

## **Curriculum Corner**

Assessment Feature Issue



# PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS (PATS)

Every year, Alberta Education requires all Alberta students in grades 6 and 9 to write Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs). The tests are designed to assess students' growth in the essential learning standards the province sets, regardless of their school or location.

The PATs serve several purposes, including helping to determine whether students are learning what they should be, reporting on student achievement to the people of Alberta, and assisting schools and the province in monitoring and improving student learning. The tests are typically administered in May and June, although some grade 9 students take them in January.

### PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR THEIR PAT

It is important for children to feel at ease and comfortable while taking any test, including provincial achievement tests. Parents and caregivers can assist their children by encouraging them to review study material, motivating them to get a good night's sleep and give their best effort, just as they would during any other test. If you need additional support, please contact your child's teacher.









#### **GRADE 9 PATS**

Grade 9 PATs are required for students in the following courses:

- English Language Arts
- Knowledge and Employment (K&E) English Language Arts
- Français/French Language Arts
- Mathematics
- K&E Mathematics
- Science
- K&E Science
- Social Studies
- K&E Social Studies



#### **GRADE 6 PATS**

Grade 6 English Language Arts and Literature and Math provincial achievement tests will not be administered in the 2023/2024 school year due to the recent curriculum implementation for these subjects. Alberta Education will instead offer field testing between April and June 2024. These optional field tests will help inform the development of future PATs for Grade 6 in these subjects.

In addition, Alberta Education requires Grade 6 PATs in the following courses:

- Grade 6 Science
- Grade 6 Social Studies

#### **PATS FIELD TESTING**

Provincial Achievement Test (PATs) field testing will be offered as optional assessments for Grade 6 students in English Language Arts and Literature and Mathematics between April and June 2024. These tests gather feedback from students and teachers to develop future PATs that align with the curriculum in these subjects.

Field tests give students and teachers a good idea of the questions appearing on PATs. Teachers receive each student's score promptly, providing valuable information on their students' knowledge and expertise.

Alberta Education's field testing is an important step in the development of fair, valid, and reliable provincial examinations. It involves administering potential PAT questions to a large sample of students throughout the province to determine their difficulty level and appropriateness. Feedback from teachers and students is also collected to validate the questions.

Testing the questions beforehand ensures that the questions on PATs are of high quality and have undergone a rigorous development and improvement process.

Learn more about PATs and access schedules by contacting your child's teacher or school administrator. Click <u>here</u> to learn more about Alberta Education's PATs



