

## What does a school staff need to know about Student Learning Assessments?

This learning guide is designed for use by instructional leaders and learning communities or as a self-paced study to explore Student Learning Assessments and collection of student achievement data.



This learning guide is intended for use after viewing the video [Student Learning Assessments – Alberta Education](#).

## Lesson synopsis

In this brief video, Alberta Education shares teachers' perspectives of the new Student Learning Assessments.

### Key understandings:

- Student Learning Assessments (SLAs) enable teachers and parents to be aware of a child's strengths or areas needing improvement early in the school year, in order to program appropriately.
- SLA results are also shared with students for the purpose of self-reflection, and setting of personal learning goals.
- SLAs effectively assess literacy, numeracy, and competencies such as critical thinking, problem solving, and the ability to apply knowledge in different scenarios.
- The new SLAs are administered early in the Grade 3 year.
- The SLAs are designed to assess students within the context of the working definitions of literacy and numeracy that Alberta Education is currently using to guide its work.
- There are four components to the Grade 3 SLAs:
  - Digitally scored literacy component
  - Literacy performance-task component
  - Digitally scored numeracy component
  - Numeracy performance-task component
- Alberta Education provides the student, school, and district with detailed reports following the administration of the SLA.
- The SLA's will be administered in a pilot state for both September 2014 and September 2015.

### Questions for discussion:

- What opportunities are presented with the new SLA format? For Teachers? Students? Parents?
- How can you effectively communicate the new SLAs to parents? Why is that dialogue important?
- What competencies, knowledge, and skills do students require to complete the SLAs successfully?
- How does the shift from PATs to SLAs exemplify a change in assessment practices in Alberta schools?

### For more information:

Learn more about essential conditions that support implementation planning for new educational policies and initiatives at <http://www.essentialconditions.ca>

[Student Learning Assessments](#) (Alberta Education)

[Doing More with Less: Assessment for Learning](#) with Catherine Coyne (ERLC)

[The Assessment Landscape in Alberta](#) with Sherry Bennett (ERLC)

[Alberta Assessment Consortium](#) (AAC)

### Acknowledgement:

This guide was developed through collaboration between the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium and Alberta Education. It is freely provided in support of improved teaching and learning under the following Creative Commons license. 