



## Summative Assessment

### Dimension #10: Communicating Student Learning

#### Effective assessment practice is evident when teachers...

*report the results of student learning to students, parents and others who have a right to know in a manner that is easy to understand, accurate, fair, and designed to support learning.*

## ► Communicating about Student Learning

<https://aac.ab.ca/video/communicating-about-student-learning/>

### Video Summary

A teacher discusses how involving students in reflecting on their learning provides timely and ongoing communication with parents/guardians. Although this video is set in an elementary classroom, the assessment principles from this video are applicable to other grades and subjects.

#### Key Points

- Students gain greater clarity when they engage in meaningful discussion about the outcomes, and reflect on their progress.
- Parents/guardians appreciate the ongoing communication so they can support the child's learning.
- The teacher gains important information about how students perceive their progress. This information helps teachers design appropriate instructional support.

#### Discussion Question

- How could we design a process to support student learning and enhance communication with parents/guardians?

### Connections to TQS Assessment Indicators

- accurately reflect the learner outcomes within the programs of study
- support the use of reasoned judgment about the evidence used to determine and report the level of student learning



### Connections to LQS Instructional Leadership Indicators

- 6 (a) building the capacity of teachers to respond to the learning needs of all students
- 6 (c) ensuring that student instruction addresses learning outcomes outlined in programs of study
- 6 (e) demonstrating a strong understanding of effective pedagogy and curriculum
- 6 (g) ensuring that student assessment and evaluation practices are fair, appropriate, and evidence informed

## Using the Video to Support Your Own Professional Learning

1. Review the video: [Communicating about Student Learning](#).
  - Use the *Key Points* and *Discussion Question* to guide your reflection.
  - What connections can you make to your past/current classroom practice?
2. Engage in background reading and study.
  - *Assessment Conversations: Engaging with Colleagues to Support Student Learning* (pp. 69 – 70).\*
3. Anticipate challenges.



Potential Challenge	Potential Response
<p><i>"I have 30 kids in my class. Sending home a weekly update seems like a lot of extra work."</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As important as the summative grading process is, it is only a small part of how we communicate with parents about student learning. A digital parent portal can never provide all the information that parents need.</li> <li>• Start with the students who are struggling. Time spent working to build relationships with parents/guardians may be an effective use of time to help keep these students on a path to success.</li> </ul>

**As a school leader,** engage in a staff discussion about how we can more effectively communicate with parents about the learning that really matters.

## Using the Video to Support Professional Conversations

### (Assessment Team and/or Staff/Department Meeting)

1. Encourage assessment team/staff members to focus on the **Key Points** and the **Discussion Question** as they design assessment experiences for students.
2. Encourage team members to be prepared to share their experiences (successes and challenges) at the next assessment team meeting and/or the next staff/department meeting.



**Remember the value of working towards building a culture of formative assessment within your school, beginning with your leadership role. See Section 2 (p. 11) for more information.**

\* *Assessment Conversations: Engaging with Colleagues to Support Student Learning* is an additional recommended resource published by AAC. It was not funded by this project, and is available for purchase from AAC.