



Grade 3 Student Learning Assessment (SLA) Quick Facts for Superintendents

What are SLAs?

SLAs are a digitally based provincial assessment that provides a beginning of the year “check in”. This enables parents/guardians and teachers to learn about and identify student strengths and areas for 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 programs of study. Some sets of questions are created using topics that may be familiar to students from other subject areas such as arts education, health, science, and social studies.

What are the purposes of the SLAs?

The purposes of the SLAs are to:

- improve student learning (primary purpose);
- enhance instruction for students.

While the SLA is helpful for teachers to use as a tool, it will not be used in the Accountability Pillar.

The SLA is meant to complement, not replace, day-to-day teacher observations and classroom assessment. It is a source of information that must be interpreted, used, and communicated within the context of regular and continuous assessment by classroom teachers.

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

Who participates in the SLAs?

The SLA is available to teachers as a tool to use at their discretion for grade 3 students at the beginning of the year, and for grade 2 students at the end of the year.

Will students in my school authority need to study for the Grade 3 SLA?

Students do not need to study to do this assessment. However, students should be familiar with using a computer or similar technology. Technology is central to the Grade 3 SLA. The digital interactive questions require a computer, laptop, or tablet, and an Internet connection.

What are the important dates for the 2018–2019 Grade 3 SLA?

August, 2018	The SLA Teacher Dashboard is available for teachers to preview the assessments, set up their class lists, print performance task materials, and to administer the SLA.
August, 2018	Teachers who require a paper copy of the SLA for students who are not permitted to use or cannot access technology must request these through the school administration.
August, 2018 – June 28, 2019	Teachers may administer and/or re-administer SLA components.
2018–2019 school year	Field testing opportunities will be communicated to school authority Assessment Contacts at the local level.
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 reports via the SLA Teacher Dashboard. Parents/guardians can access their child’s Individual Student Report (including a parent/guardian-friendly print copy) via their child’s school.

What resources are available for students, teachers, and administrators to prepare?

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

Teachers and administrators have a number of resources available to them on the Alberta Education website at <https://education.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments/resources/>.

Teachers also have a number of professional learning supports available, including training sessions offered by the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortium (ARPDC). Information on these is available here: <https://education.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments/supports-for-educators/>.

Who excuses students from participating in the SLA?

Teachers can identify excused students to Alberta Education via the SLA Teacher Dashboard using the status “not participating”

When will students’ results be available?

Alberta Education will provide reports on student results within 24 hours of a class completing the digital questions. Superintendents will also be able to access reports showing the distribution of students across performance levels within 24 hours of a class completing the digital questions.

Parents/guardians of students who participate will have access to a parent/guardian-friendly report, through teachers, for the digital questions marked by the province.

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.

Within 24 hours of the administration of the Grade 3 SLA, superintendents 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.



Whom should I contact if I have questions about the Grade 3 SLA?

For English-language SLAs, you may contact Nicole Lamarre, Director of Student Learning Assessments and Provincial Achievement Testing, Alberta Education, at Nicole.Lamarre@gov.ab.ca or by telephone at 780-427-6204.

For French-language SLAs, you may contact Gilbert Guimont, French Assessment Director, at Gilbert.Guimont@gov.ab.ca or by telephone at 780-422-3535.

Call 310-0000 for toll-free access within Alberta.

Want to know more?

More information and resources for the Grade 3 SLA are available on the Alberta Education website at <http://education.alberta.ca/sla>.