

# Department of Education Victoria

**For all principals, schools, school council presidents, central and regional staff**

## **S066-2007 - Student Report Cards: Refinements for 2007**

Today the Minister for Education, John Lenders, has announced a number of changes which have been made to the new student report cards in response to the monitoring process that occurred during 2006.

In 2006, over 750 schools across the State successfully implemented the new student report cards. Each of these schools was provided with the opportunity to provide feedback on the process. My appreciation is extended to those schools that took up this opportunity and provided responses.

Feedback considered during the monitoring process included responses from report coordinators, detailed information provided by schools including feedback from parents and comments provided via direct emails to the Student Learning Division. The Department also conducted an analysis of Semester 1 data for a total of 49,000 students.

### **Findings**

The major findings included:

- The majority of parents who provided feedback found the reports easy to understand, with the large majority commenting favourably on the comprehensiveness and clarity of the information provided
- Most schools provided positive feedback on the reports themselves, and the accompanying software
- There was some concern from parents and schools about the number of students who might receive an 'A'
- Many teachers and some parents felt it was important to provide an 'A'-'E' rating for each dimension in Mathematics (as for English)
- Concern was expressed about the appropriateness of reporting progress using A-E ratings for students in their first year of schooling
- Most schools also felt there was still a need for further information on the exact meaning of the A-E ratings.

The main findings from the analysis of statewide student results data were that, compared with previous assessments made by teachers against the Curriculum Standards Framework (CSF), slightly fewer students received an 'A' rating in Term 2, 2006 than would have been allocated using equivalent ratings in previous years. The analysis also showed that, as in previous years, the spread of teacher judgment results is overall narrower than that of AIM results.

### **Refinements**

Taking this feedback into account, the following refinements will be made from Semester 1 this year:

1. For all domains, the 'A' rating will be altered to align with achievement that is the equivalent of one progression point lower than is currently the case. What was previously the top 'B' rating will now become an 'A' rating.
2. Rather than one overall A-E rating for Mathematics, separate A-E ratings will be provided for each of the five Mathematics dimensions, as is the case with English.
3. For students in Prep, it will now be a school based decision as to whether the graphic with the A-E rating is used. Schools will continue to assess students against the standards and progression points and assign appropriate scores. Schools will also continue to report to parents of Prep students using the student report card. Further details are provided in Attachment 1.

### **Implications**

The impact to schools will be minimal. Schools should note that none of the above changes affect the requirements or process of making on balance judgments against the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.

#### ***Implications for schools using QuickVic reporting software***

Schools that have elected to use the QuickVic software will be contacted directly by QuickVic with details of how to download an upgraded version of the software that includes the above refinements. Any preparation for reporting in 2007 that coordinators have already undertaken should not be affected by this upgrade. Schools should note that this version of the software will also enable them to import absence data directly from CASES 21.

Any schools still wishing to obtain a licence to use the QuickVic software in 2007 should contact Andrew Cox ([cox.andrew.j@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:cox.andrew.j@edumail.vic.gov.au)) as soon as practicable.

#### ***Implications for schools using reporting software from a commercial supplier***

All commercial suppliers of reporting software have been contacted with full details of the above refinements. Schools will need to contact their supplier directly for details of timelines and access to their software upgrades. Schools are also reminded that the Department has a process in place for commercial suppliers to receive verification that their software meets the Department's reporting requirements. This process includes verification of upgrades.

### **Support for schools**

An article outlining the refinements is attached (Attachment 2). Schools that implemented the report cards last year may wish to adapt and use this information with staff or parents. This article is also available for download under the [For Schools](#) link on the student report cards website [www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/studentreports/default.htm](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/studentreports/default.htm)

The Department will also provide further information for parents on the meaning of the A-E ratings in a new brochure to be distributed to schools this semester.

### **Ongoing monitoring**

The Department is committed to ensuring the student report cards provide best quality, consistent, and clear information to parents about their child's achievement. The Department will continue to closely monitor the implementation of the student reports this year, and will seek, and welcome further feedback from parents and schools.

### **Further information**

For further information or to provide feedback on the student report cards, email [student.reports@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:student.reports@edumail.vic.gov.au) or telephone 9637 3026

### **John Sullivan**

Acting Deputy Secretary  
Office of Learning and Teaching

## Attachment 1

### Requirements for reporting to parents of students in Prep

All schools will continue to use the new student report card to report to parents of students in Prep. Details of mandated aspects and scope for flexibility are outlined on the website [www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/studentreports/default.htm](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/studentreports/default.htm)

The requirements remain unchanged with the exception that schools may now choose whether or not to include the graphic with A-E ratings on Prep students' report cards.

This change can be implemented using the current version of the QuickVic software. Details about how to set up the QuickVic software to produce templates without the graphic will be available from the end of February on the QuickVic website ([www.quickvic.com.au](http://www.quickvic.com.au)). Schools using a commercial supplier will need to liaise with their supplier for further information. All suppliers have been notified of this change.

Schools should note that in all other respects the requirements for reporting the progress of Prep students remain unchanged, and the remaining mandated elements of the report card will need to be included and provided to parents.

While there now exists an option to remove the graphic with the A-E ratings from Prep student report cards, valid scores for each student, based on judgments made against the standards and progression points for all relevant VELs dimensions, will still need to be entered into the software, as is the current practice.

These scores will then be uploaded to CASES 21 at the end of each semester with the scores for all other students at the school for the purposes of reporting achievement to the system at the end of each year, and in order to generate the hollow progress dots on the report card graphic for these students in Semester 1 of the following year.

## Attachment 2

### Article for schools that implemented the report cards in 2006 to use with staff and parents

This article is designed for schools to adapt and use with staff and parents and outlines the changes to student reporting in 2007. The article is also available for download under the [For Schools](#) link on the student report cards website [www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/studentreports/default.htm](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/studentreports/default.htm)

The Department will provide further advice for parents focussing on the A-E ratings later this term and again in Semester two.

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Dear Parent

The Victorian Government announced last year that a new student report card would be introduced in all Victorian government schools. The student report card is designed to provide you with clear information about your child's progress against state-wide standards. We first issued the report card to you in semester one/two last year.

The Department of Education has been carefully monitoring the introduction of the report cards over the past year to ensure that the information provided by the reports is clear and consistent from school to school. Feedback has been gathered and analysed from parents, school leaders, report coordinators and teachers. An analysis of 49,000 student results has also been undertaken. In response, a number of refinements will be made to the report card this year.

#### **Refinements for 2007**

##### ***Changes to the 'A' rating***

The state-wide analysis of student results showed that, compared with results from previous years, slightly fewer students received an 'A' rating. The 'A' rating has therefore been adjusted so that a top 'B;' will now become an 'A'.

Please be assured that this change will not impact adversely on results reported last year. If, for example, your child received a high 'B' last semester, the software will ensure that the 'dot' on the graphic will be carried forward in the system and recorded as if it was an 'A'.

##### ***More detail on progress in Mathematics***

From this year, the graph on the report will include more detail on your child's progress in Mathematics. Rather than one overall A-E rating and one solid dot, there will be a separate A-E rating and dot for each of the aspects of Mathematics (e.g. Number or Space) your child has studied during the semester.

##### ***A-E ratings for Prep students***

Schools now have the option to remove the graphic with A-E ratings to report the progress of our Prep students. We will be consulting with you about this change in the near future to

assist in deciding our school's position on how we describe the performance of our Prep students.

Our school is committed to ensuring that all students have the best opportunity to achieve their full potential. The student report cards are a key aspect of that commitment. They are designed to clearly document your child's achievement to date, as well as the next steps in their learning.

We will be distributing further information from the Department on the report cards to you later this term. This information will contain an overview to remind you of the key elements of the report card, as well as further clarification of the A-E ratings.

If you have any questions or comments about the report card, or if you need any further information, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

You may also wish to access information online in the Parents section of the Student Reporting website. The website can be found at the following address:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/studentreports/default.htm>

Signature

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This circular provides information announced by the Minister for Education, John Lenders, on the changes to student reporting in 2007.