

# Report Card Grade Description Changes – Communication for Families

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Report cards are intended to communicate a summary of student progress and achievement up to a specific point in time to parents. In order to help achieve this goal, the province has changed report card descriptors to give parents a clearer indication of how their child is doing.

The new descriptors, shown below, have been changed to reflect depth of understanding and the application of concepts and skills.

Reporting Code	(OLD) Former Reporting Descriptors for Grades 1-8
A	The student <b>demonstrates achievement</b> of the expected learning outcomes addressed during the current reporting period.
B	The student demonstrates achievement of <b>most</b> of the expected learning outcomes addressed during the current reporting period.
C	The student demonstrates achievement of <b>some</b> of the expected learning outcomes addressed during the current reporting period.
D	The student demonstrates achievement of <b>few</b> of the expected learning outcomes addressed during the current reporting period.

Reporting Code	(NEW) Reporting Descriptors for Grades 1-8 effective September 1, 2013
A	The student demonstrates achievement with <b>thorough</b> understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the expected learning outcomes.
B	The student demonstrates achievement with <b>good</b> understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the expected learning outcomes.
C	The student demonstrates achievement with <b>basic</b> understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the expected learning outcomes.
D	The student demonstrates achievement with <b>limited</b> understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the expected learning outcomes. The student has not met expectations.
N/A	Not applicable at this time.
INS	Insufficient evidence to report on achievement of the expected learning outcomes.

### 1. How might these new grade descriptions impact my child's report card grade?

To begin, grades this year **cannot** be compared with grades from previous years. Although they look the same (A-D), they now have different meanings. Teachers have new criteria for determining letter grades. Students are now graded on **how well** they understand and apply the skills/concepts of the learning

outcomes that have been taught (see current descriptors above). In the **past, grades were based on the number** of learning outcomes met (see previous descriptors above).

For example, previously an “A” meant the student had met all or almost all of the outcomes taught. Now meeting all or almost all of the outcomes could be represented by an “A” or a “B” depending on **how well** the student understands and applies the skills/concepts in relation to the learning outcomes taught.

## 2. What do the new codes (N/A, INS) mean?

**N/A** (Not Applicable at this time) is now an option for Mathematics and Intensive French subjects (Grade 6) in a reporting term if a concept has not been taught or practiced long enough to accurately report on it. For example, in mathematics a teacher may not address learning outcomes in all five strands in one term. Strands that have not been addressed would receive N/A in the grade box for that strand on the report card.

**INS** (Insufficient Evidence) would be used for an individual student when there is not enough evidence to accurately determine an overall grade. Some examples of situations that may warrant the use of this code are as follows:

- The student may have been absent for part of the reporting term.
- The student may have been present but unable to participate in opportunities to demonstrate learning.
- The student may not have provided the required evidence to show his/her learning.

## 3. What should I look for in my child’s report card comment?

The report card comment should provide you a summary of your child’s learning in the specific subject area (math, language arts, science, etc.). The report card comment is not meant to describe everything your child has done, but rather provide the highlights of your child’s learning in the form of **strengths** (what he/she is doing well), **needs** (what he/she is finding challenging) and a **suggestion** (how your child’s learning can be supported or extended).

## 4. What about my child’s behaviour and work habits?

Behaviour, work habits and social skills have a big impact on student learning. These are reported in the Learner Profile on the front page of the Report Card, separate from your child’s achievement in each subject.

## 5. What should I do if I do not understand how my child is doing after reading his/her report card?

The purpose of your child’s report card is to communicate to you how your child is doing in relation to the learning outcomes and if they are demonstrating work habits and behaviours that support their learning. Please contact your child’s teacher if you need any clarification, have questions or concerns.