



Today's decision by the Board to cancel early dismissal days...

### **GADZOOKS! ARE WE DOING TOO MUCH REPORTING?**

We all know that technology has created a situation where teachers are able to post their marks online for easy student/parent access and that this has hastened a culture of expectation around reporting out for teachers. In their attempts to provide only the very best for their students, teachers have embraced the new technologies and have dutifully provided email, and web based access for parents through programs like Check My Mark.

The question here is not whether or not we should communicate with parents regarding students' progress in specific areas of information and skill; it is the frequency of these reports. How often is too much? Each of you will need to answer that question for yourselves and determine where you fall on that continuum. To help with those decisions, and aid in discussions you might be having,

I've included some information below from a Ministry document titled *Reporting Student Progress: Policy and Practice*; a section of the *BC School Act*; and the language from our own Collective Agreement.

**Perhaps teachers should pause and reflect on just how much value is being accredited to all of the reporting teachers have been providing.**

#### **ADTA/SD34 Collective Agreement:**

##### **ARTICLE D.34 STUDENT REPORTING PERIODS**

1. The Board and the Association agree that there shall be five (5) student reports. At least three (3) shall be formal written reports.
2. Informal reports regarding student progress shall include documented parent/teacher conferences or, where the parent is not available, a documented telephone call, or written interim reports.

#### **Reporting Student Progress: Policy and Practice:**

Provincial regulations for reporting student progress require that parents or guardians be provided with a minimum of:

- **three formal written report cards.** The formal written report must be on a form approved by the Minister or school board and must follow the requirements for the specific grade and program as stated in legislation and policy. One formal report shall be made at the end of the school year. Formal reports identify student progress and are placed in the Permanent Student Record file.
- **two informal reports each school year.** At least two informal reports must be provided to parents each school year.

**BC School Act:**

**SCHOOL CALENDAR REGULATION**

Authority: *School Act*, sections 78 and 175

**PART 2 – SCHOOL CALENDARS – GENERAL**

**Application of Part**

**Instructional time**

8

(7) A board may, in any school year, shorten not more than 4 of the school days of a school in its district by a period of time that is not more than one hour, for the purpose of facilitating parent teacher interviews that

- (a) are not otherwise scheduled by way of a non-instructional period, and
- (b) relate to student progress reports.

(8) If a school day is shortened under subsection (6) or (7),

- (a) the school day is deemed, for the purposes of this regulation, to be a full school day, and
- (b) the board is deemed, for the purposes of this regulation, to have offered instruction to the students of the school for the period of time by which the school day was shortened.



**report** |ri'pôrt|

*noun*

*I an account given of a particular matter, esp. in the form of an official document, after thorough investigation or consideration by an appointed person or body*