

Understanding this report

Standards referenced assessment is used in NSW schools. This means your child's performance is compared to a standard with objective criteria rather than to the performance of other students. Standards-referenced assessment can provide meaningful feedback about student achievement and support consistent assessment and reporting.

Standards-referenced assessment refers to the process of interpreting information about student learning in relation to standards. It is used to compare student performance to a standard with objective criteria rather than to the performance of other students. Standards-referenced assessment can provide meaningful feedback about student achievement and support consistent assessment and reporting.

[Assessment Principles](#) | [NSW Curriculum](#) | [NSW Education Standards Authority](#)

Achievement	Description for parents/carers	
Outstanding	A	Your child's achievement is outstanding in relation to their knowledge and skills in the subject.
High	B	Your child's achievement is high in relation to their knowledge and skills in the subject.
Expected	C	Your child's achievement is expected in relation to their knowledge and skills in the subject.
Basic	D	Your child's achievement is basic in relation to their knowledge and skills in the subject.
Limited	E	Your child's achievement is limited in relation to their knowledge and skills in the subject.

This table provides a plain English version of the achievement scale, designed to support clear communication with parents.

Making a holistic on-balance professional judgement

"Holistic on-balance judgements are based on a range of assessment information and used to determine overall student achievement in relation to performance standards. To support holistic on-balance judgements, teachers should provide **multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate their achievement** in relation to the syllabus outcomes in a variety of ways and in a range of situations". ([Reporting and Using Grades](#) | [NSW Curriculum](#) | [NSW Education Standards Authority](#))

Find more information and support about [formative assessment](#) on the department's webpages.

Note: For small student groups, refer to 3.3.1 of the Curriculum policy standards.

A summary of your child's achievement is provided in the report. The scale used to report your child's achievement is based on the following descriptions. The term 'Expected (C)' replaces 'Sound (C)' when reporting to parents and carers to provide greater clarity and ensure reports are more easily interpreted and understood. This change reflects a shift toward plain English communication, aimed at helping families better understand their child's results.

Effort	Description
High	Your child is making a strong effort to complete and present work to the required standard.
Satisfactory	Your child is making a satisfactory effort to complete and present work to the required standard.
Low	Your child sometimes participates and engages in learning activities. They occasionally try to complete and present work to the required standard.

While 'Sound' remains in use for teachers, 'Expected' has been introduced to enhance communication with families. For example, the term 'Sound' can have multiple connotations, such as making a sound, which may cause confusion when interpreting a student's achievement.

'Expected (C)' clearly communicates that the student is achieving the standard expected at this point in their learning. This adjustment supports transparency, improves understanding, and aligns with NSW curriculum standards.

[School name]

Insert image
of school
logo/emblem

[Student name]

This report is issued without any corrections

Stage [X] – [insert class name]

[Teacher name]

[First name's]

Semester [#]

report provides a summary of [gender] progress across all key learning areas. For further information or questions regarding this report, please contact [School name] at [School email] or call [School phone number]

General comment

[General comments will be written in plain English. Recommended maximum length 200 words. Note: this can include information about key learning areas.]

The general comment section of the report can be used to discuss a student's social development and commitment to learning. It can also be used to provide more information about the student's learning progress in all Key Learning Areas (KLAs) as a whole, and/or KLAs other than English and mathematics.

The general comment could also be used to report on the school's positive behaviour goals, such as resilience and respect, as well as how students engage with feedback or demonstrate independent learning skills.

Social development and commitment to learning				
	C	U	S	
[Displays a positive attitude to learning]	☐	☒	☐	[Works well with others]
[Respects the rights and property of others]	☐	☒	☐	[Shows respect for others]
[Respects class and school rules]	☐	☒	☐	[Helps others]

C – consistently U – usually S – sometimes

This table provides an example of how to report on social development and commitment to learning. Schools can:

- use the table as it is
- modify the text to suit their needs
- replace the table with written comments to report on a student's social development and commitment to learning.

Schools must provide information about student achievement in relation to school programs that extend or are additional to syllabus requirement. This table shows one way to do this.

Extra activities		
[insert activity]	[insert activity]	[insert activity]
[insert activity]	[insert activity]	[insert activity]

Attendance	
Whole days absent	Partial days absent

Reporting on attendance is required under the Curriculum policy standards policy. Schools have the flexibility to decide how this information is presented.

English

Overall achievement

High

▼

Effort

High

▼

Teacher's comments

[Comments will be written in plain English. Limit the use of education jargon. Recommended maximum length 150 words. Identify areas of student strength and areas for further development. If referring to focus areas or other syllabus content, modify to plain English.]

Using plain English when reporting to parents is essential for ensuring accessibility. Plain English relies on clear, direct, and simple language, avoiding jargon, so readers can quickly and easily understand the information. For guidance, refer to [plain English principles](#) for practical tips on writing effectively.

Mathematics

Overall achievement

High

▼

Effort

High

▼

Teacher's comments

[Comments will be written in plain English. Limit the use of education jargon. Recommended maximum length 150 words. Identify areas of student strength and areas for further development. If referring to focus areas or other syllabus content, modify to plain English.]

Creative arts

▼

Effort

High

▼

			music	visual arts
Achievement	Outstanding	▼	Outstanding	▼
Effort	High	▼	Not studied this semester	▼
			Satisfactory	▼
			Select	▼

Human society and its environment

Overall achievement

Select

▼

Effort

Select

▼

	geography	history
Achievement	Select	▼
Effort	Select	▼

Personal development, health and physical education

Overall achievement

Select

▼

Effort

Select

▼

	personal development, health	physical education
Achievement	Select	▼
Effort	Select	▼

Science and technology

Overall achievement

Select

▼

Effort

Select

▼

	science	technology
Achievement	Select	▼
Effort	Select	▼