



Northwest Territories Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

CHAIRPERSONS,
DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCILS
YELLOWKNIFE DISTRICT EDUCATION AUTHORITIES

File

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PRÉSIDENT,
COMMISSION SCOLAIRE FRANCOPHONE DE DIVISION

Directive on Standardized Testing – Alberta Achievement Testing

To plan supports and track student success, the NWT is in need of system-wide information on student achievement. Other than participating in the School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP) that is not based on curricula consistent with NWT standards, the NWT does not have a standardized student achievement testing system.

Five of the eight NWT jurisdictions are presently using the Alberta Achievement Test for Language Arts and Mathematics in Grades 3, 6 and 9. The Alberta Achievement Tests (AATs) are relevant to NWT curricula. Because of the relevance to the NWT curriculum, and the current participation by the majority of NWT education jurisdictions, the Alberta Achievement Tests are felt to be the best means for system-wide measuring of student achievement in the NWT.

I am directing that all NWT schools implement participation in Alberta Achievement Testing in Mathematics and Language Arts in Grades 3, 6 and 9 for the school year 2004/05. The Department will cover costs related to administration, materials and scoring for the Alberta Achievement Tests. The object of the testing will not be to compare schools to each other, and the information will not be used or reported in that manner. Rather, the information will form a baseline for student achievement data, and will assist schools, boards and the Department in focusing on particular curricular or instructional areas.

Department staff will contact your Superintendents with regard to reviewing procedures for the writing of AATs, and planning for inservicing staff in the use of AAT results for effective planning.

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