

Department of Education and Training Information for Parents

Your child's report has been prepared in a new format to provide you with clearer and easier to understand information about their achievement.

The new report describes student achievement in each of the courses taught in all NSW schools. Teachers are using a five point scale to describe the achievement of each student in each course area. All students in NSW are taught the same NSW Board of Studies syllabuses. Their achievement on these common syllabuses will now be reported consistently on a five point Board of Studies scale. Each school is using five grades (A-E) or five word descriptions (outstanding, high, sound, basic, limited) to summarise the five point scale of achievement.

The new grades or descriptions tell you how your child is achieving in each course. They describe the quality of the work your child has produced and not your child's ability. They are not a pass/fail scale and do not rank your child in their class. There is no pre-determined number of students who will achieve any of the achievement levels.

Understanding an "A" grade or "Outstanding" achievement

In practice an "A" or "Outstanding" achievement would be awarded if your child is performing extremely well and is regularly applying their skills, extensive knowledge and deep understanding to new situations.

Understanding a "B" grade or "High" achievement

In practice, a "B" or "High" achievement would be awarded if your child is performing very well and has consistently met the outcomes at a high level for the reporting period. This will have been evident across assessments. These students will also demonstrate the confidence, skills and understanding that are going to enable them to easily extend their learning in the area.

Understanding a "C" grade or "Sound" achievement

A "C" grade or "Sound" achievement means that your child is learning what he or she is expected to learn. A "C" or "Sound" is a good result. These students are where they are "supposed to be" in terms of achieving the expected curriculum standard at this stage of their learning.

Understanding a "D" grade or "Basic" achievement

A "D" grade or "Basic" achievement is telling you that your child has achieved some of what he or she was expected to achieve but there are some gaps in knowledge and skills. These students are not quite where they are "supposed to be" at this point in time.

Understanding an "E" grade or "Limited" achievement

An "E" grade or "Limited" achievement tells you that your child has demonstrated only a limited amount of what is expected for students at this point in time and that there are very significant gaps in their knowledge and skills. This indicates that students achieving this grade are quite a way from being where they are "supposed to be" at this point in time. It shows the need for additional support and intervention, possibly in a number of areas. If your child receives this result in one or more courses, you should have a talk to your child's teacher.

It is very important to remember that these grades and descriptions are only part of the picture of what your child can do. Your child's report will also include information about how hard your child has tried and the teacher's comments about progress in each subject will also add a great deal to your understanding. This variety of information will help you discuss with your child and your child's teacher how to provide encouragement and improve progress.