

Information for Parents and Guardians

2008-2009

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

Reading and/or Writing – January 15-22, 2009 (returned on or before January 23rd)

In today's highly complex and competitive world, students should be given every opportunity to learn. These opportunities start with being able to read, write, understand, and communicate information.

To help students acquire all-important language skills, New Brunswick places considerable emphasis on literacy. As we implement the curriculum, we must also assess how well students are progressing, and determine strategies towards improvement. Therefore, assessment occurs at several grade levels. One of the assessments is the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) for students in Grade 9. Both components (reading and writing) of this annual assessment will take place during the period of January 15-22, 2009.

Parents and guardians may have questions about the assessment beyond what is answered in this information bulletin. Detailed assessment information has been made available to all high school administrators and teachers. For further clarification, please contact us or your child's school. Together, we want to support and encourage your child towards a successful achievement.

What will the Assessment be like?

The assessment will comprise two parts, reading comprehension and written expression, **both written during the period of January 15-22, 2009**. The assessment must be returned on or before **January 23, 2009**.

Part One – Reading Comprehension Students will read several passages of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, and information text. They will then respond to selected-response items. The questions will be varied to demonstrate the students' ability to form a general understanding of the passages, as well as to retrieve information and develop an interpretation, allowing for reflection on the content and form of the text. Students will also demonstrate skills for editing and revising. (Time: 90 minutes)

Part Two – Writing Students will complete writing tasks independently in response to specific instructions.

- Writing I (Editing) – Students will complete selected-response questions demonstrating revision and editing skills. (Time: 45 minutes)
- Writing II – Students will present a piece of creative/imaginative writing on a topic of their choice or from suggested topics/pictures. (Time: 60 minutes)
- Writing III – Students will write a response to a given situation. (Time: 60 minutes)

For educational purposes only, it is possible that your child's composition (which would remain anonymous) could be selected for publication in a booklet of student writing samples for electronic distribution and/or distribution to schools.
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When will the assessment take place?

Both components (reading and writing) of the assessment will take place during the period of January 15-22, 2009.

What standard of performance must be achieved for successful completion of this assessment?

Successful completion of the assessment will be achieved by the student who performs at the ‘Appropriate’ level or better on both components.

What will be the impact of this provincial assessment on my child's academic record?

In order to graduate with a New Brunswick diploma, a student (with the exception of those officially exempted for valid reasons) must demonstrate the ability to read and write at an ‘Appropriate’ standard of achievement as determined by the English Language Proficiency Assessment. Unsuccessful students will have opportunities for reassessment in Grades 10, 11, and 12. Depending upon the component(s) already passed, such students may rewrite one or both component(s) of the assessment. Schools, in co-operation with parents/guardians and the district office, are responsible for providing additional instructional strategies to students who must rewrite the assessment.

When will the results be made available?

Students will receive individual performance reports through their school following the scoring sessions.

How should I help my child prepare for this assessment?

Students will be preparing at school. It is suggested you take the time to become familiar with the provincially prescribed language arts curriculum. You and other family members can also help and support children at home as learning partners. Encourage them to share samples of their writing with you, keep interesting reading material around, and together, read and discuss material.

There are a number of worthwhile activities. While watching TV together, discuss the characters and story, and ask your child to predict what might happen; create different occasions for your child to write; encourage use of the library, and encourage reading as an alternative to television. All activities related to literacy will help develop reading comprehension, will enhance writing and communications skills, and will foster lifelong learning.

How will the assessment be marked?

Student answers to selected-response questions will be machine scored. In cooperation with Department of Education learning specialists, professional educators will share in scoring sessions for written work.

How will this assessment benefit my child?

It should confirm for most parents that the son or daughter is reading and writing at a level needed for continued success in school and at work. For some students, it will signal the need for additional effort and/or intervention to improve English language skills. The assessment is an evaluation of language skills considered important by society and necessary for future success as a lifelong learner.



Return slip – *Please cut along the line above and return this portion to the school.*

English Language Proficiency Assessment 2008-2009 – Information for Parents and Guardians

Please return this portion to acknowledge both receipt of the above information and affirmation that your child’s composition(s), which would remain anonymous, could be included in a booklet of student writing samples for electronic distribution and/or distribution to schools.

(Print) Name of Student

Writing may be used. Yes No
Please check one.

(Print) Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Signature of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)