



AATs & FGLs

ALBERTA ACHIEVEMENT TESTS (AAT) AND FUNCTIONAL GRADE LEVELS (FGL) PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EDUCATION SYSTEMS AT THE SCHOOL, REGIONAL, AND TERRITORIAL LEVELS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE ACCURATE AND CONSISTENT INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENT LEARNING TO INFORM POLICY DECISIONS, PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, AND TO REPORT ON STUDENT ACADEMIC PROGRESS.

What are AATs & FGLs?

Alberta Achievement Tests (AATs) are standardized assessments in English and French Language Arts, and Mathematics. Historically they have been completed by students in Grades 3, 6, and 9 in all schools in the NWT.

Since NWT curricula are closely linked with Alberta learning curricula, the AATs are deemed to align to our own curricula for an appropriate measure of student achievement.

In May 2013, Alberta announced that it will be phasing out the AATs over a few years and replace them with new Student Learning Assessments (SLAs) which are intended to be completed at the beginning of each school year. This means that the AATs will no longer be available for NWT schools. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is currently exploring replacement tools and approaches through Education Renewal.

Several NWT schools participated in the October 2014 grade 3 SLA pilot in an effort to determine if they would be an appropriate assessment tool for NWT students and schools. As the SLAs are electronic, NWT schools experienced difficulties with consistent bandwidth to successfully conduct the assessments.

Functional Grade Levels (FGLs) are the grade level of curriculum that a student worked on for the majority of the school year.

FGLs are determined according to the learning outcomes outlined in the NWT Language Arts Curriculum and the Western and Northern Canadian Protocol (WNCP) Mathematics Curriculum.

ECE currently collects FGLs on all students from grades 1-9 in

English and French Language Arts and Mathematics.

In the NWT, FGLs are collected at the end of each school year in grades 1-9 and are determined by the teacher according to the curriculum level each student worked on during the school year.

ECE is currently in the process of reviewing and evaluating all NWT assessment practices through the Education Renewal initiative, which will include assessing the overall benefits of collecting FGLs.



In [2013](#), the AATs, FGLs and Attendance report indicated that by Grade 9:

- 75% of students in communities were operating below standards in English Language Arts. Students in Yellowknife were operating at 31% below standards.
- 79% of students in communities were operating below standards in Math. Students in Yellowknife were operating at 43% below standards.
- By grade 9, students in communities attended school 78% of the time, and 86% of the time in Yellowknife. A student with 80% attendance will have missed 2 full years of school by grade 10.

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