

## Information for Parents and Guardians

2008-2009

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REASSESSMENT

**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.

#### **What is the purpose of the English Language Proficiency Reassessment?**

The Department of Education provides retesting opportunities for students who did not achieve the provincial standard when they were first evaluated.

#### **Who should take the Reassessment?**

All students (Grades 10 to 12) who were previously unsuccessful and any students who were formerly excused for reasons such as bereavement, sickness, etc. should take the Reassessment. **Exemptions from the Reassessment** may be granted to special needs students exempted initially. Decisions to exempt any such students must be made jointly by the parent/guardian, school principal and district office. Each exemption form must bear the signature of both the principal and parent/guardian, and a copy must be registered with the district office.

Students who have transferred in from out-of-province or from an alternate educational setting into the public system should be referred to the provincial Director of Assessment and Evaluation to determine their status, as it might affect provincial graduation requirements from the high school program.

#### **What will the Reassessment be like?**

The reassessment will comprise two parts, reading comprehension and written expression, **both written during the period of January 15-22, 2009**. The reassessment 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.



**When will the reassessment take place?**

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

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

Successful completion of the reassessment 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 reassessment 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 11 and 12. Depending upon the component(s) already passed, such students may rewrite one or both component(s) of the reassessment. Schools, in co-operation with parents/guardians and the district office, are responsible for providing additional instructional strategies to students who must rewrite the reassessment.

**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 reassessment?**

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 reassessment 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 reassessment 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 reassessment 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 Reassessment 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)

