

Frequently Asked Questions about PowerTeacher Pro

Why do my students' profiles look different at different grade levels?

Teachers are responsible for responding to the needs of learners and communicating achievement of learning outcomes.

PTP allows us the flexibility to report student learning and progress in ways that address the learning needs of students and the expectations of the outcomes at the grade level. Students progress in learning the outcomes through a variety of experiences and at a pace that acknowledges their readiness to learn.

Teachers as individuals and in grade level teams communicate with each other, with students, and with parents in a variety of ways, and PTP continues to expand the repertoire of communication tools.

The continuity from class to class and grade to grade is in the outcomes. Teachers are reporting on the achievement of the learning outcomes outlined for students in Alberta.

How frequently can updates be expected?

It's not about quantity, but quality. Updates will respond to the process of learning, in that they will be flexible, but they will be prevalent and timely. This is a positive shift from a three times a year snapshot to an ongoing process for communicating student learning, providing feedback on strengths and actions to stretch the learning. Some subject areas and learning outcomes offer more opportunity to communicate learning more often.

This shift is designed to enhance the collaboration in learning between the student, the parent(s)/guardian(s), and the teacher. Each student needs a web of supports invested in their success. Thank you for being involved and taking the time to understand how your child is progressing. This allows for conversations to best help students meet their individual academic goals.

Why have the achievement indicators changed?

At the time that Northern Gateway Public Schools moved into a common reporting program across the jurisdiction, there was a need to move to common achievement indicators across the schools.

The indicators and subsequent descriptions were adopted at the recommendation of the NGPS Assessment and Reporting Committee as they align with Alberta Education bulletin documents regarding achievement. The indicators describe the degree of independence to which a student can demonstrate an outcome.

Why is my child who used to get 4s on previous report cards now only getting Apply?

The achievement indicator Adapt requires that the student demonstrate the outcome in a new situation. It may be that while the student can readily model what the teacher has practiced with them in class, they may not yet be able to access that learning in an unfamiliar scenario. It may be that the student has not yet been presented with a learning experience in which to demonstrate their ability to achieve Adapt for that outcome as more foundational learning may need to occur in order to be set up for success.

Why is the app a different user experience than logging into the Portal on the computer?

Apps are programmed and designed for an experience on a smaller screen, both in size and resolution, and so their functionality focuses on a different targets than that of a computer program.

<https://www.paradoxlabs.com/blog/mobile-vs-desktop-10-key-differences/>

With that in mind, if access to the Portal on a mobile device is desired, users can go to ps.ngps.ca using their browser, and add the page to their home screen so that it is accessible by simply clicking and then logging in.

Why do I have to log in to the Portal each time and not in the app?

The amount of information that is accessible through the Portal is much more than that in the app (see above for further explanation). More information is addressed with more security.