Have you recently asked your child, “What did you learn at school today?” “What do you understand about what you’ve learned?” It’s been proven that students do better in school when their parents are active participants in their education. As a parent, you want to know how well your child is learning and what they truly understand and can apply to new situations. How can you be involved? One way is to find out about how your child’s progress is measured.

Teachers use many ways of measuring progress to help all students succeed. Student progress is based on the results we want students to achieve, or learning outcomes, set by the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Provincial standards in literacy help teachers measure student progress accurately and consistently. Standards describe, in detail, what students know and can do to demonstrate they have learned a skill. These standards also describe and set expected levels of student performance. Teachers use many tools to assess student progress.

**Learning Targets**

By the end of grade 9, all students should be able to:

- communicate effectively
- solve problems and make decisions using critical and creative thinking
- use technology effectively
- understand the world as a set of related systems
- work and get along well with others
- participate as responsible citizens
If you want to know whether someone can drive a car, you need to give them more than a written test. The same thing is true for students. They will write tests, quizzes and assignments but sometimes this doesn’t tell us all we need to know. Using different ways of measuring student progress allows us to understand what students know, how they think, what they do, what they produce and the values they are developing. Tools such as teacher observation, presentations, material evidence, conversations, student peer and self-evaluation, journals and province-wide reviews and tests are a few ways to measure students progress, including how they work and what they have learned. Remember that everything students do, say, and create is potential evidence of learning.

This approach helps teachers better understand the problem if a student isn’t learning something. It also means that the student—and you—are active participants in measuring progress and addressing any barriers to learning. It provides the information needed to help students achieve their best and learn important skills they will use both in their jobs and throughout life. When parents continually show that they value learning by asking their children about their learning, students realize that education is about the process of learning how to learn, about acquiring crucial habits of mind, dispositions and skills of a lifelong learner.

To find out more about the ways your child’s progress is measured, speak with your child’s teachers, guidance counsellor or school principal.