



From the Director's Desk....

The Role of Student Achievement Data in the Classroom

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“How students feel about themselves as learners and whether they enjoy learning and strive for excellence are closely related to their teachers’ professional skills both in differentiating instruction and assessment and in helping students understand how they can improve. Teachers create environments in which all students feel valued and confident and have the courage to take risks and make mistakes. In their important professional role, teachers show students that they care about them, and model a love of learning that can deeply influence their lives. Teachers’ professional judgements are at the heart of effective assessment, evaluation, and reporting of student achievement.” (Growing Success - Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools, p. 8)

Teachers and education support professionals (early childhood educators and educational assistants) play a vital role in the collection of student data to guide the teaching of curriculum or program expectations, and the assessment of student achievement. Student data may include evidence of student learning (teacher created tests, assignments, projects, homework, etc.), and board or provincial assessments as well as observations on how students demonstrate their learning skills and work habits, and/or the struggles they may be having in class. Teachers also collect and record data related to student absences and/or lates that may influence student learning, and for reporting purposes.

Teachers and support staff are able to observe a student’s day-to-day progress and note when a student is having success or struggling. The achievement data teachers collect and use to determine a student’s progress, accommodate a student’s unique learning needs, or modify their lesson plans, are essential for a student’s overall success and well-being.

Teachers are guided by, [Growing Success - Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools](#). This Ministry of Education document outlines a comprehensive policy for the assessment, evaluation, and reporting of student achievement in Ontario schools, from kindergarten to Grade 12, and is based on the principles of fairness, transparency, and equity for all students.

Some of the significant uses of student achievement data, collected by teachers, are to:

- provide feedback to students on their progress;
- prepare lesson plans and respond to changing student learning needs;
- understand and inform parents about how a student is progressing;
- determine report card grades and next steps for individual students;
- develop and implement individual education plan (IEP) goals for students with learning struggles and/or learning differences;
- build individual student profiles, aligning classroom and provincial assessment results;
- build class profiles to see how the class is progressing as a whole towards the next grade;
- discuss with principals as part of the school improvement planning process;
- share with colleagues as part of the transition process to the next grade.

Student achievement data collected and recorded by teachers and education support professionals builds an important profile of a student’s progress, provides the essential information for feedback to a student about their next steps towards success, and informs parents/guardians about the progression of their child’s accomplishments over time.

Bluewater District School Board remains committed to its vision of *Preparing Our Students Today for the World of Tomorrow*.

Contact information

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