

Lethbridge School Division

Superintendent of Schools

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Mandatory Literacy and Numeracy Screening Assessments Initiative

September 9, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The provincial government announced that all students registered in grades 1 to 3 are expected to participate in mandatory literacy and numeracy screening assessments. Students in grades 2 and 3 as well as some grade 4 students identified in June as benefitting from additional literacy programming will be assessed in September. Grade 1 students will be assessed in January 2023.

These assessments will be administered by your child's classroom teacher with data being submitted to Alberta Education for the purpose of long range planning. They are intended to identify and begin to support those students most in need of additional programming. Should your child qualify for additional literacy programming, the school will inform you.

Literacy Assessments | LeNS & CC3

The Letter Name-Sound Assessment (LeNS) assesses a student's ability to sound out single letters and letter combinations (e.g., n, d, e, ch, ay, oa, oy). The LeNS assessment will be administered to children in grades 1 & 2.

The Castles and Colheart 3 Assessment (CC3) assesses a student's ability to recall familiar and irregular words (e.g., take, hand, island, cough), and their ability to sound out non-words (e.g., norf, framp, gurve) that were created specially for this assessment and are meant to be fictitious and without meaning. The CC3 assessment will be administered to students in grades 2 & 3.

Numeracy Assessment

The Numeracy Assessment Screening Tool (NSAT) was designed at the Carleton University Centre for Applied Cognitive Research. It is rooted in current theory on mathematical cognition and development. The assessment results will be used to help teachers identify and address gaps in their students' foundational understanding of numbers.

Teachers use a variety of assessments at the beginning of every school year to determine their students' strengths and areas for growth. The LeNS, CC3 and numeracy assessments will be used across our Division this year, in addition to assessments our teachers always use. The information provided by all beginning-of-the-year assessments give a detailed understanding of each student's individual strengths, skills, and areas for growth.

As always, teachers will continue to partner with you as parents in your child's education. We look forward to working with you throughout the year as we continue to support your child in their learning.

If you should have any questions about these assessments, or would like any more information, feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or principal.

A parent/guardian question and answer sheet from Alberta Education can be found at this link [mandatory-grades-1-3-literacy-numeracy-assessments-initiative-parent-Q&A.pdf \(learnalberta.ca\)](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl Gilmore', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Cheryl Gilmore, Superintendent of Schools