

Provincial Assessment

Student Learning Assessments

Similar to the first year of the Grade 3 Student Learning Assessment (SLA) pilot, the vast majority of school authorities participated in the second year of the pilot in Fall 2015. Alberta Education thanks school authorities and teachers for continuing to work with Alberta Education to help make the Grade 3 SLA a better assessment for supporting student learning.

Alberta Education is currently reviewing the second pilot year. We are looking at what worked better this year and at the opportunities for improvement. We know that there is still work to do. Information on next steps for the Grade 3 SLA will be shared soon.

In the meantime, Alberta Education has confirmed that Grades 6 and 9 students will be writing the Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) in the 2016/2017 school year. The PAT [administration schedule](#) for the 2016/2017 school year for Grades 6 and 9 PATs was recently updated in the PAT [Information Bulletin](#).

If you have questions, please contact Nicole Lamarre, Director of Student Learning Assessments and Provincial Achievement Testing, at nicole.lamarre@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-427-6204. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta.

Provincial Diploma Exam Writing Centres

For each diploma exam administration, Alberta Education operates two provincial diploma exam writing centres — one in Calgary (SAIT, Symposium Room in the Campus Centre Building) and one in Edmonton (University of Alberta, Dentistry/Pharmacy Building). The provincial diploma exam writing centres were established to provide students who are not enrolled in a local high school with access to writing diploma exams.

Students who may write diploma exams at the provincial diploma exam writing centres are:

- mature students who are not enrolled in a local high school; or
- distance education students who are not enrolled in a local high school.

Examples of mature students who are not enrolled in a local high school include:

- adults who are challenging diploma exams; and/or
- Grade 12 students who are rewriting diploma exams in August and are no longer enrolled at a local high school.

Students who are enrolled in a distance education course and are also enrolled at a local high school are expected to write diploma exams at their local high school.

For August administrations of diploma exams, high schools that operate summer-school programs are also expected to administer diploma exams at their local high school.

For further information, please contact Dan Karas, Director, Exam Administration Branch, at dan.karas@gov.ab.ca or at 780-492-1425.

Resources

New Adobe Creative Cloud Programs for Student and Teacher Home Use

The Technology Leadership Branch is pleased to announce the availability of the Adobe Creative Cloud Student Licensing program. This program provides all students in school authorities participating in the Provincial Adobe License with the opportunity to purchase a yearly subscription to the Adobe Creative Cloud Desktop Application for \$45 CAD. At this time, the website is live and students can access the program to purchase a subscription by visiting <https://ae-students.onthehub.com> and following the steps.

Teachers and staff of school authorities participating in the Provincial Adobe License also have the opportunity to purchase yearly subscriptions to the Adobe Creative Cloud for \$10 CAD. They can access the program at <https://education-alberta.onthehub.com>

Should you have any questions, please contact Emily Daubert with Technology Leadership Branch at Emily.Daubert@gov.ab.ca.

Career planning for students: *Imagine Your Life* and *This is Your Life*

Career planning is a life-long process that begins early in life. For students in Grade 4 to 12, [*Imagine Your Life*](#) and [*This is Your Life*](#), resources authorized by Alberta Education for use in the classroom, can help them explore their interests and the exciting careers available to them.

Imagine Your Life is all about discovery and exploration. For elementary students, this publication can help them take their first steps to learn about themselves, explore their interests and find out how they might want to apply those in the future. There is also a version of the publication for teachers and parents.

Once students are in high school, *This is Your Life* can show them the principles of career and education planning. A number of authorized Government of Alberta resources are included in this publication that can help high school students work through the career and education-planning process.

This is Your Life will help high school students answer questions such as: What am I going to do after high school? How do I decide what I want to do? What kind of training or education should I take after high school? What if I start a program and then change my mind partway through? How do I figure out what to do next? This publication will help your students get started. An accompanying educator's guide is also available to download or order.

Download or order *Imagine Your Life* or *This is Your Life* from the [Alberta Learning Information Service website](https://www.albertalearninginfo.ca).

Professionals without Parachutes: Supporting Students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

Understanding medical and disability implications of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is essential in getting to know students with FASD, planning effective instruction and providing the right level of classroom support.

The Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium and the Learning Network, in partnership with Dr. Jacqueline Pei and her colleagues, Stephanie Hayes and Alethea Heudes, are pleased to provide Professionals Without Parachutes, a guide to support educators working with students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

This resource provides an explanation of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, its effect on the brain and the impact it can have on student learning, social/emotional behaviour and the classroom environment. Strategies for designing classroom instruction and routines to support students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder are also highlighted. Videos and accompanying learning guides, designed for use by professional learning communities, learning coaches and teacher leaders or as a self-paced study, include:

- Module One: Prenatal Alcohol Exposure and the Developing Brain
- Module Two: Brain Structure Versus Brain Function
- Module Three: The Brain and Emotional Regulation

The link to the resources is: <http://www.engagingalllearners.ca/il/supporting-students-with-fasd/>

For further information, please contact Dena Davis, Senior Manager, School and Community Supports for Children and Youth Branch, at Dena.davis@gov.ab.ca or at 780-422-6547. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta.