

New reporting system and how it affects your family

FAQs & Comments – November 21, 2016

FAQs

Below is a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and comments from the public forums November 1 and 8 at Beban Park Social Centre and Ladysmith Secondary. Also listed are additional questions the district has received through conversations/emails/etc.

Q What sort of documentation/communication will be brought home for parents to review?

The district has created a ‘Student Reporting’ section on its website where students/parents/community can access the most up-to-date information on student reporting. http://www.sd68.bc.ca/?page_id=8822

NLPS Interim Reporting Guidelines for Grades K - 9	
K-7	8-9
<i>Communication will occur a minimum of five times during a school year.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Ongoing Communications of Student Learning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minimum of three times throughout the school year. ○ One of the three can be the parent-teacher conference ○ The other two meet the criteria provided and the minimum requirements for curricular areas ▪ <i>Two Written Summative Reports:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ end of January / end of June ○ includes student self-reporting of Core Competencies ○ reporting no longer requires letter grades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Ongoing Communications of Student Learning</i> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Minimum of three times throughout the school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One of the three can be the parent-teacher conference ○ The other two meet the criteria provided and the minimum requirements for curricular areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Two Written Summative Reports:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ end of January / end of June ○ includes student self-reporting of Core Competencies ○ reporting no longer requires letter grades <p>AND / OR</p>

Q Will there be another piece of reporting that comes out to parents between now and the first reporting period?

During this time of exploration, educators will be working hard to ensure opportunities for ongoing communications is a priority.

Q How does a post secondary institution evaluate whether a student gets accepted or not?

Letter grades will still be used for all Grade 10–12 students.

Q Are Jupiter grades an American company?

Jupiter Grades (also known as Jupiter Ed) is based in the United States.

Q How will Grade 10–12 be affected by the new reporting order?

Currently, there are no changes to student reporting for Grade 10-12 students.

Q How will I know how my child is doing, if no letter grade is assigned?

You will receive a written progress report and end-of-year summative report on your child's progress in all areas. In addition, your child's teacher will be communicating with you throughout the school year around your child's progress. This information about your child will be more descriptive in nature.

Q How is this new curriculum going to support the family that cannot afford the technology at home?

The new curriculum and reporting is not technology dependent. Assessment and reporting around your child's learning will be communicated in the way that best suits your family.

Q When do we/I/students learn to make their self-assessment? How is it done?

This learning starts immediately. All students from K-12 are now required to self-assess/report around the core competencies. Expectations are age appropriate and teacher supported.

Q Ongoing Communication of Student Learning – what will this look like?

- **Is a communication from a teacher to a parent/caregiver about a child's learning**
- **Adheres to the four NLPS criteria for communicating student learning**
- **Meets the minimum requirements for each curricular area**
- **Is responsive throughout the year, at any stage of the learning process**

Q What is the criteria for communicating student learning.

Communication must:

- 1. Explicitly reference the Learning Standards of the BC Curriculum**
- 2. Include authentic evidence of learning; student created evidence (ex. Student work samples, photographs of work samples, audio etc.)**
- 3. Provide descriptive feedback**
- 4. Include student voice where your child reflects on his/her learning**

Q How can we ensure that what is shared with students (re: assignments) also gets home?

For the next year or two, we are exploring options around electronic portfolios. We want to look into our options, so that we choose the very best program. During this time, both paper and electronic portfolios may be utilized.

Q How do teachers get trained for going into this curriculum shift and assessment change? More time is needed to do assessment.

Teachers are currently using assessments in their classrooms; the 'shift' is simply making these assessments more visible to parents/caregivers and students.

All teachers have teaching degrees that prepare them for teaching, assessment and reporting. In addition, learning opportunities are available to them on an ongoing basis throughout their careers.

Q How will teachers be sure their students (of all ages) understand the feedback they've been given?

Like all other learning opportunities, feedback will be given in an age appropriate manner.

Q I am concerned that students are not being tested or given tests in Grades K to 9 for reporting purposes. How are students going to be able to write tests/exams in Grade 10 to 12 if they've not been subjected to that before?

Students will continue to be given tests; one difference might be that they will now be given descriptive feedback on those tests.

Q Why can't we encompass letter grades with the new assessment?

Letter grades do not support growth and NLPS is trying to acknowledge a growth mindset. Descriptive feedback provides greater learning than the traditional letter grade.

Q Many parents can't connect for parent teacher interviews because of the time of day they are normally held. Can the district work with our local union on an agreement to allow for evening meetings with teachers? i.e. 6 to 8 p.m.?

Teachers are able to hold meetings at any time of the day they deem necessary.

Q When can I expect a report card?

**K – 7 Written Progress & Summative Report: February 10 and June 29, 2017
8 - 9 Please see your school for reporting schedule
10-12 No changes in reporting**

In an effort to increase Ongoing Communications with parents and caregivers, teachers will be communicating your child's learning throughout the school year. There are minimum requirements for these communications.

Q Are there any changes for students with special needs?

The Ministerial Order for students with special needs has not changed.

Q Does every school in a school district have to follow the same option for reporting?

K-7 follow the same procedures for reporting. Grades 8 and 9 will vary from school to school for this year. At the secondary level (Gr. 8/9), there are different complexities that may not allow for changes to happen at the same rate or description as at elementary. However, both elementary and secondary (Gr. 8/9) are moving toward the same goals.

Q The new reporting out system seems like a lot more work.

Teachers have always and will continue to assess and report on student learning. This new shift will enable students to self-assess and reflect. These are necessary lifelong skills.

Q Will the teacher communicate with the student or the parent?

Both.

Q In my child's school there is one teacher out of five who is using FreshGrade, so it's great but if not all teachers are doing this, how is that going to work?

Ongoing communication will eventually increase over time. At the secondary level it's more difficult. We will be moving towards this communication tool. This year will be a controlled, supportive, time of exploration. The district is allowing staff to choose for now, but in a year or two, we will mandate one system. We are working with teachers to have official contact (authentic, learning standard/intention/curriculum that the child is being educated). There is descriptive feedback.

Q Does this mean more meetings with parents?

Not necessarily. We are moving towards electronic communication as much as possible, however, there will still opportunities to meet with your child's teacher.

Q Does every school in a school district have to follow the same option for reporting?

K – 7 follow the same procedures for reporting. Grades 8 and 9 will vary from school to school during this transitional period. However, both Elementary and Secondary (Gr. 8/9) are moving toward the same long-term reporting goals.

Q What do you do when the teacher is not doing the new reporting out process?

As we transition, educators will be supported around the new reporting expectations. As a parent, if you have a concern, address it with the teacher directly. Your school principal can always be a support in this process.

Q Can parents request a letter grade?

Parents are able to request, in writing, letter grades for grade 4 - 9. Letter grades will only be provided at the end of a school year.

As we transition, some schools will be providing letters grades for students in grades 8 & 9.

Q Is there an expected competency?

All levels of expected competency will remain high. Your child is still required to meet age/grade level expectations in all subject areas. This has not changed. Although letter grades will not be given, you will know more about how your child is learning.

Comments

- 1) Thank you very much for the information session last night at Beban. The information was helpful what the Ministry of Education is trying to achieve and would like to see how SD#68 is going to cater for our students' needs. I really like the comment by a lady at the end of the session that we need to have a communication place, time and schedule among students, teachers and parents especially at high school levels. Since we made high school students' number so great, we still have to schedule how to organize all those students and teachers to meet the communication needs to get a better education environment.

Not only focusing on academics, the students definitely need to receive a holistic approach to education throughout their high school age. We would like to see healthy and happy children enjoying their high school life and a focus on developing the curriculum to cater that needs. I would like to see how SD#68 is going to make the unique program.

- 2) Thank you, really informational.
- 3) Everything you have said and all the things that you have shown are good. Being an educator is a tough job and we do admire you all for that.
- 4) We should be encouraging parents to be open about receiving feedback. Should feel empowered to be open and ask questions if they want more information.
- 5) Descriptive feedback is so much more valuable.