

COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING USING ELECTRONIC OR PAPER PORTFOLIOS

Both electronic and paper portfolios are created and communicated continuously throughout the year and need to convey significant learning progress. Each post or entry should be titled, and clearly identify a learning outcome or big idea from one or more curricular areas.

Learning Updates and Summary of Learning Guidelines – Elementary/Middle Schools

Please see the chart for expectations on communicating about each area of learning throughout the year for both portfolios and MyEd formats. Written updates are snapshots that refer to the student’s progress in current areas of learning.

Areas of Learning	Minimum # of learning updates during year	Summary of Learning in June
English Language Arts/Literacy	3	✓
Mathematics/Numeracy	3	✓
Physical and Health Education	1	✓
Arts Education	1	✓
Science	1	✓
Social Studies	1	✓
Core French or Languages (Grade 5 and up)	1	✓
ADST	1	✓
Career Education	1	✓

NOTES:

Number of portfolio posts: For portfolios, 13 is the minimum number of learning updates during the school year. **Reminder:** Areas of learning can be integrated into a single post and be considered as more than one post.

Summary of Learning in June: Reference to all areas of learning is required for both formats.

Descriptive feedback...

- refers specifically to the student’s strengths and areas for future growth
- connects feedback to examples from the classroom
- includes information on goals a student can work toward, both at school and at home
- provides information on specific supports a student is receiving to move them forward in their learning
- uses plain language
- includes learning habits and engagement
- does NOT require elaboration of the learning context/activities

These Guiding Parameters can help you choose what you will write in your portfolios. While you do not need to represent all 6 in each post, it is recommended that you write short descriptive sentences, and these parameters can give you an idea of what to write about.

Six Guiding Parameters for Communicating Student Progress

- 1. Authentic Evidence** - work sample, photo, video, audio (put pictures at the end of your post)
- 2. Student Voice** - a student's self-reflection about their learning in relationship to learning targets, competencies, or next steps.
- 3. Teacher's Comments/Descriptive Feedback** - describes significant aspects of the student's learning progress and includes an evaluative statement or references to a rubric, or performance standard. The common language used for evaluative statements is either:

*Student is **emerging, developing, proficient, extending** grade level expectations.*
- 4. Competencies** - defined by MOE as a set of intellectual, personal, social and emotional proficiencies; our district also uses corresponding frameworks such as Successful Learner Traits & the 7 Habits. The competencies demonstrated by the student are described (not rated on a scale) and may stand alone as a part of a post, or be embedded within the teachers' comments, student voice, or next steps
- 5. Next Steps** - may be written as a goal statement (from student or teacher) in relation to the Learning Intention and authentic evidence. This may also describe how the next steps may be supported either at home or at school.
- 6. Core Learning** – refers to the key curricular areas of Reading, Writing and Math which need to be prioritized in the number of posts teachers do.

Celebrations of Learning

Celebrations of Learning may also be included in paper or electronic portfolios if they represent significant progress and can be tied to a learning outcome or intention. (Note – portfolios are not a scrapbook, but rather a formal collection of significant progress for a child; teachers are encouraged to use email for the lighter, fun moments they may wish to simply share with parents). Celebration of Learning posts may include: receiving a certificate, a fieldtrip highlight, a classroom or sporting event highlight, a social/emotional highlight, or an extra-curricular activity.

For more information, explanation and samples go to Learn71: Go to **learn71.ca**, click on **Assessment and Reporting**, then click on **ePortfolios** and then click on **What are Portfolios** and look at the featured links on the right of the page (or click here - <http://learn71.ca/communicating-student-learning/>).