Reporting student achievement

Frequently asked questions for parents

In 2012 Northern Territory schools will be working with a new curriculum, a new reporting process and a new A–E scale for student’s end of semester reports. The Australian Curriculum English and mathematics are being implemented this year, with more subjects gradually being introduced as they are completed.

How is the Australian Curriculum different to the Northern Territory Curriculum?

The Northern Territory (NT) Curriculum was organised into eighteen month – two year band levels with outcome statements, whereas the Australian Curriculum is organised into year level content with end of year achievement standards. All schools will use the Australian Curriculum achievement standards for English and mathematics while the newly revised NT achievement standards will be used for the other subject areas.

What is an achievement standard?

The achievement standards for each learning area describe what students should be able to understand and do by the end of a particular year level of schooling.

Student work samples are included on the Australian Curriculum website to show what satisfactory achievement of the standard looks like for each year level: www.australiancurriculum.edu.au

What is different about reporting this semester?

The layout of your child’s report will be different this year as teachers will be using a new reporting system. Teachers will report on your child’s achievement level in relation to their year level achievement standard rather than against a band level as in previous reports. They will also be using a new A–E scale to describe the year level achievement of your child. It is important that these new report results are not compared to previous results.

What is different about the new A–E grade scale?

A new A–E grade scale is being used to describe where students sit within their year level achievement standard and defines the extent of the knowledge, skills and understandings attained by the student. This new A–E scale is not comparable to previous years.

The revised A–E grades are displayed on the front of the report for students in Years 1-10:

- A – demonstrates outstanding achievement
- B – demonstrates high achievement
- C – demonstrates sound achievement
- D – demonstrates limited achievement
- E – demonstrates very limited achievement.
How many reports will I get?
It is a requirement of the Australian Government that all students in Years 1 to 10 must receive a written A–E report at least twice a year. Transition students are required to receive a written report at least twice a year, however, an A–E grade is not required.

Most schools will issue a summary report at the end of each semester. This is only part of the reporting process as during the year schools will communicate student progress to parents in a variety of ways. Parent/teacher interviews, student/parent/teacher conferences, portfolios of work sent home, open days and emails are just some examples of how this can be done.

What does a ‘C’ grade mean?
In this new system a ‘C’ means that the student is achieving at the expected level. The majority of students will receive a ‘C’ grade, as it demonstrates that they are performing as expected for their level of development. This is not comparable to a ‘C’ from previous years due to the different standards.

Does the ‘D’ or an ‘E’ grade mean a student’s work is of poor standard?
Some students may make greater progress in some areas than in others. If your child is not achieving at the expected level for their age, it is possible that they may have made significant progress in their learning during that semester. If your child receives a ‘D’ or an ‘E’, it is important that you consult your child’s teacher and discuss their progress.

Do English as Additional Language/Dialect students receive an A–E grade?
All English as Additional Language/Dialect students will receive a report with A–E grades for English, mathematics and all other learning areas taught in the semester. These students will receive a comment describing their progress in the acquisition of English language.

Do students on Educational Adjustment Plans need an A–E grade?
Students with special learning needs who have Educational Adjustment Plans will not receive an A–E report unless specifically requested by you in consultation with their teacher.

Who can I contact if I have any queries?
If you have any further questions talk to either your child’s teacher/s or the school principal.

Further information:
The following lists where you can find more information about the Australian Curriculum and how it affects you and your child:

- Your child’s school
- Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) Frequently asked questions: www.acara.edu.au/faqs.html