



**Information for Parents and Guardians
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REASSESSMENT – 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.

What is the purpose of the English Language Proficiency Reassessment?

The Department of Education provides retesting opportunities for students who did not achieve the provincial standard when they were first evaluated.

Who should take the Reassessment?

All students (grades 10 to 12) who were previously unsuccessful and any students who were formerly excused for reasons such as bereavement, sickness, etc. should take the Reassessment. **Exemptions from the Reassessment** will be granted to special needs students exempted initially. Decisions to exempt any such students must be made jointly by the parent/guardian, school principal and district office. Each exemption form must bear the signature of both the principal and parent/guardian and a copy must be registered with the district office.

Students who have transferred in from out-of-province or from an alternate educational setting into the public system should be referred to the provincial Assistant Director of Evaluation in order to determine their status as it might affect provincial graduation requirements from the high school program.

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 and where will the Reassessment take place?

The assessment will take place over four sessions during the week of November 28 to December 2, 2005. All students will be retested at the high school in which they are registered.

What standard of performance must be achieved for successful completion of the Reassessment?

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. Schools, in cooperation with parents/guardians and the district office, are responsible for providing additional instructional strategies to those students who must be retested 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 the Reassessment benefit the student?

Successful performance on the Reassessment will confirm that the student has achieved a basic level of proficiency in the English language, and will fulfill the provincial requirement. This achievement is the basis for future success in school, work, and indeed, throughout life.

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

Thank you.

Signature