

## **Frequently Asked Questions:** **TDSB Elementary Marks Summary**

**1. What is a summary of marks document?**

A summary of marks document is a TDSB-designed document that will allow principals to report the final marks of elementary students.

**2. How will the summary of marks differ from the usual term 2 elementary report card?**

This summary of marks document is a TDSB-designed document that will contain final marks from the school year, grade placement and attendance. This is not an official Ontario Report Card. The summary of marks will not have comments, learning skills or reflection from their teacher on a student's progress.

**3. Why is my child(ren) getting a summary of marks instead of a term 2 elementary report card?**

As part of the ongoing strike actions by the Elementary Teacher's Federation of Ontario (ETFO), elementary teachers across the province have been directed not to enter marks electronically in order to produce report cards. ETFO has also directed its members to not discuss marks with parents/guardians. Normally, over 10,000 teachers produce report cards and without their input and expertise, a traditional report card with comments and reflections is just not feasible. However, parents/guardians can continue to discuss progress with teachers.

**4. My child(ren) is in Kindergarten and most of their assessments are through reflection by their teacher. What will their summary of marks document look like?**

Kindergarten students and their parents/guardians will not receive a summary of marks but rather a placement letter for the upcoming school year.

**5. My child(ren) has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), how will their final marks be relayed?**

Students with an IEP will receive a summary of marks document like all other students in Grades 1-8. The summary of marks document your child(ren) receives will have a column that will indicate the existence of an IEP – this will also be the case for students who are taking part in French Immersion or English as a Second Language studies.

**6. How will I get my child(ren)'s summary of marks?**

You will receive your child(ren)'s summary of marks in the mail at the address your school has on file for your child(ren).



**7. When will I get my child(ren)'s summary of marks?**

The TDSB will mail your child(ren)'s summary of marks during the week of July 13, 2015. This also applies to Kindergarten students who will get their placement letter during this time as well.

**8. My child(ren) is graduating. How will I know whether my child(ren) passed the school year and will be promoted onwards?**

The summary of marks document will indicate whether your child(ren) will be promoted, transferred or retained for the next school year. Teachers have had conversations with students and their families throughout the school year about the potential risk of being retained or transferred. Please continue to speak with your teacher about the progress of your child(ren).

**9. Who will be producing a summary of my child(ren)'s marks?**

Principals with the assistance of managerial staff and business/operational staff will be working on producing a summary of marks for each student in Grades 1-8.

**10. Will the summary of marks go in my child(ren)'s Ontario Student Record?**

Yes. The summary of marks will be part of the grade placement information that will be placed in your child(ren)'s Ontario Student Record.

**11. What if my child(ren) changes schools or school boards in the future? Will a summary of marks put them at a disadvantage?**

The summary of marks will be placed in the student's Ontario Student Record. Since this is a province-wide strike action, many schools and school boards are familiar with this issue and will be making accommodations.

**12. I thought that the TDSB said that providing final marks would be not possible. Why are you changing your mind?**

The June 11 letter explained that students would receive a letter confirming their placement for the upcoming school year because we believed that parents/guardians could speak to their child(ren)'s teacher to discuss individual marks. We have since learned that due to the ongoing province-wide strike action, teachers have been directed not to provide marks to parents/guardians and to refer the parent/guardian to the school principal instead. The work of over 10,000 elementary teachers cannot be replaced by 500 principals as this task is overwhelming. In the spirit of equity and uniformity, we reviewed the situation and worked to ensure that each student receives their final marks at the same time.



**13. The TDSB indicated that producing final marks for elementary students would cost \$1M. Does this new solution have a cost? If so, who is paying for it?**

Traditional term 2 report cards would have a cost of \$1M if staff were hired and trained to produce report cards by June 26. Using central staff and delaying the release of the final marks beyond the last day of school, we are able to do this at a reduced cost. The Ministry of Education is not providing any additional funding to help manage this strike action.

**14. Who should I speak to if I have questions about my child(ren)'s progress from this school year?**

This strike action is fluid and ever changing. As of today, teachers should be available to discuss your child(ren)'s progress but that may change.