

MAPC Position Statement
April 23, 2010
Middle Years Report Cards

MAPC believes in the importance of accurate and meaningful reporting of students' progress to parents/guardians in the form of report cards so that they have a true picture of their child's successes and challenges at school.

Educators must keep in mind that some parents may not be familiar with the educational terminology commonly used by the teaching profession. Every effort should be made to ensure that all reporting to parents is done in a clear manner or method.

Anecdotal comments by educators are a very effective communication tool to inform parents about the progress of their children in the school setting. These comments would reflect student engagement, learning behaviors, social skills, as well as academic successes or challenges. Parents believe these comments to be more meaningful if they are personalized comments rather than computer generated or generic.

Entering high school and adjusting to the credit system may be a significant learning curve for students and their parents. It is essential that they be prepared for the reality that a minimum of 50% in each course is required in order to earn a high school credit.

In preparation for their future, students need to be taught that standards must be met in order to reach goals. Scholarships are often based on percentage marks, and in the workplace employees are evaluated by a grading system.

We recognize that each school division, and in many cases schools within those divisions, design their own style of report cards to report to parents about the academic progress of their children. It is important that parents be consulted by school administrators whenever significant changes are being contemplated to the way in which parents will receive that information, and specifically what information will be reported.

MAPC believes that parental voice, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, is crucial when considering any changes to the reporting of students' progress.

Rationale:

MAPC would like to be able to share this position, as representative of its members, with our education partners (including the Minister of Education), and the media.