be included in the SLA materials shipment.

Performance Tasks: As with the regular SLA administration, performance tasks are to be marked locally and reported to parents. Neither student responses nor results for the performance tasks are to be submitted to Alberta Education in 2015.

Marking SLA Performance Tasks

Local Marking of Performance Tasks
All performance tasks will be marked locally **within** the administration period for the performance tasks. Teachers will mark students' responses using the assessment materials provided through the Teacher Dashboard so that they are better able to apply the provincial standards. Assessment materials are comprised of performance task descriptors (rubrics), as well as samples of student writing that exemplify these descriptors.

Schools **do not** report the performance task results back to Alberta Education for the 2015 Pilot. Student results for the performance tasks are to be reported at the local level which should follow shortly after the administration of the SLA3. As such, schools and authorities can locally determine their own method for local reporting. Teachers are encouraged to share the results of the performance tasks with parents.

Reporting Student Learning Assessment Results

Results Reporting

The results from the Student Learning Assessments are intended to help improve student learning.

- Teachers can use these results to guide their teaching throughout the year and inform students and parents about progress and learning. In addition, teachers can use the results to select appropriate resources to meet the individual needs of each student.
- Principals can use the results to support teachers and instructional practices.
- Parents can use the results to inform their discussion with their child's teacher.

Since the performance task results will not be submitted to Alberta Education for the 2015 Pilot, SLA3 reports from Alberta Education will be based on results from the digital interactive literacy and numeracy questions. Feedback regarding the content and structure of the reports will continue to be collected during the 2015 Pilot. This information will be used to inform improvements to the reports.

The following digital reports will be available by November 16, 2015 via the SLA Teacher Dashboard for teachers and school administrators:

- Individual Student Reports
  (These reports will contain detailed information on responses to individual questions, including item difficulty and the literacy/numeracy components assessed by each questions.)
- Class Reports.

The above reports are also printable via the SLA Teacher Dashboard. Please note that the 24-hour preliminary results report that was available in the 2014 Pilot **will not** be available for the 2015 Pilot.

Parent/Guardian Access to Individual Student Reports

The SLA3 is a digitally-based provincial assessment tool that provides a beginning of the year "check in". This enables teachers to identify and parents to learn about student strengths and areas of growth at the start of the school year.

By November 16, 2015, detailed SLA3 results of the digital interactive questions (marked by Alberta Education) will be available to schools and teachers through the SLA Teacher Dashboard. Results will be in the form of interactive digital reports at the individual student and class levels. New for 2015, a print function has been built into the SLA Teacher Dashboard to allow teachers and administrators to print individual student reports. Results of the performance tasks (marked locally by teachers) will also be available, via schools, shortly after completion of the Pilot administration period.

For the 2015 Pilot, parents and guardians will be able to access their child's results via their child's school. Schools are expected to share students' SLA3 individual results with students' parent(s) or guardian(s). Interpretation of results is best accomplished through conversation between parent/guardian, student and teacher. As such, teachers and parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss students' SLA3 results together. Alberta Education will work with school authorities to help them address any challenges in providing parents or guardians with their children's results.

Public Access to Results

There will be no public reporting of school, school authority or provincial results during the Pilot of the Student Learning Assessments.

Home Education Reports

Home Education student results will be reported to teachers and school administrators in the same manner as their other students. To facilitate administration reporting of Home Education students it is recommended that these students are grouped together in a single class list at the authority level.

Paper Format SLA Student Reports

Schools that have students who complete the paper-only version of the SLAs will receive separate results reports.

Field Testing

Description of the Field Testing Program

In order to help ensure Student Learning Assessments are fair, valid, and reliable, Alberta Education administers field tests. Through field testing, questions are administered to determine their appropriateness for use on a Student Learning Assessment, based on both their curricular "fit" and on their statistical performance. In addition, teachers are able to provide comments about potential assessment questions, thereby contributing to the development of fair, valid, and reliable Student Learning Assessments.

Teachers are asked to consider the following points when providing feedback on specific questions and the overall assessment:

- appropriateness of the questions
- ease of use of the testing platform
- text readability
- artwork/graphics clarity and appropriateness
- question difficulty.

Please note that field tests are not available in special formats.

Embedded Field Test Questions

New this year, the SLA3 will include embedded digital interactive field test questions. This does not replace the need for additional field testing at other times in the year.

How to Participate in Additional Field Testing

For a class of students to be selected to have a field test administered at their school, their teacher must submit a field test request. More information regarding field testing opportunities will be communicated in Fall 2015.

To ensure the reliability and validity of the field tests, all field tests are administered to a number of students in classes that are selected to ensure a representative sample from across the province. Consequently, not all requests for field tests may be met.

Field Testing of Performance Tasks

Teachers who participate in performance task field testing will obtain printable student and teacher resources through the SLA Teacher Dashboard. Performance tasks are administered on paper in combination with a projector display under the supervision of the teacher.

While performance tasks are marked locally during the Student Learning Assessment administration, teachers will not be provided with marking guides for field testing and therefore, are not expected to mark field test performance tasks. However, teachers are required to send performance tasks to Alberta Education. For shipping instructions, refer to the performance task teacher guide found on the Teacher Dashboard.

Field Testing of Digital Interactive Questions

Field tests for digital interactive questions are administered on electronic devices under the supervision of the requesting teachers. Teachers will administer and monitor the digital field tests through the SLA Teacher Dashboard.

Student responses to SLA digital interactive field test questions will be automatically sent to Alberta Education once the assessment is completed. Following a digital field test, teachers can access student results through the Teacher Dashboard. However, detailed digital reports are not available for field tests.

Field Test Security and Administration Rules

For field test results to be valid and reliable, field tests must be administered under conditions that are similar to those that apply to the administration of Student Learning Assessments. Consequently, all of the directives and rules that are specified in this bulletin for the administration of Student Learning Assessments apply to the administration of field tests.

In addition to the directives and rules that are specified elsewhere in this bulletin, the following rules must be adhered to when field tests are administered in a school.

1. Teachers requesting the field tests are responsible for their administration. Student Learning Assessment field testing does not involve field test supervisors provided by Alberta Education.

2. Only teachers whose students are writing a particular field test may examine its contents.

3. No field test question or answer key may be copied, either by hand or electronically, for any purpose.

Field Test Administration Dates

SLA field tests will be administered in the fall of 2015 with Grade 3 students and in the spring of 2016 with Grade 2 students.

Revisions

Revision	Date
Participation in the Grade 3 SLA Pilot is optional at the school authority level	September 1, 2015

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The office is open during the lunch hour.