

Provincial Literacy & Numeracy Screening: Family FAQ

Over the week, families in Grades 1-5 at Joe Clark will be receiving information about your child's provincial literacy and numeracy screening results. We know assessment reports can raise questions, so we've put together some helpful information about what these screenings are and how we use the information to support students.

Assessment Information Update for Families

We have heard from some families who have **not received all of their child's assessment information or have received blank PDF documents**. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through some technical issues with Microsoft.

Your child's complete assessment information should arrive in your inbox **by end of day on Monday, November 2**.

If you have **not received your child's assessment information by next week**, please reach out to the school and let us know so that we can follow up with you.

Thank you for your patience as we work to ensure all families receive their child's information.

What are the provincial literacy and numeracy screenings?

The screenings are required by Alberta Education and Childcare for students in **Kindergarten through Grade 5**. They provide information about students' foundational literacy and numeracy skills and help identify students who may benefit from additional support.

When are students screened?

- **Kindergarten:** once in the winter.
- **Grades 1–3:** in the fall and winter. Students identified as requiring additional support following the winter screening are screened again in the spring.
- **Grades 4–5:** in the fall. Students identified as requiring additional support following the fall screening are screened again in the spring.

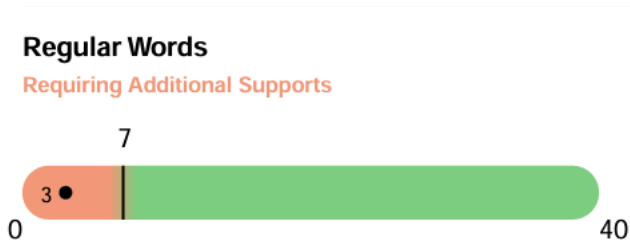
Did my child need to study or prepare?

No. Students did not need to study for these assessments. This is a snapshot of student learning that helps teachers better understand strengths and areas of need.

What do the results mean?

The provincial screeners are **norm-referenced**, meaning a student's performance is **compared with a representative group of Alberta students in the same grade at that point in the school year**. This information helps determine whether a student may require additional support.

For example: The student below shows the child requiring additional support in this area. The solid black line represents the "norm" for that group. The child below scored below the norm (their score was a 3) or average responses of students of the same age and grade level (the norm was a 7). There were 40 possible questions, but not all of those questions will be asked in every grade level.



Does a screening result tell me everything about how my child is doing?

No. Screening results provide **one piece of information** about your child's learning.

At École Joe Clark School, teachers also consider classroom work, observations, conversations and ongoing assessments to develop a more complete picture of each child's strengths, progress and learning needs.

What happens if my child is identified as requiring additional support?

The provincial requirements specify that intervention supports are to be provided when screening indicates that a student is may be experiencing difficulty in literacy or numeracy

Within Foothills School Division, this does **not automatically mean additional staffing or a new government-funded support** for an individual student. Rather, schools use their existing continuum of supports, which may include strong classroom instruction, targeted instruction and small-group intervention. Screening information helps teachers determine where additional attention and support may be needed.

Support for your child a Joe Clark may look like:

- Universal classroom strategies to support all students in a common area for growth

- Small group instruction with the teacher or in centers with an Educational Assistant
- Literacy or numeracy intervention groups
- One on one targeted practice with an adult

Yes. I would make that section a little more specific and practical, while still reassuring families that they **do not need to “teach to the test.”**

How can I support my child at home?

The best way to support your child is through **simple, positive literacy and numeracy experiences as part of everyday life**. There is no need to practice for or prepare specifically for the screening.

Some ideas include:

- **Read together regularly.** Talk about the story, characters, new vocabulary and what your child thinks might happen next.
- **Play with sounds and words.** Rhyming, noticing beginning sounds, breaking words into sounds or syllables, and playing word games can help build early literacy skills.
- **Encourage writing.** Grocery lists, notes, cards, labels, journals and stories are all meaningful opportunities to practice.
- **Make math part of everyday life.** Count objects, compare quantities, notice patterns, practice simple mental math, measure while cooking, talk about time and money, or play games involving numbers and dice.
- **Ask your child to explain their thinking.** Questions such as *“How did you figure that out?”* or *“Is there another way you could solve it?”* help build understanding and confidence.
- **Keep it positive.** Encourage effort, curiosity and perseverance rather than focusing on scores or whether an answer is right or wrong.

Most importantly, **you do not need to recreate school at home**. Short, enjoyable opportunities to read, talk, write, count and problem-solve together can reinforce the foundational skills students are developing at school.

The provincial screenings are intended to help identify students' foundational strengths and areas where additional support may be needed.

Where can I learn more?

Alberta Education and Childcare has developed a parent guide with additional information about literacy and numeracy screening for **English and French Immersion students**.

