



Grade 3 Student Learning Assessment (SLA) – 2016–2017 Pilot Quick Facts for Parents/Guardians

What are SLAs?

SLAs are digitally based provincial assessment tools that provide a beginning of the year “check in”. This enables parents and teachers to learn about and identify student strengths and areas of growth at the start of the school year. The Grade 3 SLA is based on outcomes related to literacy and numeracy in language arts and mathematics in Alberta’s current Grade 2 provincial curriculum. Some questions include contexts from arts education, health, science and social studies.

What are the purposes of the SLAs?

The three purposes of the SLAs are to:

- improve student learning (primary purpose);
- enhance instruction for students;
- assure Albertans our education system is meeting the needs of students and achieves the outcomes of the *Ministerial Order on Student Learning*.

Provincial assessment programs, including SLAs, are meant to complement, not replace, day-to-day teacher observations and classroom assessment.

Why the change to SLAs from PATs?

Knowing early in the school year, rather than at the end, what students know and are able to do and areas for growth will serve as a useful reference and enable collaboration between parents and teachers to help students learn and grow during the year. Also, the SLAs are flexible and can be completed over a number of days rather than on a specific day and time. This gives teachers greater flexibility and students the opportunity to take the assessment “when ready”.

The SLAs are digitally based and allow students to show their learning in ways that are not possible with paper-based tests. As such, the SLAs are a more inclusive assessment tool.

What is the structure of the Grade 3 SLA?

This literacy and numeracy assessment consists of digital interactive questions (marked by Alberta Education) and performance tasks (marked locally):

- digital interactive literacy questions;
- a literacy performance task;
- digital interactive numeracy questions;
- a numeracy performance task.

Who is participating in the Pilot?

Alberta Education selected 20 school authorities by random sample to invite them to participate in the 2016–2017 SLA Pilot. A list of invited school authorities is available online at <https://education.alberta.ca/media/3272616/list-of-school-authorities-invited-to-participate.pdf>.

Why are we Piloting the Grade 3 SLA?

The purpose of the Grade 3 SLA pilot is to improve, in a deliberate and thoughtful manner, the SLA tool as well as the related administration processes and supports for everyone involved. The Grade 3 SLA is set

to enter its third pilot year in 2016. The goal of the pilot is to ensure the SLA is a valuable and effective assessment tool for teachers, parents, and students to inform future provincial assessments.

Will my child need to study for the Grade 3 SLA?

Your child does not need to study to do this assessment. However, students should be familiar with using a computer or similar technology.

Are there any practice questions my child can do before the Grade 3 SLA Pilot?

Yes. Students can try out the practice questions and released questions from last year that are located at <https://public.education.alberta.ca/assessment/>.

What are the important dates for the 2016–2017 Grade 3 SLA Pilot?

The Grade 3 SLA is available to teachers to administer starting September 1, 2016. Parents and guardians can access their child's results, including a parent-friendly report via their child's teacher. Schools are expected to share students' Grade 3 SLA results with students' parent(s) or guardian(s).

Teachers and parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss students' Grade 3 SLA results together, as professional teachers are in the best position to interpret the results.

Want to know more?

More information and resources for the Grade 3 SLA are available on the:

- [Alberta School Councils' Association](http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/) website at <http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/>;
- [Alberta Education](http://education.alberta.ca) website at <http://education.alberta.ca>.

The personal information collected in the Student Learning Assessment Pilot is collected pursuant to section 33(c) of the **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act** (RSA 2000, C. F-25). This information will be used for the purpose of administering the Student Learning Assessment Pilot as well as support programs and policy evaluation and measurement.

Questions regarding the program and the collection, use and disclosure of information may be directed to Nicole Lamarre, Director, Student Learning Assessments, Student Learning Standards, Alberta Education, 6th Floor, 10044 -108 Street, 44 Capital Boulevard, Edmonton, AB T5J 5E6, by email at Nicole.Lamarre@gov.ab.ca or by telephone at 780-427-6204. (Dial 310-0000 to be connected toll-free from outside the Edmonton area.)