



Parent Information About the New Alberta Social Studies Curriculum

Assessment

The new Social Studies curriculum focuses on developing critical thinkers who are active participants in their own learning. This new focus includes a change in how we assess students. These changes are centered on engaging students and coaching them so they become successful, independent learners. Some of the practices teachers use include:

Opportunities to improve skills

Students will participate in learning activities that provide an opportunity for them to practice their skills and build their understanding of Social Studies concepts. Students are also encouraged to ask thoughtful questions that will help them further their learning.

Opportunity for feedback and self-reflection

Since students have more opportunities to practice skills and processes, teachers have more opportunities to provide them with ongoing feedback. As a result of the teacher's feedback and the student's self-reflection during the learning, student's success will be enhanced on their graded assignments and in their overall learning over time.

Use of a variety of tasks to demonstrate learning

Students will be asked to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways. For example, student learning will be assessed through student involvement in debating important issues, completing meaningful real-life tasks, and exploring their learning through reflective journals.

The focus is on helping students to develop an awareness of their abilities and create strategies that will empower them to become more successful students and citizens.

How might I support my child/teen with assessment for learning?

There are a number of ways that you can support your child:

- When your child receives teacher feedback on an assignment, encourage them to share it with you. As they are sharing, ask your child to explain to you what they did really well, what they found challenging, and what they would have done differently.
- Discuss current affairs and issues at home with your child to help develop the skills to support their point of view with reasoning and evidence.
- When helping your child review, focus on the main ideas rather than names and dates. The main ideas are more about cause and effect, perspectives, and the effects of choices.
- If you're uncertain about assessment, talk to your child's teacher.

