

DIVISION ASSESSMENT PROGRAM: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Background

To ensure effective assessment and evaluation practices are in place, the Division Assessment Team has determined the need for general guiding principles. These principles are consistent with the *Fair Student Assessment Practices for Education in Canada* and the legislation concerning freedom of information and privacy.

Procedures

1. Cooperation and Shared Responsibility

All participants work together to formulate assessment programs, standards and reporting approaches. There is shared responsibility at the classroom, school, division and provincial levels for reliable and timely accountability measures.

2. Equity and Fairness

Evaluation practices recognize that the determinants of educational outcomes vary greatly among classrooms, schools, and communities. Procedures are sensitive to individual student needs by providing differentiated treatment based on circumstances.

3. Comprehensiveness

Assessment and evaluation practices endorse a broad range of performance indicators (including process, context, and outcome indicators) to provide a holistic and balanced picture of system performance as well as student learning and experience.

4. Continuous Improvement that Promotes Quality and Excellence

We are committed to gathering evaluation information and providing supportive feedback of results to enable continuous improvement throughout the education system.

5. Teacher Professionalism

Evaluation activities empower teachers by respecting and reflecting on their central role in education and contributing to their professionalism and continuous professional development. Self-evaluation and reflection on practice with a view to continuous improvement are part of professional practice.

6. Authenticity and Validity

All activities are designed to facilitate authentic assessment (ie connected to curriculum objectives, non-biased, performance based). The information gathered in an assessment meets the needs of intended users - students, teachers, administrators and the Ministry.

7. Honesty and Openness

All assessment procedures and instruments are open for scrutiny, with evidence used in drawing conclusions and recommendations freely available. Both strengths and weaknesses are reported and all evaluative practices are transparent.

Legal Reference: Adapted from *Saskatchewan Learning Assessment for Learning Program. Policy: Supporting Data-Guided Decision-Making to Improve Student Learning*. June 2006. Draft Copy.