

## Letter Grades

### How often will I receive a report card for my child?

There are 3 formal reporting periods a year: in late fall, in early spring and in June.

There are usually 2 parent-teacher conferences: one in the fall and one in the spring. Some schools also send out interim or informal reports.

### What are Parent-Teacher Conferences?

Parents meet with the teacher to talk about their child's progress, to set goals, and to exchange information. Parents may talk about any concerns they have about their child's education.

Parent teacher conferences provide an important opportunity for parents to talk to teachers about their child's progress

**Check your child's school calendar or newsletter for report dates, conference dates and more.**

### Why does my child not get letter grades?

Students do not get letter grades if

- They are in grade 3 or younger.
- Their English skills are very weak.
- They can not demonstrate their understanding of content in English at their grade level.

### “Common Questions About Letter Grades for ESL Students”

This brochure is one in a series sponsored by the VSB SWIS program and produced collectively by a group of ESL teachers and the VSB MCLW team.



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Funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

## Common Questions About Letter Grades for ESL Students



## Letter Grades

### Who Gets Letter Grades?

Letter grades are given to most students who are in grades 4 to 12 and who are able to meet grade level expectations.

### Which students do not get letter grades?

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3, students in special programs, and beginner ESL students do not get letter grades.

### What grades do ESL students receive in Grades 4 to 12?

If students meet grade level expectations, they receive letter grades: A, B, C+, C, C- or I. If students are still working toward grade level expectations, they receive an asterisk, star, or N/A [not applicable]. They will also receive a work habit mark, G, S, or N.

**G- Good**

**S- Satisfactory**

**N- Needs Improvement**

An additional ESL Report is often included with elementary report cards. It outlines progress in English listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

### Will taking ESL classes keep students from finishing high school or continuing with their education?

No, there is no age limit for finishing high school. Most Boards of Education offer high school completion programs for adults and older learners (over age 19). Talk to your child's counsellor, if you are concerned.

### Is it better for my child to leave ESL quickly and work at his/her grade level?

Students who receive ESL support and develop strong language skills do better in their grade level classes than those who leave ESL too early.

Research shows that it can take 5 or more years to develop the type of language needed to do academic work successfully.

Leaving ESL support too soon can cause students stress and tends to delay progress and achievement.

ESL support is set up to ensure a good foundation in the English skills needed to succeed in grade level classes.

ESL support teaches the specialized language of content subjects, such as Math, Social Studies, and Science.

Learning with other ESL students helps everyone recognize that others are experiencing the same difficulties.

Most ESL students do attend grade level classes for subjects such as PE, Art and Music. These classes require less English, and students often do well.

### How can I help my child?

- **Continue to develop the first or home language.**
- **Realize that your child is facing a huge challenge socially, emotionally, and academically. Celebrate and offer support for his or her successes.**
- **Participate in community and school programs with your child.**