

WHY NO MARKS?



AISI - Alberta Initiative for School Improvement ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

"Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted."

Albert Einstein

You have just received your child's report card. Report cards have most likely changed a lot since you were in school. There are no longer As, Bs or any Fs for that matter. There are also no percentages or averages. Why the change?

While marks can be a *measurement* of improvement they do not support the student in knowing *how to improve*.

In assessment for learning, the key lies in the specific learning outcomes (checklist on your child's report card) and feedback (comments) that are given rather than the score. When looking at your child's report card you and your child should have a clear idea of what s(he) has mastered and what s(he) need to continue working on. The comments focus on identifying a student's strengths, possible improvements, and suggestions for action. *Students can use the feedback and evidence of their progress to make changes to their own learning.*

K. Marks
Grade 3 and AISI lead teacher