

Provincial Report Card Review Committee

Public Survey Results Overview

In response to concerns heard from parents and educators about the provincial report card, a public survey was developed to provide parents, students, teachers and administrators with an opportunity to communicate specific concerns and to provide suggestions for improvements. The survey was available on the Department's website between March 19 and April 11, 2014.

The survey included questionnaires for Parents, Students, Teachers, and Administrators. Survey respondents were asked to indicate the grade or grades relevant to them and were asked questions appropriate to the grade indicated.

The survey asked questions about the different sections of the report card: the Learner Profile section, Grades and Descriptors, Comments from Teachers as well as the Grade Primary report card. Questions asked respondents to indicate the degree to which they agreed with specific statements and asked for comments on each section of the report card. This overview provides a high level summary of the key findings.

Respondent Profile

In total 5,811 completed or partially completed surveys were received. Of those:

- 2,637 respondents identified as parents (45%)
- 2,374 respondents identified as teachers (41%)
- 544 respondents identified as students in grades 6-12 (9%)
- 256 respondents identified as administrators (4%)

Key Findings

Overall, parents want teacher comments that communicate the student's strengths/challenges, and how parents can support learning at home. Parent respondents suggested that teacher comments should be more personal or individualized, clearly explain how students can improve, and how parents can help at home.

- 58% of parent respondents felt that teacher comments did not help them understand where their child may be struggling.
- 63% of parent respondents felt that the comments did not help them further understand report card grades and descriptors.
- 62% of parent respondents felt that the comments did not help them support their child's learning at home.
- 61% of teacher respondents felt that the comments did not help students to understand how well they are doing
- About 40% of student respondents felt the comments did not help them understand how well they are doing or where they are struggling.

The Learner Profile is viewed positively by the majority of respondents. Respondent comments underlined the importance of clear teacher comments to accompany the Learner Profile that explain the student's performance.

- The majority of parent respondents felt that the Learner Profile helps them understand their child's strengths in the development of work habits and social skills, and is equally important to them as the academic grade.
- 68% of parent respondents (grades P–6) and 57% of parent respondents (grades 7–12) felt that they are able to use the information from the Learner Profile to support their child at home.
- About half of teachers felt the Learner Profile is effective for communicating student's development of social skills and work habits and is easy for parents to understand.

In grades 1 to 8, parent respondents are seeking more clarity on report card grades and what they mean. Parent respondents commented that the grade descriptors, introduced in September 2013, can be difficult to understand and teacher respondents commented that they need more information to be able to explain them to parents. Student respondents felt more positively about the usefulness of the grades and descriptors.

- About 50% of parent respondents felt that grades and descriptors helped in communicating a student's progress at school but did not provide the information they need to support their child at home.
- About 60% of teachers reported that grades and descriptors did not help in communicating a student's progress at school.
- 68% of student respondents (grades 6 to 8) felt that the grades and descriptors help them understand how well they are doing in school.

Overall, in grades 9 to 12, survey respondents were positive about percentage grades. However, responses from students suggest that, on their own report card grades do not provide enough information to help them improve their learning. Survey comments from parent respondents suggested that they would like more clarity on the grading descriptors.

- About 80% of parent and student respondents felt that percentage grades helped them understand how well the student is doing in school.
- 74% of parent respondents felt they are able to use the information from the grades and descriptors to support their child's learning at home.
- 52% of student respondents said that the grades and descriptors help them understand what they need to do to improve their learning.