

emphasizes the importance of provincial standards, local targets, and past performance (5 year trend) as the basis for examining the test results and planning instructional programs.

Tips for Parents

- Achievement tests are like any other test.
- Excessive test rehearsals and coaching should be discouraged.
- One way parents can help their children is by supporting their development of strong reading skills.



Parent **TIP** Sheet #8

ASKING QUESTIONS AT YOUR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING ABOUT PROVINCIAL TESTING AND YOUR SCHOOL'S RESULTS



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ASKING QUESTIONS AT YOUR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING ABOUT PROVINCIAL TESTING AND YOUR SCHOOL'S RESULTS

At Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools, we are excited about having your child in school. Making sure that students achieve at acceptable and an excellence level is an important part of our purpose. This tip sheet will help you guide your discussions and an interpretation of your school's results.

A School Council should collaborate with the school's staff in discussing the achievement test results. A discussion/presentation would occur during a school council meeting. Questions such as the following may serve as a starting point:

- What are the strengths of our instructional program?
- What are the areas requiring improvement?
- What is the school's 5 year trend in acceptable standard?
- What is the school's 5 year trend in standard of excellence?
- What are our school's achievement targets for this year?
- What factors could be contributing to our school's performance?
- What plans can we develop to address the areas requiring growth and to help students to do their best?

What is the purpose of the provincial achievement tests?

- To determine whether students are learning what they are expected to learn.
- To inform Albertans about students' achievement relative to provincial standards.

- To assist schools, school authorities, and the province in monitoring and improving student learning.

Who is expected to write the tests?

- All students registered in grades 3, 6, and 9 are expected to write the tests for their grade.

Provincial tests tell parents...

- How their child compares against provincial standards.
- Whether the child is learning what she or he is expected to learn.

Provincial tests help schools

- Monitor school progress in relation to school achievement targets.
- Improve classroom instruction processes by identifying relative strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop action plans to increase student understanding in specific areas of the curriculum.

Provincial tests tell Albertans

- How well Alberta's students are learning the Alberta curriculum.
- Which areas of the curriculum need to be improved.

Should we compare ourselves to other schools or examine our school's 5 year trend?

Alberta Education does not support comparisons of schools or authorities based on achievement test scores. Rather, in evaluating a school, people should consider a variety of factors that are relevant to that school. The Department