

# Nova Scotia Assessment: Mathematics in Grade 4

## Information about Student Assessment Reports for parents and guardians

Nova Scotia Assessments gather information about student performance based on selected curriculum outcomes in reading, writing, and mathematics. The curriculum outcomes for each grade level and subject area can be found at <https://sapps.ednet.ns.ca/Cart>.

Nova Scotia Assessments are developed by the Student Assessment and Evaluation division at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Teachers from across the province are involved in the development and scoring of Nova Scotia Assessments.

Nova Scotia Assessments provide

- teachers with information to help plan instruction
- parents and guardians with information about how their child is doing in reading, writing, and/or mathematics
- the department and school boards with information to help make decisions

Student performance is reported across four levels in reading, writing, and mathematics. Level 3 is the expectation for all subject areas assessed. “Expectation” means the level of performance expected for students to continue meeting the learning demands in the subject areas assessed. These performance levels are discussed in more detail in the following sections.

More information about Nova Scotia Assessments can be found at <http://plans.ednet.ns.ca/nova-scotia-assessments>.

The 2015 Nova Scotia Action Plan for Education focuses on fundamental changes to renew, refocus, and rebuild the education system for the first time in a generation. Ongoing assessment of student learning informs the initiatives under the Action Plan and is key to advancing student achievement. For more information about the Action Plan and its initiatives, visit <http://ednet.ns.ca>.

## Mathematics

On Nova Scotia Assessments, students complete a series of questions in each of the mathematics strands (number, patterns and relations, measurement, geometry, and statistics and probability). Questions are designed to assess how fully a student understands mathematics. Students in French immersion write the mathematics portion of the assessment in French.

The four performance levels are described below. Level 3 is the expectation for this assessment.

### Nova Scotia Assessment: Mathematics in Grade 4 Performance Levels

**Level 1:** Students at Level 1 can generally solve problems when they are simple and clearly stated or where the method to solve the problem is suggested to them. They can do addition and subtraction of whole numbers, but may not understand when each operation should be used. They can recognize some math terms and symbols, mainly from earlier grades.

**Level 2:** Students at Level 2 can generally solve problems similar to problems they have seen before. They depend on a few familiar methods to solve problems. They can do addition and subtraction of whole numbers and usually understand when each operation should be used. They can understand and use some math terms and symbols, especially those from earlier grades.

**Level 3:** Students at Level 3 can generally solve problems that involve several steps and may solve problems they have not seen before. They can apply number operations (+, −, as well as  $\times$ ,  $\div$  to  $5 \times 5$ ) for whole numbers correctly and can judge whether an answer makes sense. They can understand and use many math terms and symbols, including those at grade level.

**Level 4:** Students at Level 4 can solve new and complex problems. They can apply number operations (+, −,  $\times$ ,  $\div$ ) for whole numbers with ease. They can think carefully about whether an answer makes sense. They find math terms and symbols easy to use and to understand.

More information about the Nova Scotia Assessments can be found at <http://plans.ednet.ns.ca/nova-scotia-assessments>.

## Questions and Answers

### What grades are assessed?

- The grade 3 assessment is written at the beginning of the school year and is based on selected reading and writing outcomes for the end of grade 2 (note, students in French immersion do not write the grade 3 assessment).
- The grade 4 assessment is written at the beginning of the school year and is based on selected mathematics outcomes for the end of grade 3.
- The grade 6 assessment is written at the beginning of the school year and is based on selected reading, writing, and mathematics outcomes for the end of grade 5.
- The grade 8 assessment is written at the end of the school year and is based on selected reading, writing, and mathematics outcomes for the end of grade 8.

### Will the Student Assessment Report affect a student's report card mark?

No, the Student Assessment Report is intended to provide additional information to help teachers make decisions about instruction in the classroom.

### The Student Assessment Report seems to show a different level of performance than described on a student's report card. Why?

The Nova Scotia Assessment is one type of assessment and its purpose is to give information to help instruction. A student's report card summarizes student learning over several months and is based on many types of assessment.

### The Student Assessment Report shows a different level of performance than expected. Why?

There may be many reasons. The Student Assessment Report reflects student performance on only the Nova Scotia Assessment. You may want to talk with your child's teacher about these results and other evidence of your child's learning.

### The Student Assessment Report indicates "Not Enough Evidence (NE)." Why?

The student did not complete enough work on the assessment to allow us to determine a performance level. "Not Enough Evidence (NE)" does not mean that student performance was below Level 1.

### Where does one go for more information?

If you have questions about your child's results, please contact your child's teacher(s). If you would like more information about Nova Scotia Assessments, please go to <http://plans.ednet.ns.ca/nova-scotia-assessments>.