

# Quick Facts for Superintendents

## Grade 3 Student Learning Assessment (SLA)

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### Overview of the SLA

SLAs are digitally based provincial assessments that provide a beginning-of-the-year “check in”. This enables parents/guardians and teachers to learn about and identify student strengths and areas for growth at the start of the school year. The Grade 3 SLA is based on outcomes related to literacy and numeracy in language arts and mathematics in Alberta’s current Grade 2 provincial programs of study. Some sets of questions are created using topics that may be familiar to students from other subject areas, such as arts education, health, science, and social studies.

### Purpose of the SLA

The purposes of the SLAs are to:

- improve student learning (primary purpose);
- enhance instruction for students.

While the SLA is helpful for teachers to use as a tool, it will not be used in the Accountability Pillar.

The SLA is meant to complement, not replace, day-to-day teacher observations and classroom assessment. It is a source of information that must be interpreted, used, and communicated within the context of regular and continuous assessment by classroom teachers.

### Structure of the SLA

This literacy and numeracy assessment consists of digital interactive questions (marked by Alberta Education) and performance tasks (marked locally):

- digital literacy questions;
- a literacy performance task;
- digital numeracy questions;
- a numeracy performance task.

### Participation in the SLA

For the 2019/20 school year, Alberta Education will provide school authorities with maximum flexibility for administering SLAs. To that end, school authorities may select which schools within an authority will administer the SLAs. In addition, these schools may administer select parts of the SLAs.

### Student preparation for the SLA

Students do not need to study to do this assessment. However, students should be familiar with using a computer or similar technology. Technology is central to the Grade 3 SLA. The digital interactive questions require a computer, laptop, or tablet, and an Internet connection.

## Important dates for the SLA

August 19, 2019	The SLA Teacher Dashboard is available for teachers to preview the assessments, set up their class lists, and print performance task materials.
August 19, 2019	Teachers who require a paper copy of the SLA for students who are not permitted to use or cannot access technology must request these through the school administration.
September 9 to October 7, 2019	Teachers administer SLA components.
Within 24 hours of a teacher submitting digital questions for marking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teachers and school administrators can access Individual Student Reports and Class Reports (digital and print) via the SLA Teacher Dashboard.</li><li>• Superintendents can access reports via the SLA Teacher Dashboard.</li><li>• Parents/guardians can access their child's Individual Student Report (including a parent/guardian-friendly print copy) via their child's school.</li></ul>
Mid-October, 2019	Teachers are expected to share student results of the digital questions and performance tasks with parents shortly after October 15, 2019.
Mid-October to end of June, 2020	Teachers may re-administer SLA components.

### Resources available for students, teachers, and administrators

Students can try out the practice questions and released questions that are located on the [SLA application](#).

Teachers and administrators have a number of resources available to them on the [SLA web page](#).

### Students excused from participating in the SLA

Teachers can identify excused students to Alberta Education via the SLA Teacher Dashboard using the status "not participating".

### Availability of results

Alberta Education will provide reports on student results within 24 hours of a teacher submitting digital questions for marking.

Superintendents will be able to access reports showing the distribution of students across performance levels:

- within their school authority;
- for any school within their school authority.

Parents/guardians of students who participate will have access to a parent/guardian-friendly report, through teachers, for the digital questions marked by the province.

Teachers are expected to discuss students' Grade 3 SLA results with parents/guardians.

## Contact information

For English-language SLAs, you may contact Nicole Lamarre, Director of Student Learning Assessments and Provincial Achievement Testing, Alberta Education, at [Nicole.Lamarre@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Nicole.Lamarre@gov.ab.ca) or by telephone at 780-427-6204.

For French-language SLAs, you may contact Gilbert Guimont, French Assessment Director, at [Gilbert.Guimont@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Gilbert.Guimont@gov.ab.ca) or by telephone at 780-422-3535.

Call 310-0000 for toll-free access within Alberta.

## Information and resources

Additional information is available on the [SLA web page](#).