



PLAN FOR COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Eastern Shore District High School is committed to creating an environment that provides the best possible education for our students. As part of that commitment, effective communication between the school and home is essential.

Eastern Shore District High School's Plan for Communicating Student Learning will provide accurate and timely information respecting student achievement in relation to expected learning outcomes for each course. Assessment, evaluation and the communication of information about student learning are essential components of the educational process. Please take note of these important dates:

Important Dates for 2023-24:

Links to:

[Provincial Student Assessment Policy](#) [Classroom Assessment Due Date and Extension Procedures](#)

- Course Content/Curriculum Review – Parents/guardians can expect communication from teachers of courses their child/children are enrolled in for semester 1 in place for Curriculum Night on **Wednesday, September 20, 2023**
- Post-secondary career fair at ESDH for grade 11 & 12 students Monday, September 25, 2023 from 9-11:15am
- Grade 12 Family Information evening – **Wednesday, October 18, 2023**. More details will follow for grade 12 families.
- Mid-term report cards will be shared electronically (emailed) with parents/guardians the **week of November 20, 2023**. Please contact the office if a paper copy is required/preferred 902-889-4025 extension 0.
- Parent/guardian-Teacher meetings are set for the evening of **November 22, 2023** from 6:30-8:30pm as well as on the afternoon of **November 23, 2023** from 1:30-3:30pm. (no classes in the morning due to professional development for staff). No classes for our Schoons on November 23.
- Nova Scotia Virtual School exams (semester 1) will be on **Tuesday, January 23, 2024**
- All other High School exams will occur between **January 25-30, 2024**. Please note that *process exams* would occur *prior to the week of scheduled exams*. Teachers will communicate in their course outline whether they are completing a process exam.

- Assessment and Evaluation Day (high schools only) is **Wednesday, January 31 2024**. There are no classes for students.
- Start of Semester 2 is **Thursday, February 1, 2024**.
- High School report cards for semester 1 will be sent the week of **February 5, 2024**.
- Course Content/Curriculum Review – Parents/guardians can expect communication from teachers of courses their child/children are enrolled in for semester 2 by **February 21, 2024**.
- Mid-term report cards for semester 2 will be shared electronically with parents/guardians the **week of April 15, 2024**. Please contact the office if a paper copy is required/preferred 902-889-4025 extension 0.
- Parent/guardian-Teacher meetings are set for the evening of **April 17, 2024** from 6:30-8:30pm as well as on the afternoon of **April 18, 2024** from 1:30-3:30pm (no classes in the morning due to professional development for staff). More information will follow.
- Nova Scotia Virtual School exams (semester 2) will be on **Monday, June 17, 2024**.
- All other High School exams will occur between **June 19-25, 2024**. Please note that process exams would occur prior to this week. Teachers will communicate in their course outline whether they are completing a process exam.
 English 10 Provincial Exam: **Wednesday, June 19, 2024**
 Math 10 Academic Provincial Exam: **Thursday, June 20, 2024**
- Graduation will be on **Wednesday, June 26, 2024**. Our graduation is typically at the local rink. More details will follow.
- High School report cards for semester 2 will be sent electronically (email) **June 28, 2024**.

Some Additional Important Dates for 2023-24:

- Organization Day: Staff Welcomed Back! - Friday, September 1, 2023
- Staff Professional Learning: Tuesday, September 5, 2023
- Staff Professional Learning Wednesday, September 6, 2023
- First Day of Classes for Students: Thursday, September 7, 2023
- Truth & Reconciliation Day: September 30, 2022 (schools closed) but day observed is Monday, October 2, 2023 (schools closed)
- Thanksgiving Day: Monday, October 9, 2023 (schools closed)
- Provincial Professional Conference Day: Friday, October 27, 2023 (no classes)
- Remembrance Day: November 11, 2023 observed Monday, November 13, 2023 (schools closed)
- Staff Professional Learning: November 23, 2023 (morning), Afternoon Parent/Guardian-Teacher meetings (no classes for students)

- Staff Professional Learning: Monday, December 4, 2023
- Holiday Break: December 21-January 1, 2024 (First day back is January 2, 2024)
- Assessment and Evaluation Day (high schools): January 31, 2024 (no classes)
- Heritage Day: February 19, 2024 (schools closed)
- March Break: March 11-15, 2024 (inclusive- schools closed)
- Good Friday: March 29, 2024 (schools closed)
- Easter Monday: April 1, 2024 (schools closed)
- Professional Development: April 18, 2024 (morning), Afternoon Parent/Guardian-Teacher meetings (no classes)
- Victoria Day: May 20, 2024 (schools closed)
- Assessment and Evaluation Day (high schools): June 26 & 27, 2024
- Last day of school: June 28, 2024

DEFINITIONS

Assessment is the act of collecting information on student progress and achievement using a variety of tasks designed to monitor and improve student learning.

- **Formative Assessments (Assessment *for* Learning)** are ongoing assessments that take place during the teaching and learning process *for the purpose of* showing growth over time, determining student needs, planning next steps in instruction, and providing students with descriptive feedback. Assessments become formative when teachers use the information gathered to adapt their teaching in order to meet the needs of students.

- **Summative Assessments (Assessment *of* Learning)** are assessments that take place at the end of a period of learning *for the purpose of* determining the extent to which learning has occurred. In **assessment *of* learning**, the teacher assesses students' achievement of the outcomes. These assessments are used to make statements about student learning to those outside the classroom.

Evaluation is the act of analyzing, judging and/or making decisions about assessment information for the purpose of providing descriptive feedback (formative) or evaluative feedback (summative).

Eastern Shore District High School teachers are also aware of the **Principles of Learning** that are set out in the Public Schools Program of the Province of Nova Scotia. These principles assist teachers in developing programs and assessment strategies that are effective and meaningful.

- Students construct knowledge and make it meaningful in terms of their prior knowledge and experiences.
- Learning is a process of actively constructing knowledge.
- Learning is enhanced when it takes place in a social and collaborative environment.
- Students need to continue to view learning as an integrated whole.
- Learners must see themselves as capable and successful.
- Learners have different ways of knowing and representing knowledge.
- Reflection is an integral part of learning.

Each course offered at Eastern Shore District High School is approved by the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development and is designed around outcomes that students must achieve to be successful within the course. Student progress and achievement is assessed, evaluated and communicated in relation to the expected learning outcomes. Students can expect to be informed about these outcomes at the beginning of each course. Parents/guardians who require more information about course expectations are encouraged to attend Curriculum Night and/or contact the teachers.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Teachers at Eastern Shore District High School are committed to using multiple assessment strategies to ensure that students have a range of opportunities and ways to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and attitudes pertaining to expected learning outcomes. These include, but are not limited to: presentations, portfolios, work samples, models, oral and/or written reports, journals, logs, performances, graphic/visual representations, experiments, concept maps, quizzes, tests, debates, projects, checklists, anecdotal records, conversations, conferences, surveys, and observations.

While individual teachers may not use all the methods listed above, every teacher at Eastern Shore District High School will ensure a balanced approach to assessing student learning. No single assessment event, including an examination, will be valued at more than 20% of the final mark.

PARENTAL AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

At Eastern Shore District High School, the lines of communication between home and school will always be open. Parents/guardians can contact the teachers for updates regarding academic progress. Parents/guardians and students will also be able to access the PowerSchool on-line information system to see student assessments and evaluations as well as information on student attendance.

Parents/guardians should familiarize themselves with course assessments and evaluation and keep themselves informed of student progress. The school calendar lists dates when there will be opportunities to converse with teachers regarding student progress as part of parent/teacher meetings. These meeting opportunities occur in both semesters. These are an effective means of communicating and improving student progress. Parent/guardians are always welcome to communicate via phone or email with teachers to further discuss their child's progress.

It is the student's responsibility to maintain and organize notebooks, tests, assignments, and other forms of assessment. These provide information for students and parents/guardians to monitor student progress.

Parents/guardians should inform the school of factors that may influence the student's success. Guidance personnel and/or administration will maintain confidentiality except when the student's safety or the safety of others is in jeopardy.

It is to be understood that successful student learning at Eastern Shore District High School involves a partnership among parents/guardians, students and teachers.

EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL'S COMMITMENT TO EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION OF STUDENT LEARNING

In the first week of any course, the student will receive a written outline of the course assessment and evaluation plan, including components and values for that course.

When communicating student learning either formally or informally, teachers will endeavor to provide clear and easily understood information on student progress and achievement in relation to expected learning outcomes and how summative assessment will be used to determine percentage grades.

When parents/guardians do not understand the information provided by the school respecting the student's progress and achievement, they are encouraged to contact the school administration. We will make every effort to provide the type of information in a form that communicates effectively.

Appreciating that early intervention is often key to a successful intervention, teachers will inform students and parents/guardians in a timely manner when student's behaviour, academic performance and/or attendance gives cause for concern.

Students and parents/guardians who have a concern regarding any particular assessment have the right to a review of that assessment (see [HRCE policy B.017 Parent Concern Protocol](#)). The following general steps should be followed:

- Students should contact the teacher and discuss the grade immediately following the return of the assessment. This may assist the student in a greater understanding of the assessment.
- If more clarification is needed, the parent/guardian should contact the teacher.
- The teacher will respond to this communication either by phone, e-mail or meeting in a timely manner after receiving the request.
- The teacher will document the conversation or meeting.
- If unresolved, students or parents/guardians may contact the department head or administration requesting further examination of the assessment.
- The principal will then meet with the parties involved in an effort to resolve the situation.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our school is committed to supporting the learning needs of all students. As part of this commitment, the school has established a process for the identification, assessment, and program planning for students with special needs. Some may only require adaptations to assist them within the regular program while others may require Individual Program Plans. This process follows the guidelines set out by the provincial Department of Education & Early Childhood Development and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education.