

Title	<b>ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT</b>	Policy No.	5003
Department	<b>OPERATIONS SERVICES, PROGRAM SERVICES</b>		
Reference(s)	- The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8 - Ontario Secondary Schools, Grades 9-12 - The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 & 10, Program Planning and Assessment - Guide to the Provincial Report Card	Effective Date	2000 March 28

It is the policy of the Board that assessment and evaluation of student achievement be conducted in accordance with the philosophy and direction of the Ministry of Education through adherence to the guidelines which follow. The Board believes that assessment and evaluation are integral parts of the learning process. Assessment and evaluation of student achievement ensure that students acquire the knowledge, skills and values essential for full participation in society and promote the best possible use of educational resources.

#### 1.0 **Definitions**

**Assessment:** The collection of data about student achievement using a variety of means and procedures over time

**Evaluation:** The process of judging the quality of student performance in the assessment and of assigning a value to represent performance based on established criteria

**Achievement:** Student performance

- 2.0 The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8 and the Program Planning and Assessment Guide for grades 9-10 state "The primary purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning. Information gathered through assessment helps teachers to determine students' strengths and weaknesses in their achievement of the curriculum expectations. This information also serves to guide teachers in adapting curriculum and instructional approaches to students' needs and in assessing the overall effectiveness of programs and classroom practices."

In accordance with Ministry policy, assessments and evaluations within the Board will serve the following purposes:

- to improve student learning through the provision of clear, accurate information about student achievement;
- to provide for the improvement of teaching and learning practices and instructional programs;

Administered By	<b>OPERATIONS SERVICES, PROGRAM SERVICES</b>	Board Resolution No.	42-B Rec. 9
Amendment Date(s)		Amendment Resolution No.	

## Assessment and Evaluation of Student Achievement, cont'd

- to determine the degree to which expectations of the Ontario Curriculum are being met;
  - to ensure accountability and to contribute to the enhancement of quality education within the Board.
- 3.0 To ensure that assessment and evaluation are valid and reliable, assessment and evaluation strategies within the Board will:
- be fair, consistent, objective and appropriate;
  - be preceded by criteria regarding expectations and standards which have been clearly communicated to students;
  - provide ongoing opportunities for students to demonstrate fully their level of achievement in a variety of contexts, where applicable;
  - include accommodations and/or modification for those students where there is a clearly articulated and justified rationale for doing so;
  - emphasize performance-based demonstrations of student learning.
- 4.0 To ensure that assessment and evaluation lead to the improvement of student learning, assessment and evaluation strategies within the Board will:
- respect students as active participants in their own learning;
  - be an integral part of the instructional process and based on the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum;
  - foster opportunities for students, teachers and parents to plan for improvement.
- 5.0 Research and Assessment Services will manage implementation of district, provincial, national and international group assessment programs. Additionally, Research and Assessment Services staff will provide and support, for school use, a wide range of group assessment instruments. These assessment materials may be used on a system-wide or optional basis to measure student achievement, monitor the progress of school improvement plans, and provide information which will lead to improved instruction.
- 6.0 A steering committee will direct implementation of group assessment programs in accordance with Board and Ministry policy. The committee will be composed of a supervisory officer, the Co-ordinator-Research Services, school administrators, teachers, parents and system resource personnel. The committee will provide an update/report to the Board on an annual basis.
- 7.0 Communication about assessment and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with Ministry requirements. Reporting of student achievement will:
- involve a variety of formal and informal communications that are ongoing, clear and meaningful;
  - describe student progress towards achieving the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum and provide specific suggestions for students, teachers and parents to plan for the improvement of learning;

## Assessment and Evaluation of Student Achievement, cont'd

- in the case of district, provincial, national and international group testing programs, be publicly reported, as applicable, and as directed by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) and the Board.
- 8.0 Notwithstanding, Article 4, assessment and evaluation information relating to individual students shall be kept confidential and be available only to a student's teacher(s). All procedures relating to assessment and evaluation (for example, the collection, maintenance, use and reporting of results) will be conducted with sensitivity and discretion within the provisions of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- 9.0 Operations Services and Program Services will develop guidelines to ensure effective implementation of the assessment and evaluation policy.