Frequently Asked Questions
Term 2 Elementary Report Cards – June 2015

Will I get a report card for my child in elementary school?
No. Kindergarten to grade 8 students will not receive term two report cards. Instead of the term two elementary report card, on June 22, 2015, you will receive a placement letter from the school. That letter includes information about the placement for your child next year, and all the additional information we can provide at this time, including attendance and times he or she has been late. This letter will be part of your child’s Ontario Student Record (OSR).

Will I get a the term two report card at a later date?
No. The placement letter replaces this year’s term two report card.

How can principals make decisions about grade placement for next year without final marks?
Principals will make decisions based on all previous marks, assessments and achievement data recorded throughout the school year.

I rely on the final report card to know how my son/daughter has done. What do I do now?
The final report card should contain no surprises. It is not the sole nor is it the most important piece of achievement data we have for your child. It is just another update on progress. All prior formal assessment, evaluation and reporting that has been completed this year is part of your child’s record and can be referenced moving forward.

How will schools know, in the future, that my son/daughter did not get a report card due to labour action? I don’t want my child disadvantaged.
The placement letter and the letter from the Peel District School Board’s director of education will explain that the placement letter replaces the final report card—both will be placed in your child’s OSR. This will be the case at many large Ontario school boards.

Isn’t doing the report card part of the responsibility of the teacher? Can’t you make them do it?
It is one of the duties—but they are in a legal strike position provincially and so can remove any and all services.

Teachers had a PA Day to write report cards. What did they do and why didn’t you cancel it?
June 8, 2015, was a Report Card Writing and Assessment Day in elementary schools. It is part of teachers’ contracts and had to be honoured. Teachers worked on assessment activities on that day.

What about students’ Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)?
For students who have IEPs, these will be placed in their OSRs and will be available to view in the fall.

What about entry to regional learning choices programs? Don’t they need final marks?
The Peel board understands this concern. In the fall, we will bring a group of Regional Program principals together and will revise the admissions process for this one year to accommodate the lack of
term two report cards. Term one report cards will be used instead of term two report cards. The board will ensure that everyone is on a level playing field. No student will be disadvantaged.

If teachers are providing marks, why can’t there be report cards?
Currently, public elementary teachers across Ontario are taking part in a lawful job action. This action includes not writing report card comments, and not inputting student marks electronically for the purpose of producing report cards. As a board, our production of report cards for over 100,000 elementary students relies on this inputting of data by teachers. Unfortunately, after exploring every possible solution, the Peel board is unable to provide parents and guardians with report cards for elementary students.

Why can’t principals/vice-principals do this if teachers are providing marks?
The board considered this option. There are 112,000 students, so about three million pieces of data to enter. Three hundred and fifty principals and vice-principals cannot do the work of 5,000 classroom teachers. Also, we are unlikely to have marks before June 15 in some schools—trying to produce report cards in that short a timeframe is not possible.

Couldn’t the board have hired people?
This was considered. First of all, it would be expensive—around a million dollars—and the provincial government will not fund these costs. There are significant issues about who has access to the highly confidential information that is part of a child’s report card. Finally, without knowing how the marks will be submitted to the principal—maybe they will be handwritten—there is no clear way to check the accuracy, and there were concerns about the integrity of the card.

Can parents volunteer to help generate report cards with marks?
There are significant issues about who has access to the highly confidential information on students' report cards. Due to privacy laws, student information, including student numbers, cannot be made available to anyone without significant due diligence, adding other layers of complexity to the process.

My child is changing schools/school boards? They’ve asked for his/her report card. What do I tell them?
The placement letter replaces the term two report card and will be kept in the child’s OSR, which travels with them to their new school/school board. The Ministry of Education has indicated that the placement letter will be an official record of grade promotion.

Isn’t a report card required by the province?
The Ministry of Education has communicated to boards that, from their perspective, a placement letter is an acceptable option this year.

I hear other boards are doing report cards. Why not Peel?
We can’t comment on the decisions of other boards—each is different in their processes and structures. However, many large boards, including Toronto and York, will provide placement letters like Peel.
If principals and vice-principals aren’t proofing report cards, why don’t they have the time to enter the marks?
Three hundred and fifty people cannot do the work of 5,000 classroom teachers, while doing their roles of running schools. Also, while they are not doing the usual work related to report cards, principals and vice-principals still need review student assessments, and view and sign all placement letters. They also pick up a significant amount of work normally done to update and file information into OSRs. This alone will be a full work-week of time for many school administrators.

I really want to know how my child did this year. What can I do?
We know that our elementary teachers are skilled professionals and we are confident that throughout the school year they would have kept you well informed on the progress of your child. As always, if you have any questions, you may want to contact your child’s teacher up to and during the week of June 22 to discuss your child’s progress this school year. We have been told, however, that teachers have been directed by their federation to not give marks to parents or students. We know this is disappointing, but there is nothing we can do about this provincial directive.

Will teachers provide marks to students?
Teachers will not provide marks to students.

Will principals and vice-principals provide parents with their children’s marks?
At this point, principals may not have marks from teachers. As of the week of June 22, principals and vice-principals will do their best to help parents who request marks. However, based on the volume of requests, size of school and the way marks are provided to them, they may be unable to provide the marks until the fall.

Can schools provide parents with marks in writing or a copy of the marks from the teacher?
No, that will not be possible at any school. As of the week of June 22, principals and vice-principals will do their best to help parents who request marks. However, based on the volume of requests, size of school and the way marks are provided to them, there may be cases where they are unable to provide the marks until the fall.

Why can’t the board take the money it saved from the secondary teachers’ strike and use it for this?
That is not possible. The Peel board does not keep the unspent salary money. The funding from the secondary teachers’ strike is returned to the province. The board only gets reimbursed for expenses directly related to that strike.

Why did the board just do a news release—shouldn’t we have received a letter from the school?
The news release, and posting to school websites, was intended to provide advance notice of the detailed information and the placement letter coming home June 22. Schools sent a synrevoice message and/or email to ask that parents check school websites for important information about June report cards.