

2013–2014 Program of Learning Assessment for Nova Scotia (PLANS)

ELEMENTARY ASSESSMENT WEEKS

Assessment	Participation	Dates
2013–2014 Nova Scotia Assessment: Reading and Writing in Grade 3	Grade 3 English program students	90 minutes x 2 days between September 23–October 4, 2013
2013–2014 Nova Scotia Assessment: Mathematics in Grade 4	Grade 4 English program students Grade 4 French immersion students	90 minutes x 2 days between September 23–October 4, 2013
2013–2014 Nova Scotia Assessment: Reading, Writing, and Mathematics in Grade 6	Grade 6 English program students Grade 6 French immersion students	90 minutes x 4 days between September 23–October 4, 2013

JUNIOR HIGH ASSESSMENT WEEKS

Assessment	Participation	Dates
2013–2014 Nova Scotia Assessment: Reading, Writing, and Mathematics in Grade 8	Grade 8 English program students Grade 8 French immersion students	90 minutes x 4 days between May 26–June 6, 2014

NOVA SCOTIA EXAMINATIONS

Assessment	Participation	Dates
2013–2014 Nova Scotia Examination: English 10	Students enrolled in English 10 and English 10 Plus*	January 27, 2014 June 18, 2014
2013–2014 Nova Scotia Examination: Mathematics at Work 10	Students enrolled in Mathematics at Work 10	January 28, 2014 June 19, 2014
2013–2014 Nova Scotia Examination: Mathematics 10	Students enrolled in Mathematics 10	June 19, 2014
2013–2014 Nova Scotia Examination: Mathématiques 10	French Immersion students enrolled in Mathématiques 10	June 19, 2014

* Students enrolled in English 10 Plus will write exam only on June 18, 2014.

NOTES:

- **Nova Scotia Examinations:** Administration dates for Nova Scotia Examinations are specific and set annually by the department.
- **Nova Scotia Assessments:** Administration dates for Nova Scotia Assessments span a 2-week period in order to allow more flexibility at the school-site to accommodate assessment administrations at multiple grades levels (e.g., RW3, M4, RWM6) and school staff resources. This change was in response to requests from both schools and school boards. Within this flexibility, schools must adhere to the following guidelines to maintain consistent assessment administration procedures.
 - The assessment must be completed in the mornings of the school's administration dates. Each assessment session must be an uninterrupted 90-minute period.
 - Assessments must be administered to students in sequence (i.e., an assessment with Reading, Writing, and Mathematics is a 4-day assessment; schools must administer the Reading and Writing sections, Day 1 and Day 2, before administering Mathematics, Day 3 and Day 4; make-up days would follow the school's scheduled administration dates.)
 - Schools are not to administer two days of an assessment in one day (e.g., Day 1 administered in the morning and Day 2 administered in the afternoon would not be permitted.)
 - Make-up days, for students who missed an assessment day(s), can follow school administration days. However, the final day of the 2-week period is the return date for all provincial assessments; this date cannot be extended. Schools are advised to plan ahead in order to accommodate the number of days required for administration and make-up days.
- **Sample school assessment schedules:** Schools administering assessments at multiple grade levels during the same assessment week should plan to have enough make-up days for students who miss the school administration dates; see sample school assessment schedules below:
 - If an elementary school has grades 3, 4, and 6, the school may plan to administer the Reading and Writing days of RW3 and RWM6 on Monday and Tuesday of the first week, and plan to complete make-up days on Wednesday and Thursday; administer Mathematics days of M4 and RWM6 on Monday and Tuesday of the second week, and plan to complete make-up days on Wednesday and Thursday; return assessments on Friday.
 - If an elementary school has only grades 3 and 4, the school may plan to administer RW3 during the first week with make-up days completed by the end of the first week; administer M4 during the first of the second week, make-up days completed by the end of the second week.
 - If a school has grade 6 and grade 8, note that their administration dates are within different administration periods and do not overlap. The school may plan to administer the Reading and Writing days of RWM6 or RWM8 on Monday and Tuesday, and plan to complete the make-up days on Wednesday and Thursday of the first week; administer Mathematics days of RWM6 or RWM8 on Monday and Tuesday, and plan to complete make-up days on Wednesday and Thursday of the second week; return assessments on/before the return deadline. Alternatively, the school may plan to administer the Reading and Writing days of RWM6 or RWM8 on Monday and Tuesday, and Mathematics on Wednesday and Thursday of the first week, and plan to complete make-up days on the second week of the assessment period. Note that beginning the 4-day assessment in the second week will not allow enough time for make-up days before the return deadline.

Program of Learning Assessment for Nova Scotia (PLANS) What's New in 2013–2014

Assessment period extends over a two-week period

Following the first year of the revised assessment program, we heard from teachers and principals that schools needed more flexibility in scheduling provincial assessments. Therefore, we have set the administration period over two weeks (see schedule on the reverse). This extended period should allow every school to organize the assessments, even those requiring four days for one grade, in a way that fits the circumstances of the school.

Participation of students with an IPP in the area(s) assessed

Teachers and principals have found the eligibility rule relating to students on individual program plans too rigid. They asked that the group that best knows the student and the student's program of studies should have a say in whether a student participates in an assessment. Therefore, starting 2013–2014, the student's program planning team is able to determine whether a student on an IPP in the area assessed (language arts or mathematics) should participate. The back cover of each assessment booklet has a place to indicate the participation of students on IPPs; the principal will initial the back cover of only those students on individual program plans who will participate in the assessment.

Adaptations as documented in TIENET

All public schools in Nova Scotia will be using TIENET as of September 2013. This means the department can use the information entered in TIENET in place of the paper documentation. So, for all students who require one or more of the adaptations appropriate for an assessment (see the Information Guide), go to TIENET and create or update the adaptations that are in place for the student. Then, at the time of the assessment, bubble in the appropriate circle beside the adaptation(s) on the back cover of the student booklet. There will be no documents to print, copy, or include with returned assessments.

Mathematics in Grade 4

As first announced in the spring of 2012, the first administration of Mathematics in Grade 4 takes place this fall. In addition to the multiple choice questions, each student will complete two problem-solving tasks.

Scoring sessions and teacher registration

In addition to scoring sessions in Dartmouth, there will be scoring sessions in Sydney, New Glasgow, and Liverpool. Schools with grades 3 and 4 will send one teacher to the designated scoring session for three consecutive days to score Writing in Grade 3 and Mathematics in Grade 4 (problem-solving). Schools with grade 6 will send one teacher to the designated scoring session for three consecutive days to score Writing in Grade 6 and Mathematics in Grade 6 (problem-solving). Look for details on registering for scoring sessions early in September 2013 at <http://plans.ednet.ns.ca/content/marker-registration>

Delivery of Student Assessment Reports through iNSchool (PowerSchool)

Starting with the Student Assessment Reports for 2012–2013 Reading, Writing, and Mathematics in Grade 8, all student reports will be accessed (and printed) through PowerSchool. The grade 8 reports will be uploaded to PowerSchool by the end of September 2013.

Nova Scotia Examinations

Nova Scotia Examinations in the following grade 10 courses will begin in 2013–2014: Mathematics 10, Mathematics at Work 10, and English 10. Examinations will be written at the end of the course on the date specified by the department and count for 20% of the student's final course mark. Marking of examinations will take place at the school (or as otherwise arranged by the school board) using a marking guide provided by the department, and these results will be used to calculate the student's final course grade. Following the examination period, all examinations will be returned to the department.