

HWDSB

Frequently Asked Questions Report Cards (Elementary and Secondary)

ELEMENTARY

Why am I not receiving a report card for my child this year?

While respecting the collective bargaining process, HWDSB made the difficult decision to cancel term one report cards. This is due to insufficient resources and time for school administrators to input data using the report card software or any other digital tool and to produce accurate report cards for our approximate 36,000 elementary students. We regret that report cards will not be produced as we know they are an important measure of student progress.

Collective bargaining is still proceeding with the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO). We remain hopeful that all three parties can reach a deal that is both fair to our staff and maintains our strong public education system for our students.

What are the specific sanctions that ETFO makes with respect to Term 1 Report Cards:

ETFO is currently engaged in four stages of legal job action. In the first stage, ETFO stated they will:

- NOT complete Term 1 Report Cards – teachers will provide the school administrator with a class list of marks for the various subjects/strands taught, or one brief comment per frame for the Kindergarten Communication of Learning;
- NOT undertake the role of report card administrator;
- NOT file the Progress Report, the Term 1 Report Card or the Kindergarten Communication of Learning.

Why can't HWDSB issue report cards because of labour actions?

This difficult decision was made after careful consideration and thorough review of the processes, resources and time required to produce accurate Term 1 Report Cards.

In HWDSB, there are approximately 36,000 elementary students whose marks are being written by hand and submitted on paper copies of class lists to our principals by the end of January. With approximately 120 elementary school administrators (principals and vice-principals), we are unable to find the resources required to complete this task. Given that marks are being

submitted on a class list, principals would be required to take this information and input it to the report card program for each individual student.

At all times, and particularly during job action, the main focus and priority of our Principals, as well as our Board, is the safety and well-being of our students. With added duties and responsibilities for Principals during job action, we don't want to compromise student safety or well-being.

Does this mean that my Kindergarten child will not get a report card?

This labour action affects all students in elementary school, which is from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Kindergarten teachers will write, but not electronically input, a brief comment for each section of a student's Kindergarten Communication of Learning. For this reason, we are unable to provide parents with the report. We believe it is important for teachers and parents to communicate about student progress. Please contact your child's teacher(s) if you have questions or concerns about their progress.

Does this mean that teachers won't have marks for my child?

Teachers are still providing principals with a class list of marks for the various subjects/strands taught. However, they are not entering marks, learning skills or comments electronically.

Teachers are providing hand-written marks submitted on paper copies of class lists to our principals by the end of January.

If report cards aren't being provided, how do I find out how my child is doing in school?

We believe it is important for teachers and parents to communicate about student progress. Please contact your child's teacher(s) if you have questions or concerns about their progress.

Parents/guardians can contact your child's principal if there are any concerns or for further information.

Does this mean my child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) won't be updated?

Students with an IEP will continue to have these updated as per previous practice. We do encourage parents who have questions about their child's IEP to contact their school.

SECONDARY

Are high school students receiving report cards?

Secondary school students will receive a report card, however, the report card will only contain marks, no comments. Please contact your child's teacher(s) if you have questions or concerns about their progress.

My child is applying to post-secondary programs. Will they be affected by this?

No. Students who are submitting their marks to the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS), the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC), Apprenticeship opportunities or professional schools will be able to so.

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