



**Information for Parents and Guardians  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT – November, 2005**

**In today's highly complex and competitive world, students should be given every opportunity to learn. These opportunities start with being able to read, write, understand and communicate information.**

To help students acquire all-important language skills, New Brunswick places considerable emphasis on literacy. As we implement the curriculum, we must also assess how well students are progressing, and determine how we can help them do even better. Therefore, assessment occurs at several grade levels. One of these assessments is of English language skills for school students in grade 9. This annual assessment will take place during the week of November 28, 2005.

We realize that parents and guardians may have questions about the assessment. You will find the answers to many of your questions in this information bulletin. If you have other concerns, please contact your child's school and the principal will be pleased to provide further information.

We hope you will support and encourage your child through the assessment. Together we can help your child succeed.

***Who developed the assessment?***

The original assessment's design was developed and carefully reviewed by individuals who represent important partners in the educational process – parents, teachers, public representatives and employers – each of whom worked cooperatively with Department of Education consultants. The 2005-2006 program continues this approach with input from many educators across the province.

***What will the assessment be like?***

The assessment will comprise two parts, reading comprehension and written expression.

**Part One - Reading Comprehension:** Students will read several passages of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, and information text. They will then respond to selected-response items. The questions will be varied to demonstrate the students' ability to form a general understanding of the passages, as well as, to retrieve information and develop an interpretation allowing for reflection on the content and form of the text. Students will also demonstrate skills for editing and revising. (Time: 90 minutes)

**Part Two – Writing:** Working independently, students will perform various writing tasks in response to specific instructions:

- Writing I – Students will present a short piece of writing in response to a prescribed task, and they will be asked to revise and edit a piece of writing that contains several errors. (Time: 90 minutes)
- Writing II – Students will present a piece of narrative writing on a topic of their choice or from suggested topics. (Time: 60 minutes)
- Writing III – Students will write to a given situation. (Time: 60 minutes)



***When will the assessment take place?***

The assessment will take place over four sessions during the week of November 28 to December 2, 2005.

***What standard of performance must be achieved for successful completion of this assessment?***

Successful completion of the assessment will be achieved by the student who performs at the 'appropriate' level or better on both parts of the test.

***What will be the impact of this provincial assessment on my child's academic record?***

In order to graduate with a New Brunswick diploma, it is required that every student, with the exception of those officially exempted for valid reasons, demonstrates the ability to read and write at an acceptable standard as determined by the English Language Proficiency Assessment. Unsuccessful students will have opportunities for reassessment in grades 10, 11, and 12. Depending upon the part(s) already passed, such students may re-take one or both parts of the assessment. Schools, in co-operation with parents/guardians and the district office, are responsible for providing additional instructional strategies to those students who must rewrite the assessment at a later date.

***When will the results be made available?***

Students will receive individual performance reports through their school early in the second semester.

***How should I help my child prepare for this assessment?***

Students will be preparing at school. It is suggested you take the time to become familiar with the provincially prescribed language arts curriculum. You and other family members can also help and support children at home as learning partners. Encourage them to share samples of their writing with you, keep interesting reading material around, and ask your child to read and discuss material with you.

There are a number of other worthwhile activities. While watching TV together, discuss the characters and story, and ask your child to predict what might happen; create different occasions for your child to write; encourage use of the library, and encourage reading as an alternative to television. These and many other related activities will all help develop reading comprehension, writing and communications skills, as well as foster lifelong learning.

More detailed information about this assessment program has been made available to all high school teachers and to your school's administration.

***How will the assessment be marked?***

Most of the students' answers will be machine scored. In cooperation with Department of Education consultants, professional staff will share in marking written work.

***How will this assessment benefit my child?***

It should confirm for most parents that their son or daughter is reading and writing at a level needed for continued success in school and at work. For some students, it will signal the need for additional effort and/or intervention to improve English language skills. This assessment is an evaluation of those first language skills considered important by society and necessary for future success as a lifelong learner.

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Please acknowledge receipt of this information bulletin with your signature, and return this portion to the school.

Thank you.

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Parent(s) Signature