

New provincial assessment program for Saskatchewan students

Principals and Teachers:

As part of the Provincial Education Plan, the Ministry of Education is working with teachers and educational organizations to develop a Saskatchewan Student Assessment (SSA) program.

Students, parents, teachers and the public have told us they want Saskatchewan students to:

- be **prepared** for success with the skills and knowledge they need;
- be **supported** in their learning; and,
- have an education that is **globally recognized and valued**.

Saskatchewan Student Assessment will help us work together toward these goals. The assessments will be based entirely on Saskatchewan curriculum and will be developed with Saskatchewan teachers.

Assessments will be implemented in stages, beginning in the 2025-26 school year. Before each assessment is implemented, a “field test” will provide information about the quality of the questions and help teacher developers refine the assessment.

- 2025-26 school year – field test in Grades 5 and 9 mathematics and Grade 7 English language arts (ELA).
- 2026-27 school year – implementation of Grades 5 and 9 mathematics and Grade 7 ELA assessments; field test of Grades 4 and 10 ELA.

- 2027-28 school year – all assessments will be fully implemented, including Grades 5 and 9 mathematics and Grades 4, 7 and 10 ELA.

Sask Student Assessment **will**:

- Be based on curriculum
- Help with understanding of grade-level expectations
- Be developed and validated by teachers

Sask Student Assessment **will NOT**:

- Require additional teaching
- Replace classroom assessment
- Be used to rank schools or teachers

Results from the assessments will be made available to the student, parent/caregiver, classroom teacher, the school and the school division.

The results of the assessments will provide information needed at the classroom, system and provincial levels to better respond to the learning needs of Saskatchewan students. They **will not** be used to rank teachers, schools or school systems.

As the partners in Saskatchewan education who work closest with students, we look forward to working with you to develop and implement an assessment program that will benefit you and your students. For more information, please see our website <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/assessment>.

Saskatchewan Student Assessment

What is it?

Saskatchewan Student Assessment is a provincial assessment program that will provide a snapshot of results in core subject areas.

Why is this being implemented?

Consistent, fair and objective measures of student achievement benefit everyone in the education system. The data will be used to identify strengths and areas of opportunity, from the level of the student to the entirety of the provincial education system.

Saskatchewan is currently the only province in Canada that does not have a provincial assessment program.

Who will write the Saskatchewan Student Assessment?

All students following the regular curriculum in publicly funded schools in Grades 5 and 9 will participate in a mathematics assessment and students in Grades 4, 7 and 10 will participate in an English language arts assessment.

Students will receive the same accommodations and support on the assessment as they are accustomed to in the classroom.

When will this be implemented?

Assessments will be implemented in a staged approach, beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

Will I receive the results from this assessment?

Once Saskatchewan Student Assessments are fully implemented, you will receive information on your students' achievements. The assessment results will also help you identify students' areas of strength and where they might need extra support.

How can I get involved?

Teacher participation is essential to the success of this program. There are many opportunities for teachers to be engaged, including developing, validating and scoring assessment questions and setting provincial standards of achievement. Your educational organization will share information with you about how you can become involved.

Where can I get more information?

Please visit our website:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/assessment>.

We look forward to sharing additional information with you throughout the development and implementation of this program.