

PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

Background

The Division believes that the Provincial Achievement Test program should be utilized in the best interest of the students and the school.

Procedures

1. To encourage improvement of instruction and evaluation of student learning, the Division encourages the use of achievement tests in the overall assessment of students.
2. To encourage consistency in evaluation, teachers should use the scoring criteria established by Alberta Education for marking writing components of the achievement test.
3. To assist teachers in the effective use of and in evaluating achievement tests, the Division will provide in-service to teachers.
4. To establish the concept of fairness in final evaluation, teachers, with their school administrators, must at the beginning of the year, set clear guidelines if achievement tests are to be used in the students' final marks. These guidelines will be communicated in writing to inform parents and students.
5. Accommodations for testing, or exemptions from testing, may be utilized as outlined in Alberta Education Achievement Test Administration Guidelines to further ensure fairness for students with different learning abilities. Principals needs to apply in writing to the Director, Learning Support Services, by November 01 for January test administration and by March 30 for June test administration, listing all students the accommodations and/or exemptions they require.
6. To formulate school improvement plans, schools should utilize the provincial achievement test results.
7. To complete the process of achievement test writing, schools will communicate the school results to students, parents, board, and school councils as well as school improvement plans where appropriate.

References

Use and Reporting of Results on Provincial Assessment Policy 2.1.3
December, 2003
Updates: July, 2008; July, 2010