



Your guide to
A to E grades
on school reports





A message from DEET's Chief Executive

You may notice that your child's report looks a little different to past reports or that you receive an extra report in addition to the usual school report. It now includes, for an element of maths or english, a grade of A, B, C, D or E against subject areas. This is an Australian Government requirement, and is a condition we must meet if we are to continue to receive Commonwealth funding for our Territory schools. The aim is to provide information for parents (of students up to Year 10) that is easier to understand, and to achieve consistency in the way reporting is done across Australia.

Student reports in the Territory have been based on the Northern Territory Curriculum Framework for a number of years. The A to E grades allow parents to see how their children's achievement compares with those of children at other schools in the Territory.

The report will show your child's achievement against the NT-wide standards expected for your child's year level. The standards have been determined through historical student achievement data and consultation with principals. They are formulated to account for the diversity of students and communities throughout the Territory. The standards will be reviewed in 2007 based on feedback and data from the first round of reporting this year.

Because we are in the very early stages of A to E reporting, schools may choose to give A to E grades only on the aspects of learning where they are confident of consistency. This ensures you receive accurate information about your child's achievement. As a result, the subjects included in this year's A to E reporting will vary from school to school. Some schools may report on all subject areas. As a minimum, they will report on an element of Maths or English (or English as a Second Language).

The Department of Employment, Education and Training is keen to receive your feedback on the new standardised reports. A survey is available on our website www.deet.nt.gov.au/education/. Survey forms will also be available in schools at the start of the 2007 school year.

Margaret Banks

A to E grades: what they mean

All the grades are based on standards set through the Northern Territory Curriculum Framework.

- > An **A grade** means your child has achieved well above the level expected for children at this stage of schooling across the Northern Territory.
- > A **B grade** means your child has achieved above the expected level for children at this stage across the Territory.
- > A **C grade** means your child has achieved at the expected level.
- > A **D grade** means your child has achieved below the expected level. Keep in mind that students progress at different rates and not all students meet the expected standards all of the time.
- > An **E grade** means your child has achieved well below the expected level.

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's progress, especially if she or he has received a D or E grade, it is important that you contact your child's teacher.

A to E: a consistent way to report your child's progress

School reports for students in Years 1 to Year 10 now include a grade of A, B, C, D or E against subject areas. This provides a simple way for parents to see how their children are going compared with other Northern Territory students at the same stage of schooling.

Schools may develop new reports that incorporate the A to E grades, or include them as a supplement. All schools will give A to E grades for an element of Maths or English (or English as a Second Language), but some schools may give the grades for all subjects.

Government schools are already required to report in writing twice a year, and to provide the opportunity for interviews with the classroom teacher. This will not change.

What will change is that all schools will be required to include a grading of A to E on the student's achievement for the subjects taught and assessed that semester.

Schools are encouraged to continue with their existing reporting practices, which have been developed in consultation with the school community, as well as meeting the new requirement.

What the A to E grades mean

The A, B, C, D and E grades have a specific meaning that is consistent in all Northern Territory Government schools, based on the standards in the Northern Territory Curriculum Framework.

For example, no matter which school your child attends, a B grade will always mean that your child is above the expected Territory-wide standard for that year level. A grade of C indicates that your child is working at a level that is the Territory-wide standard for children of the same age.

Teachers across the Territory are working to ensure consistency of their judgments about their students' achievements.

If your child receives a D or an E, it is important that you consult your child's teacher and discuss the progress made during the semester. It may be that, while your child is not achieving at the expected level for their age, they may have made significant progress in their learning during that semester.

Comparing new grades with old grades

When you see your child's first report with the new A to E grades you may notice a change in the grades compared with previous reports. This does not indicate your child's achievement levels have changed. In the past, the meanings of grades varied from school to school. For example, a C grade in the past may have meant the student was performing below the expected level. Now, a C grade means the child's learning is at the expected level compared with the NT-wide standard.

Some exceptions

Not all students will be assessed using A to E grades:

- > Students with high support needs, who have Individual Education Plans, will continue to receive reports based on their Individual Education Plans.
- > The A to E grading does not apply to students in Preschool and Transition. A to E reports are only required for Years 1 to 10. Preschool and Transition students will receive reports appropriate to early learning programs.

English as a Second Language or Dialect students

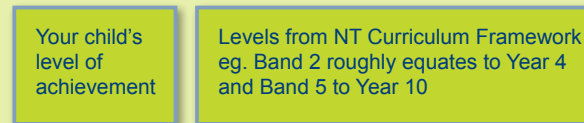
A to E grades will be assigned a little differently for English as a Second Language (ESL) or English as a Second Dialect (ESD) students, because of the very individual nature of progress in these areas. Teachers will assign grades for these students, instead of grades being allocated automatically.

Students studying a language

Students studying another language, eg. Indonesian will also be assigned an A to E grade in a similar way to ESL/ESD students.

How to find out more

Your child's principal or class teacher can give you further information. You can also visit the NT Department of Employment, Education and Training website www.deet.nt.gov.au.



Secondary Student's Record of Progress Year Level: 8

| Mathematics | | Band 2 | Band 3 | Band 4 | Band 5 | Band 5+ |
|-------------|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Number | Numbers | A | | | | |
| Number | Number Patterns | C | | | | |
| | Calculating | D | | | | |

Melanie is gradually developing an understanding of the concept of fractions. A focus of future learning for Melanie is to improve her use of strategies to recall number facts.

Plain English labels replace curriculum language

Shading shows the NT-wide standard for this level

Your child's achievement compared with the NT-wide standard

Above: The example shows how A to E reporting might look as part of a high school student's report.

Primary Student's Record of Progress Student: Seth Abban Class: Y1 Year Level: 1

| English | | KGP 2 | KGP 3 | Band 1 | Band 2 | Band 3 |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Reading and viewing | Understanding | B | | | | |
| | Phonics and word recognition | C | | | | |
| | Learning how to learn | D | | | | |

General Comment: Seth is making excellent progress in understanding texts and has developed a large sight vocabulary, which he uses when reading. He needs to focus on developing ways to make sense of unfamiliar words.

Days absent: 7.5

Elements included in each report are based on what is taught, assessed and monitored

Optional general comment

Shading shows the NT-wide standard for this level

Above: This example shows how A to E reporting might look as part of a primary school student's report.

English as a Second Language Student's Record of Progress

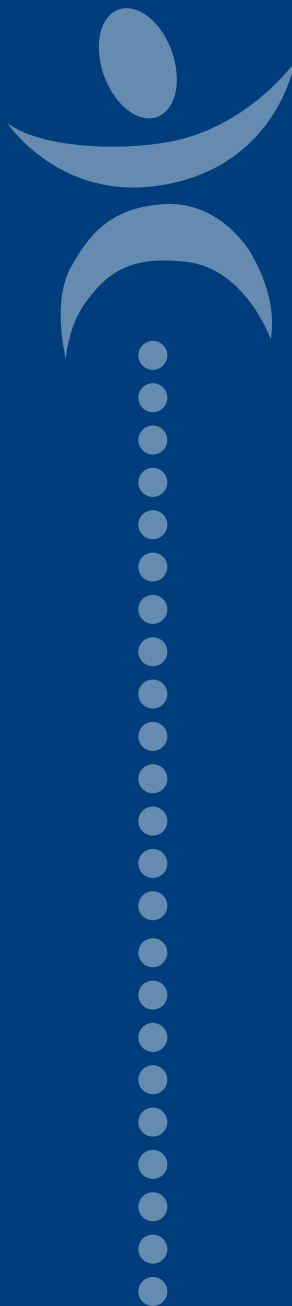
| English as a Second Language | | Level 4 | Level 5 | Level 6 | Level 7 | Level 8 |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Reading and Viewing | Communication | B | | | | |
| Writing | Communication | D | | | | |

Above: This example shows how A to E reporting might be included in a report for a student with English as a Second Language.

Shading shows the standard set by the teacher for ESL

Your child's achievement compared with the standard

- NOTES:**
- The contents of reports are based on what has been taught, learned and assessed within this reporting period.
 - Your child's achievement is based on all evidence of learning.
 - The grades awarded on these reports are based on:
 - A – Well above expected level
 - B – Above expected level
 - C – At expected level
 - D – Below expected level
 - E – Well below expected level
 - You can ask the school to provide you with written information that clearly show your child's achievement in the subjects studied in comparison to that of other children in the child's peer group at the school. This information will show you the number of students in each of the achievement levels A – E.



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