

General Information Bulletin Alberta Provincial Student Learning Assessment

2016–2017
School Year

Pilot



SLA
Student Learning Assessment

Alberta  Government

This document was written primarily for

Students	
Teachers	✓
Administrators	✓
Parents	
General Audience	
Others	

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The General Information Bulletin presents directives of the Minister of Education, under the authority of the Alberta Regulation 177/2003, Student Evaluation Regulation, pursuant to the *School Act*.

In this bulletin,

- a. “Executive Director” means the Executive Director, Provincial Assessment Sector, Alberta Education,
- b. “Student” means a student as defined in the *School Act*, and
- c. “Director” means the Director, Examination Administration, Provincial Assessment Sector, Alberta Education.

This bulletin is a compilation of several documents produced by Alberta Education and is intended to provide Student Learning Assessment information to the education community.

The intent is to provide easy access for superintendents, principals, and teachers requiring information about the administration of the Student Learning Assessments.

Contents

Introduction to the Student Learning Assessment Program	1
Purpose of the Bulletin	1
General Information about Student Learning Assessment (SLA)	1
Purpose Statements for Assessment	1
Participation in the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA Pilot.....	2
Structure of the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA Pilot.....	2
2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot Administration	2
Administration Dates	3
Teacher Preview of SLA Digital Questions and Performance Tasks	3
Home Education Students	3
Preparing Students for the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot	4
Ensuring SLA Success	4
Schedules & Significant Dates	6
Significant Dates: 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA Pilot Administration	6
Security & Assessment Rules	7
Security of Materials.....	7
Submission of Student Responses and Results	7
Student Learning Assessment Rules	7
Assessment Pilot Administration Supervision	7
Use of Dictionaries.....	7
Use of Calculators.....	8
Student Learning Assessment Pilot Administration Directives.....	8
Who Participates in Student Learning Assessments.....	8
Who Supervises Student Learning Assessments	9
Who Marks Student Learning Assessments	9
Student Enrollment for Participating in Student Learning Assessments.....	9
Re-administering Student Learning Assessments.....	9
Language of the Student Learning Assessments	10
Retention of Student SLA Results	10
Parent/Guardian Notification	10
Technical Requirements and Contingency Plan	11
Technical Requirements	11
Contingency Plan	11
Client Services Help Desk.....	11
Assistive Supports for Students	12
Assistive Support Options.....	12

Assistive Support Guidelines.....	13
Literacy Assessment (Digital).....	13
Literacy Assessment (Performance Task).....	13
Requesting Paper Version of Student Learning Assessments	13
How to Request a Paper Version	13
Paper Version Administration	13
Paper Version Assessment	14
Marking SLA Performance Tasks	14
Local Marking of Performance Tasks.....	14
Reporting Student Learning Assessment Results	14
Results Reporting.....	14
Individual Student Reports and Class Reports – Digital Questions	15
Superintendent Reports	15
Parent/Guardian Access to Individual Student Reports	15
Home Education Reports.....	15
Paper Format SLA Student Reports	16
Field Testing	17
Description of the Field Testing Program	17
Embedded Field Test Questions	17
How to Participate in Additional Field Testing	17
Field Testing Plan for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017	17
Field Testing of Performance Tasks	17
Field Testing of Digital Questions	18
Field Test Security and Administration Rules	18
Field Test Administration Dates.....	18
Revisions	23
Contacts	24

Introduction to the Student Learning Assessment Program

Purpose of the Bulletin

This bulletin outlines the key features of the Student Learning Assessment Program and lists the specific directives issued under the authority of the *Ministerial Order on Student Learning (#001/2013)*. The information provided is intended primarily to assist school authorities, administrators, and classroom teachers in implementing the Student Learning Assessment Program in their authorities and schools.

General Information about Student Learning Assessment (SLA)

The SLA is based on outcomes related to literacy and numeracy in language arts and mathematics in Alberta's current Grade 2 provincial programs of study. Some questions include contexts from arts education, health, science and social studies. This aligns with the goals of the *Ministerial Order for Student Learning* at <https://education.alberta.ca/policies-and-standards/student-learning/>.

The SLAs are specifically designed to fulfill the purposes of assessment described in the section below.

Every effort is made to ensure that the SLAs respect diversity.

Purpose Statements for Assessment

Assessment is a process, and the primary purpose of assessment is to improve student learning. To facilitate this, assessment information can be used by:

- a student to be informed about, to reflect upon, and to initiate activities to enhance his or her learning;
- parents to have meaningful conversations with their child and their child's teacher(s); and
- a teacher to assist in meeting the learning needs of a student.

Assessment information is also available to enhance instruction for students. To facilitate this, assessment information can be used by:

- a teacher to be informed about, to reflect upon, and to initiate activities to enhance his or her instruction;
- a principal to strategically support instructional practices and address the organizational needs within the school;
- a school council to give advice about the learning opportunities, resources, and services provided by the school;
- a superintendent to allocate resources appropriately and promote effective instructional practices;
- trustees to create or amend authority policies and to guide their advocacy work; and
- Alberta Education to be informed about the implementation and delivery of curriculum.

Assessment information also assures Albertans our education system is meeting the needs of students and achieves the outcomes of the Ministerial Order on Student learning.

While the SLA is helpful in providing assurance at the local level, it will not be used in the Accountability Pillar. In 2016-2017, Alberta Education will, in collaboration with stakeholders, determine the best approach to providing assurance at the provincial level.

Provincial assessments are meant to complement, not replace, day-to-day teacher observations and classroom assessment. They are sources of information that must be interpreted, used, and communicated within the context of regular and continuous assessment by classroom teachers.

Participation in the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA Pilot

A more focused approach to the SLA pilot will occur this year. Participation in the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot is limited to a sample of 20 school authorities who chose to opt in.

The stratified random sample includes metro, urban and rural school authorities, as well as Francophone, First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives. All school authorities participating in the sample will use all four digital question and performance task components. School authorities participating in the sample will work with Alberta Education to ascertain the value of the SLA and help inform its evolution.

Structure of the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA Pilot

The four components of the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot in English and in French are:

- digital literacy questions
- literacy performance task
- digital numeracy questions
- numeracy performance task.

The SLA will continue to reference the current Grade 2 provincial programs of study until the implementation of new programs of study.

For detailed information on the format of Student Learning Assessments, please refer to the ***Grade 3: Literacy and Numeracy Information Bulletin*** at

<https://education.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments/resources/everyone/sla-quick-factsinfoupdatesguidessamples/> (English)

<https://education.alberta.ca/%C3%A9valuations-de-l-apprentissage-des-%C3%A9l%C3%A8ves/ressources/> (French).

2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot Administration

The SLA Application is located at <https://public.education.alberta.ca/assessment/> and provides access to the:

- SLA Teacher Dashboard
- SLA Student Login
- Practice Questions
- Released Questions
- SLA results/reports.

Digital Questions: The digital literacy and numeracy questions will be administered directly through the SLA Application. Teachers will use the SLA Teacher Dashboard (<https://extranet.education.alberta.ca/assessment/>) to administer the digital questions. Students will have access to the questions via the SLA Application (<https://public.education.alberta.ca/assessment/>).

Performance Tasks: The literacy and numeracy performance tasks will be administered primarily via pencil-and-paper. The documents necessary for administering the literacy and numeracy performance tasks, as well as all other pertinent materials and resources, will be available on the SLA Teacher Dashboard (<https://extranet.education.alberta.ca/assessment/>).

Prior to administering the 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLA, it is essential that school administrators and teachers review the SLA Access User Guide and the SLA User Guide (both for teachers and school administrators). These documents are available at <https://education.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments/resources/everyone/sla-quick-factsinfoupdatesguidessamples/> and include information regarding:

- instructions on how to set-up access to the Extranet and the SLA Teacher Dashboard
- pre-administration set-up of class lists and registration of assessments
- how to use the SLA Application.

Administration Dates

The 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLA will be available for administration starting September 1, 2016 and can be administered until the end of the school year. Participating school authorities are encouraged to use the SLA as soon as possible to maximize the value of this beginning-of-the-year assessment.

The 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLA will be available to participating teachers to re-administer at their discretion throughout the school year to further support learning and instruction.

Teacher Preview of SLA Digital Questions and Performance Tasks

Teachers within the sample of 20 school authorities that are participating in the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot will have preview access to the SLAs from August 15 to 31, 2016.

Home Education Students

School authorities that are administering the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot as part of the sample of 20 school authorities are expected to provide the opportunity for Grade 3 students enrolled in home education programs to participate in the assessment. Since home education programs are supervised by either public or private school authorities, it is the responsibility of the school authority to:

- ensure these students have access to the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot (digital questions and performance tasks)
- mark the performance tasks and share the results with parents.

To facilitate the administration of the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot to home education students, the supervisor of home education students can create class groups in the SLA Teacher Dashboard specifically for these students.

Preparing Students for the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot

To prepare students for the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot, teachers participating in the pilot should provide students with opportunities to engage with the SLA practice questions as well as the released digital questions and performance tasks from the 2014 and 2015 SLA pilots. The practice questions familiarize students with the interactivity of the digital SLA questions. However, the practice questions are not examples of the content or complexity of the SLA questions. The released SLA digital questions, however, contain approximately 50% of the total number of previously administered SLA questions. The purpose of released questions is to familiarize teachers and students with examples of content, questions types and digital interactivity of the SLA. Practice questions, released digital questions, and released performance tasks can be accessed on the SLA Application at <https://public.education.alberta.ca/assessment/>.

Ensuring SLA Success

This section outlines how to ensure a successful administration of the SLAs.

- Prior to the administration of the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot, teachers and school administrators should access the documents found under <https://education.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments/resources/everyone/sla-quick-factsinfoupdatesguidessamples/>.

Documents found on this site include:

- SLA General Information Bulletin (this document)
 - Grade 3: Literacy and Numeracy Information Bulletin
 - SLA Technical Requirements
 - Quick Facts for:
 - Teachers
 - Trustees
 - SLA Access User Guide (for teachers and school administrators)
 - SLA User Guide (for teachers and school administrators)
 - SLA User Guide for Reports (for school administrators and superintendents)
 - Sample Digital Reports.
 - Other supporting documents
- Teachers and school administrators should also review the SLA Quick Tip Videos found at <https://education.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments/resources/everyone/sla-quick-tip-videos/>.
- Videos found on this site include:
- How to Access the Teacher Dashboard
 - How to Use the Teacher Dashboard
 - How to Use Some Promising Practices.
- School administrators, teachers, and school authority staff will work together to ensure that technical requirements are met and technical infrastructure is ready to administer the SLAs. The SLA Technical Requirements are available at <https://education.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments/resources/everyone/sla-quick-factsinfoupdatesguidessamples/>.
 - Principals need to ensure teachers have access to the Teacher Dashboard prior to the administration of SLAs. Instructions for this process are outlined in the SLA Access User Guide,

available at <https://education.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments/resources/everyone/sla-quick-factsinfoupdatesguidessamples/>.

- Teachers must read the SLA User Guide and the instructions pertaining to the use of the SLA Teacher Dashboard and the SLA Student Login. The SLA User Guide provides information to set up the SLA Application before students participate in the assessments. The SLA User Guide is available at <https://education.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments/resources/everyone/sla-quick-factsinfoupdatesguidessamples/>.
- It is important for teachers to plan in advance when they will administer each component of the SLA. Spreading out SLA activities will contribute to maintaining a balance between other classroom activities and will promote an optimal experience. The digital questions and performance tasks can be administered and, if desired, re-administered throughout the school year.
- Using the SLA Teacher Dashboard, teachers will be able to access reports on student results within 24 hours after indicating their class has completed the digital questions. Student responses to embedded field test questions will not be included in the reports.
- Parents of participating schools can access a parent-friendly report for their child's results on the digital questions through their child's teacher. Teachers are expected to share the students' individual SLA results with students' parent(s) or guardian(s).

Schedules & Significant Dates

Significant Dates: 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA Pilot Administration

Pre-requisite Activities:

- Principals must approve access, through the Extranet, for Grade 3 teachers to use the SLA Teacher Dashboard.
- Grade 3 student enrollment data must be submitted to the Provincial Approach to Student Information (PASI) system prior to setting up the SLA Teacher Dashboard.

August 15 – 31, 2016	Teachers within school authorities that are participating in the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot will have preview access to the SLA assessment
August 15, 2016	SLA Teacher Dashboard is available for teachers to set up their class lists, print performance task materials, and prepare for administration
August 15, 2016	School authorities can begin to request access to paper-only versions of the SLAs for students who are not permitted to use or cannot access technology
September 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017	Teachers may administer and/or re-administer SLA components
Fall 2016	Field testing opportunities for Fall 2016 will be communicated to school authority Assessment Contacts
Prior to the administration of SLAs	School staff notify parents that their child will be participating in SLAs (see Parent Notification section)
24 hours after the administration or re-administration of digital questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers and school administrators can access Individual Student Reports and Class Reports (digital and print) via the SLA Teacher Dashboard • Superintendents can access their reports via the SLA Teacher Dashboard • Parents can access their child’s Individual Student Report (including a parent-friendly print copy) via their child’s teacher

Security & Assessment Rules

Security of Materials

All materials for the 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLA must be kept secure. Digital questions may not be copied or reproduced.

Submission of Student Responses and Results

During the administration of the digital questions, the SLA Application directly marks students' responses and submits the results to Alberta Education. Via the SLA Teacher Dashboard, Alberta Education will provide digital reports (with a print option) on students' results within 24 hours of a class completing the digital questions.

The performance tasks are expected to be marked locally by teachers and the results shared locally. However, neither student responses **nor results** are submitted to Alberta Education for the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot.

Student Learning Assessment Rules

The SLA rules listed below apply to the administration of **all** SLA components.

Assessment Pilot Administration Supervision

1. All SLAs must be administered according to the specified directions. This is the key responsibility of supervising teachers.
2. Supervising teachers may not provide assistance to students writing SLAs that would undermine the validity or reliability of student responses.
3. No changes or alterations of any kind may be made to students' responses.
4. Although suggested durations are provided for each SLA component, there is no set time limit to complete a component. Extra time is not an accommodation; it is a universal support in the SLAs.
5. Teachers must locally mark the performance tasks using the Performance Task Descriptors (rubric) and the Exemplars of Student Responses provided in the Teacher Dashboard.

Use of Dictionaries

One purpose of the literacy performance task is to determine what students can write **independently**. This will support the teacher in designing instruction to meet individual strengths and areas for growth. Students who write the English Literacy performance task **may not use** published or personal dictionaries for the performance task. However, students writing the French Literacy performance task are permitted to use published or personal dictionaries. This is in accordance with the outcomes in the French programs of study.

Use of Calculators

In keeping with the intent and specific outcomes in the programs of study, students **may not use** calculators at any time for the digital numeracy questions or numeracy performance task.

Use of Manipulatives

Manipulatives, including paper and pencil, may be used when solving problems. In keeping with the intent of the specific outcomes in the programs of study, students shall not use manipulatives or paper and pencil for the number facts.

Student Learning Assessment Pilot Administration Directives

Student Learning Assessment directives identify requirements and expectations related to the administration of this provincial assessment. These directives are issued by the Minister of Education under the authority of the *Student Evaluation Regulation, Alberta Regulation 177/2003* pursuant to the *School Act*. The directives in this section outline the steps that should be taken to prepare for, supervise, and complete the administration of all Student Learning Assessments.

The following directives outline general requirements and expectations related to who should write SLAs and under what conditions.

Who Participates in Student Learning Assessments

Participation in the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot is limited to the sample of 20 school authorities who were selected to participate. Within this sample, students registered in Grade 3 and ungraded students in their third year of schooling write the 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLAs, subject to the following caveats and/or exceptions:

1. The principal may, on an individual basis, excuse a student from writing the 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLAs for the following reasons:
 - a. the student is not capable of responding to the assessment
 - b. participation would be harmful to the student.

The teacher, in consultation with the parent/guardian, shall recommend to the principal that a student be excused from writing Student Learning Assessments.

2. If a parent withdraws a student from participating in writing the SLAs, the teacher shall indicate that the student is absent. Teachers will identify absent students to Alberta Education via the SLA Teacher Dashboard using the status “not participating”.
3. Students in English as a Second Language programs and those in special education programs shall complete the 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLAs, unless excused by the principal under the conditions noted in point 1.
4. Students who are repeating Grade 3 shall write the SLAs in their repeating year.
5. A private-school student who is enrolled in a school that is part of the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot sample will complete the SLAs.

6. A home-educated student at a level equivalent to Grade 3 who is enrolled in a school authority that is part of the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot sample must be given the opportunity to write the SLAs.
7. Students are expected to write all four SLA components in their language of instruction (English or French).
8. Although not mandatory in participating Francophone or French Immersion schools, English language SLAs can be administered to French Immersion and Francophone students following the administration of the French SLA assessments.

Who Supervises Student Learning Assessments

A teacher supervises the administration of SLAs. If a student is home-schooled, the parent can supervise the SLAs. However, performance tasks SLAs written by home-schooled students must be marked by the supervising teacher of the participating school authority.

Who Marks Student Learning Assessments

Digital Questions: Student responses to the digital questions are collected and marked by Alberta Education.

Performance Tasks: Performance tasks are marked locally by teachers and participating schools and authorities can determine the marking process. Below are four possible scenarios:

Scenario 1: A teacher may mark his/her own students' responses.

Scenario 2: Teachers within the same school may collaboratively mark student responses.

Scenario 3: Teachers within a school authority may collaboratively mark student responses.

Scenario 4: Teachers from a number of neighbouring participating school authorities collaboratively mark student responses.

Student Enrollment for Participating in Student Learning Assessments

Prior to the administration of the 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLAs, school principals are required to ensure school enrollment data is accurately entered into PASI. If students are not entered into PASI, teachers will not be able to generate SLA class lists and students will not be able to access the SLA Application.

Re-administering Student Learning Assessments

The 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLA will be available to participating teachers to re-administer at their discretion throughout the school year. Teachers may choose to re-administer select components of the pilot SLA to individual students or entire classes.

Language of the Student Learning Assessments

The Student Learning Assessments are comprised of four components.

English Students	French Immersion Students	Francophone Students
Digital literacy questions	Questions de litt�ratie en format num�rique	Questions de litt�ratie en format num�rique
Literacy performance task	T�che de rendement en litt�ratie	T�che de rendement en litt�ratie
Digital numeracy questions	Questions de num�ratie en format num�rique	Questions de num�ratie en format num�rique
Numeracy performance task	T�che de rendement en num�ratie	T�che de rendement en num�ratie

The Literacy assessments are available in English, French (Immersion), and French (Francophone). The English, French Immersion and Francophone Literacy components differ from each other and reflect the expectations and programs of study of their respective programs. **Grade 3 students in French Immersion or Francophone programs may participate in the English Literacy assessments after the French language SLAs are completed.**

The Numeracy assessments are available in English and French. The French numeracy assessments for both French Immersion and Francophone students do not differ from each other and are translated from the English version.

Retention of Student SLA Results

To support conversations with parents regarding results from the 2016-2017 pilot SLA, SLA results can be kept as part of a student’s portfolio. Schools are expected to retain SLA results **for at least one year**. SLA results documents include:

- Individual Student Reports from the digital questions
- Completed Literacy performance task and the student results
- Completed Numeracy performance task and the student results.

Parent/Guardian Notification

During the administration of Student Learning Assessments, Alberta Education collects personal information, including student legal name, Alberta Student Number (ASN), and student responses. The personal information is collected pursuant to section 33(c) of the ***Freedom of Information and Privacy Act*** (RSA 2000, C. F-25). At the beginning of the school year, **school staff are required to notify parents/guardians that their child will be writing Student Learning Assessments**. A *Quick Facts for Parents/Guardians* document is included on pages 19 and 20 (English) and 21 and 22 (French) for school staff to share with parents/guardians. It is also posted at:

- English – <https://education.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments/resources/>
- French – <https://education.alberta.ca/ valuations-de-l-apprentissage-des- l ves/ressources/>

School authorities should direct questions from staff or parents regarding Alberta Education’s collection to Nicole Lamarre, Director, Student Learning Assessments, Provincial Assessment Sector, Alberta Education, 6th Floor, 44 Capital Boulevard, 10044 -108 Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 5E6, or at nicole.lamarre@gov.ab.ca or by telephone at 780-427-6204. (Dial 310-0000 to be connected toll-free.)

Technical Requirements and Contingency Plan

Technical Requirements

Technical requirements for the administration of the 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLAs can be found in the SLA Technical Requirements document at <https://education.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments/resources/everyone/sla-quick-factsinfoupdatesguidessamples/>.

Contingency Plan

Principals, teachers, and technical staff are required to have a contingency plan in place for the administration of the 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLAs. The plan should solve any potential technical issues such as loss of connectivity, as well as other unforeseen circumstances that may impact SLA administration. The flexibility afforded by the SLA administration period should be taken into consideration when creating a contingency plan.

Client Services Help Desk

For technical assistance or questions regarding administration of the 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLAs, contact the Client Services Help Desk:

Telephone: 780-427-5318

Toll-free within Alberta 310-0000

Press option #9 for SLA support (throughout the school year)

Email: cshelpdesk@gov.ab.ca

Office hours:

Monday to Friday 8:15 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Assistive Supports for Students

Alberta Education is committed to supporting the learning needs of students so that they may have fair and equitable access to educational opportunities, including participation in the SLA. To ensure accessibility, the SLA is designed to incorporate as many digital supports as possible.

Assistive Support Options

The following table outlines the assistive supports that administrators, teachers, and/or students can select for the administration of the SLA.

Setting	Options	Description and Notes
Deaf or Hearing Impaired	Transcript for all listening activities is provided for the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot.	A transcript is available upon request at exam.admin@gov.ab.ca . Text may be communicated to the student in a manner suitable to the student's requirements.
Print Size	The zoom option is controlled by the student.	The option to change the font size on each question is available.
Text-to-Speech	English and French literacy instructions: text-to-speech	The option for students to have audio is available for the instructions portion of the assessment, with the exception of some listening activities and videos.
	English and French literacy assessment parts and source material: no text-to-speech	The administrator of the assessment has the option to provide a reader for students who meet the Assistive Support Guidelines (see below).
	English and French numeracy instructions, assessment parts, and source material: text-to-speech	The option for students to have audio is available for the instructions, sources, and the questions.

Braille versions are not available for the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot.

Assistive Support Guidelines

The following guidelines outline general requirements and expectations related to the use of assistive supports when administering the SLA.

Literacy Assessment (Digital)

If a student's Individual Program Plan or Learning Plan indicates the need for the support of a reader, this support may be utilized for the SLA literacy assessments.

A student may be provided with a reader if the following conditions are met:

- The student's parents, teacher, and administrator have agreed that this support is necessary.
- The student has an IPP or Learning Plan explaining how the student's reading needs will be addressed.

If a reader is utilized, individual results should be interpreted in a way that reflects the use of this learning support.

Literacy Assessment (Performance Task)

If a student is unable to respond to the performance task in written form, the student's verbal response should be recorded and/or scribed. This response will then be marked by the teacher. A student may be provided with a scribe and/or reader if the following conditions are met:

- The student's teacher, parents/guardians, and school administrator have agreed that this is an appropriate support.
- The student has an IPP or Learning Plan explaining how the student's written communication needs will be addressed.

Requesting Paper Version of Student Learning Assessments

Schools or school authorities that are participating in the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot and have policy to not use technology or do not have access to technology to complete the SLAs may request a paper copy. The paper-only version enables all four components of the pilot SLA to be administered in a paper format.

How to Request a Paper Version

1. Requests are emailed to exam.admin@gov.ab.ca.
2. Requests must include:
 - the rationale for the request
 - the name(s) and four-digit school codes of the school(s) included in the request
 - for each school, the number of students writing the SLA paper version
 - a contact person and email address to allow Exam Administration staff to follow up on the request.

Paper Version Administration

Schools that are approved for the use of the paper version will be shipped all printed materials required to administer or re-administer the SLAs.

Paper Version Assessment

Student Question Booklets: Students will respond to questions directly in the booklet and the booklets must be shipped back to Alberta Education for marking and reporting. Return shipping instructions will be included in the SLA materials shipment. Within 5 days of receipt by Alberta Education of the completed paper format question booklets, student results will be available (see the Paper Format SLA Student Reports section below).

Performance Tasks: As with the regular SLA administration, performance tasks are to be marked locally and reported to parents. Neither student responses nor results for the performance tasks are submitted to Alberta Education.

Marking SLA Performance Tasks

Local Marking of Performance Tasks

All performance tasks will be marked locally. Teachers will mark students' responses using the assessment materials provided through the SLA Teacher Dashboard. Assessment materials are comprised of performance task descriptors (rubrics), as well as samples of student writing that exemplify these descriptors.

Participating schools **do not** report the performance task results back to Alberta Education. Student results for the performance tasks are to be reported at the local level which should follow shortly after the administration of the pilot SLAs. As such, schools and authorities can locally determine their own method for local reporting. Teachers are encouraged to share the results of the performance tasks with parents.

Reporting Student Learning Assessment Results

Results Reporting

The results from the 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLAs are intended to help improve student learning.

- Teachers can use these results to guide their teaching throughout the year and inform students and parents about progress and learning. In addition, teachers can use the results to select appropriate resources to meet the individual needs of each student.
- Superintendents and principals can use the results to support teachers and instructional practices.
- Parents can use the results to inform discussion with their child's teacher.

Since the performance task results are not submitted to Alberta Education, SLA reports from Alberta Education will be based on results from the digital literacy and numeracy questions. Feedback regarding the content and structure of the reports will continue to be collected during the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot. This information will be used to inform improvements to the reports.

Individual Student Reports and Class Reports – Digital Questions

The following digital reports will be available within 24 hours of a class completing the digital questions via the SLA Teacher Dashboard for teachers and school administrators:

- **Individual Student Reports – Digital Questions**
These reports will contain detailed information on responses to individual questions, including item level and the literacy/numeracy components assessed by each question. Teachers may also access a parent-friendly report that can be printed and distributed to parents. Sample Student Summary and Parent-Friendly Reports can be accessed by clicking this link: <https://education.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments/resources/everyone/sla-quick-factsinfoupdatesguidessamples/>.
- **Class Reports – Digital Questions**
A sample Class Report can be accessed by clicking this link: <https://education.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments/resources/everyone/sla-quick-factsinfoupdatesguidessamples/>.

Both the Individual Student Reports and the Class Reports are printable via the SLA Teacher Dashboard. If the pilot SLAs are re-administered to individual students, updated reports will be available via the SLA Teacher Dashboard.

Superintendent Reports

Within 24 hours of the administration of the 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLA, superintendents of participating school authorities will be able to access reports showing the distribution of students across performance levels:

- within their school authority;
- for any school within their school authority.

Parent/Guardian Access to Individual Student Reports

Parents/guardians may access a parent-friendly report through their child's teacher. Results of the performance tasks (marked locally by teachers) will also be available through their child's school.

For the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot, parents and guardians will be able to access their child's results via their child's school. Through the SLA Teacher Dashboard, a parent-friendly report can be accessed and printed. Schools are expected to share students' individual results with students' parent(s) or guardian(s). Interpretation of results is best accomplished through conversation between parent/guardian, student and teacher. As such, teachers and parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss students' SLA results together. Alberta Education will work with school authorities to help them address any challenges in providing parents or guardians with their children's results.

Home Education Reports

Home Education student results will be reported to teachers, school administrators, and superintendents in the same manner as their other students.

Paper Format SLA Student Reports

Schools that have students who complete the paper-only version of the SLAs will receive results reports through the SLA Teacher Dashboard. If schools have limited access to technology and are unable to access the SLA Teacher Dashboard, they may contact exam.admin@gov.ab.ca and paper-format reports will be mailed.

Field Testing

Description of the Field Testing Program

In order to help ensure SLAs are fair, valid, and reliable, Alberta Education administers field tests. Through field testing, questions are administered to determine their appropriateness for use on a SLA, based on both their curricular “fit” and on their statistical performance. In addition, teachers are able to provide comments about potential assessment questions, thereby contributing to the development of fair, valid, and reliable SLAs.

Teachers are asked to consider the following points when providing feedback on specific questions and the overall assessment:

- appropriateness of the questions
- ease of use of the testing platform
- text readability
- artwork/graphics clarity and appropriateness
- question difficulty.

Please note that field tests are not available in special formats.

Embedded Field Test Questions

The 2016-2017 Grade 3 pilot SLA will include embedded digital field test questions. This does not replace the need for additional field testing at other times in the year.

How to Participate in Additional Field Testing

For a class of students to be selected to have a field test administered at their school, their teacher must submit a field test request. Field test requests are submitted to Alberta Education through the [Field Test Request Application](#). For assistance with requesting field tests, email field.test@gov.ab.ca.

To ensure the reliability and validity of the field tests, all field tests are administered to a number of students in classes that are selected to ensure a representative sample from across the province. Consequently, not all requests for field tests may be met. If a field test request is not able to be filled, Alberta Education will record this event and make every effort to provide a field testing opportunity in subsequent sessions.

Field Testing Plan for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017

Field testing opportunities for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 will be communicated to school authority Assessment Contacts. Schools that are not part of the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot sample may participate in all 2016-2017 field testing opportunities.

Field Testing of Performance Tasks

Teachers who are selected to participate in performance task field testing will be provided with access to printable student resources and digital teacher resources. Performance tasks are administered on paper in combination with a projector display under the supervision of the teacher.

While performance tasks are marked locally during the SLA administration, teachers will not be provided with marking guides for field testing and therefore, are not expected to mark field test performance tasks. However, teachers are required to send performance tasks to Alberta Education. Detailed shipping instructions will be provided to teachers who are selected to participate in performance task field tests.

Student responses from performance tasks field tests will be used as part of an exemplar selection process with teachers for future SLA administrations.

Field Testing of Digital Questions

Field tests for digital questions are administered on electronic devices under the supervision of the requesting teachers. Teachers will administer and monitor the digital field tests through the SLA Teacher Dashboard.

Student responses to SLA digital field test questions will be automatically sent to Alberta Education once the assessment is completed.

Field Test Security and Administration Rules

For field test results to be valid and reliable, field tests must be administered under conditions that are similar to those that apply to the administration of SLAs. Consequently, all of the directives and rules that are specified in this bulletin for the administration of SLAs apply to the administration of field tests.

In addition to the directives and rules that are specified elsewhere in this bulletin, the following rules must be adhered to when field tests are administered in a school.

1. Teachers requesting the field tests are responsible for their administration. SLA field testing does not involve field test supervisors provided by Alberta Education.
2. Only teachers whose students are participating in a particular field test may examine its contents.
3. No field test question or answer key may be copied, either by hand or electronically, for any purpose.

Field Test Administration Dates

SLA field tests will be administered in the **fall of 2016 with Grade 3 students** and in the **spring of 2017 with Grade 2 students**. Information regarding field testing opportunities will be communicated to school authority Assessment Contacts. Schools who are not part of the 2016-2017 Grade 3 SLA pilot sample may participate in all 2016-2017 field testing opportunities.



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 by classroom teachers):

- 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 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' 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 website at <http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca>;
- Alberta Education website at <http://education.alberta.ca/sla>.

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 program 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, Provincial Assessment Sector, Alberta Education, 6th Floor, 44 Capital Boulevard, 10044 -108 Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 5E6 or at nicole.lamarre@gov.ab.ca or by telephone at 780-427-6204. (Dial 310-0000 to be connected toll-free.)

Évaluation de l'apprentissage des élèves (EAE) de la 3^e année

Administration pilote 2016-2017

Points saillants à l'intention des parents ou des tuteurs

Qu'est-ce que les EAE?

Les EAE sont des outils d'évaluation provinciale en format numérique qui constituent une vérification de début d'année. Ceci permet aux parents et aux enseignants de connaître les points forts et les points à améliorer de chaque élève dès le début de l'année scolaire. L' EAE de la 3^e année s'appuie sur les résultats d'apprentissage reliés à la littératie et à la numératie qui se trouvent dans les programmes d'études provinciaux de 2^e année actuels en English Language Arts, en français (immersion et francophone) et en mathématiques. Certaines questions comportent des contextes provenant d'éducation artistique, de santé, de sciences et d'études sociales

Quels sont les objectifs des EAE?

Les EAE ont trois objectifs :

- améliorer l'apprentissage chez les élèves (objectif principal);
- améliorer l'enseignement offert aux élèves;
- assurer les Albertains que le système éducatif répond aux besoins des élèves et atteint les objectifs indiqués dans l'*Arrêté ministériel sur les résultats d'apprentissage des élèves*.

Les programmes d'évaluation provinciaux, dont les EAE, ne visent pas à remplacer, mais plutôt à compléter les observations et l'évaluation que font les enseignants chaque jour en salle de classe.

Pourquoi remplacer les tests de rendement par les EAE?

Connaitre au début de l'année scolaire, plutôt qu'à la fin, ce que les élèves savent et sont capables de faire ainsi que les points à améliorer, servira de référence utile qui rendra possible la collaboration entre les parents et les enseignants pour aider les élèves à apprendre et à progresser durant l'année. De plus, les EAE offrent de la souplesse d'utilisation et les élèves peuvent les passer sur plusieurs jours plutôt qu'à une date et une heure précises. Les enseignants ont donc plus de souplesse et les élèves ont la possibilité de passer l'évaluation « lorsqu'ils sont prêts ».

Le format numérique des EAE permet aux élèves de démontrer leur apprentissage de façons que ne permettent pas les tests en format imprimé comme les tests de rendement provinciaux. De ce fait, les EAE sont des outils d'évaluation plus inclusifs.

Quelle est la structure de l'EAE de la 3^e année?

Cette évaluation en littératie et en numératie comprend des questions numériques interactives (notées par Alberta Education) et des tâches de rendement (notées à l'échelle locale par les enseignants) :

- des questions interactives de littératie en format numérique
- une tâche de rendement en littératie
- des questions interactives de numératie en format numérique
- une tâche de rendement en numératie

Qui participe à l'administration pilote?

Alberta Education a sélectionné un échantillon aléatoire de 20 autorités scolaires pour les inviter à participer à l'administration pilote des évaluations de l'apprentissage des élèves en 2016-2017. Une liste des autorités scolaires invitées se trouve à <https://education.alberta.ca/media/3272616/list-of-school-authorities-invited-to-participate.pdf>.



Pourquoi y a-t-il une administration pilote de l'EAE de la 3^e année?

Le but de l'administration pilote de l'EAE de la 3^e année est d'améliorer, de façon délibérée et réfléchie, cet outil d'évaluation ainsi que les processus d'administration et d'appui pour toutes les personnes concernées. L'EAE de la 3^e année s'apprête à entamer sa troisième année pilote en 2016. L'administration pilote a pour but d'assurer que l'EAE constitue un outil d'évaluation utile et efficace pour les enseignants, les parents et les élèves afin de guider les futures évaluations provinciales.

Mon enfant doit-il étudier en vue de l'EAE de la 3^e année?

Votre enfant n'a pas besoin d'étudier en vue de cette évaluation. Toutefois, les élèves doivent être en mesure d'utiliser un ordinateur ou une technologie similaire.

Existe-t-il des modèles de questions avec lesquels mon enfant peut s'exercer avant l'administration pilote de l'EAE de la 3^e année?

Oui. Les élèves peuvent s'exercer avec des modèles de questions et des questions de l'année dernière rendues publiques, qui se trouvent à <https://public.education.alberta.ca/assessment/>.

Quelles sont les dates importantes concernant l'administration pilote de l'EAE de la 3^e année en 2016-2017?

L'EAE de la 3^e année sera à la disposition des enseignants à partir du 1^{er} septembre 2016 pour qu'ils le fassent passer à leurs élèves. Les parents et les tuteurs auront accès aux résultats de leur enfant, comprenant un rapport facile à interpréter, par l'entremise de l'enseignant. Les écoles sont censées communiquer au(x) parent(s) ou au(x) tuteur(s) les résultats obtenus par les élèves à l'EAE de la 3^e année.

On encourage les enseignants et les parents ou tuteurs à discuter ensemble des résultats des élèves, étant donné que les enseignants sont les mieux placés pour interpréter ces résultats.

Comment obtenir plus d'information?

Vous trouverez de l'information détaillée et des ressources concernant l'EAE de la 3^e année aux liens suivants :

- site Web de l'[Alberta School Councils' Association](#);
- site Web d'[Alberta Education](#).

Les renseignements personnels recueillis dans le cadre de l'administration pilote de l'évaluation de l'apprentissage des élèves le sont conformément à l'alinéa 33(c) de la ***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (RSA 2000, C. F-25)***. Ces renseignements serviront à administrer la version pilote de l'évaluation de l'apprentissage des élèves et à appuyer l'évaluation et la mesure des programmes et des politiques.

Si vous avez des questions concernant le programme ainsi que la collecte, l'utilisation et la communication des renseignements personnels, vous pouvez les adresser à Nicole Lamarre, Director, Student Learning Assessments, Provincial Assessment Sector, Alberta Education, 6th Floor, 10044-108 Street, 44 Capital Boulevard, Edmonton, AB T5J 5E6, à nicole.lamarre@gov.ab.ca ou appeler le 780-427-6204 (sans frais en Alberta en composant le 310-0000).

Revisions

Revision	Date

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Press option #9 for SLA support (throughout the school year)
Email: cshelpdesk@gov.ab.ca
Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
The office is open during the lunch hour.