

# Assessment of student learning at the SCDSB

## What has changed?

There are no longer dedicated days at the end of the semester that are reserved for conducting subject specific secondary school exams.

Exams, and other forms of evaluating student learning, occur near the end of the semester to allow time for feedback and continuous learning and improvement in a subject area. Exams and evaluations should be transparent, fair, and equitable for all students.

## Why the change?

Reserving days at the end of the semester for exams and other forms of evaluating student learning does not provide enough time for feedback, continuous learning, or improvement in a particular subject area.

Students complete the semester and move on without understanding where they could improve or do more learning in order to fully understand the subject area.

## What does research tell us?

Providing students with feedback and multiple opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge is an important aspect of learning and has the greatest impact on achievement.

*\*Source: Grading for Equity*

## How does the Ministry of Education require school boards to evaluate student success?

- Growing Success is a document published by the Ministry of Education that outlines the requirements for evaluating student success.
- Growing Success stipulates that students must be evaluated based on coursework and an evaluation which could include an exam or another form of evaluation including demonstrations, presentations, essays, or portfolio submissions.
- Growing Success stipulates that students must be evaluated based on coursework (70% of final grade) and an evaluation (30% of final grade) which could include one or a combination of an exam or another form of evaluation including demonstrations, presentations, essays, or portfolio submissions.

## How are post-secondary institutions assessing student learning?

- **Georgian College** instructors utilize multiple methods of evaluating student learning. In determining the method, they consider alignment with the current workforce conditions and authentic assessments based on the field of study.
- **Lakehead University** schedules formal exam periods for certain courses, specifically content-driven courses. Lakehead Education Chair notes that “exams can be a productive part of the learning process, but they can also be very static and a bit institutional”.

*\*Source: <https://www.collingwoodtoday.ca/local-news/teachers-have-multiple-choices-for-exams-post-pandemic-6469458>*