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What do the assessment results mean for my child?

The assessment results provide information about your child's performance in reading and writing. These results are used by teachers, together with classroom assessment information, to inform instructional decisions that are best suited to your

Where can I find more information about this assessment?

Please visit the *Program of Learning Assessment for Nova Scotia* website: plans.EDnet.ns.ca.

When is the assessment administered?

The assessment will be administered September 23 to October 4, 2013 for 90 minutes each morning.

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2013–2014
Nova Scotia Assessment
**Information for Parents
and Guardians**

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Reading

Writing in Grade

What is the purpose of the Nova Scotia Assessment: Reading and Writing in Grade 3?

The purpose of this assessment is to gather information about individual student performance in reading and writing. The results of this assessment provide

- teachers with information to inform instructional planning
- parents and guardians with information on their child's performance
- the department and school boards with information to inform educational decisions

What types of activities are included in the assessment?

The assessment tasks are designed to reflect classroom reading and writing activities. Students will read several fiction and non-fiction passages and will answer comprehension questions about those passages. Students will also complete two writing tasks. Teachers will introduce each task and students will complete each task independently.

How can I help my child prepare for the assessment?

No special preparation is necessary. Children who participate in shared and individual experiences with books, music, artwork, and conversation at home and school develop a solid foundation for reading and writing. Prior to the assessment, teachers ensure students are familiar with the assessment format by reviewing the types of questions found on the assessment.

Who designs and scores this assessment?

Nova Scotia assessments are developed by the professional staff of the Evaluation Services division of the Department of Education in consultation with Nova Scotian teachers. Constructed response items (where the student writes his or her answer) will be scored by teachers at marking sessions led by the Evaluation Services division. Selected response items (where the student chooses a response from multiple options) will be scored electronically at the Department of Education.

Who participates in the assessment?

Grade 3 English program students in Nova Scotia public schools participate in this assessment. French immersion students and students with an individual program plan (IPP) in English language arts do not participate.

How are the results of this assessment shared with parents and guardians?

Individual student reports will be sent to schools and then forwarded to parents and guardians. School, school board, and provincial results of all Nova Scotia assessments will be published on the *Minister's Report to Parents and Guardians* website: mrpg.EDnet.ns.ca.