



**Department: Programs and Services**  
**Section: Programs and Student Services**

The AVRSB believes that assessment and evaluation are integral to teaching and learning, and support informed judgments about curricula, the effectiveness of teaching and learning, and the quality of programs. The AVRSB values a balanced approach to assessment and evaluation that includes teacher-conducted and -administered assessments, program assessments conducted by the AVRSB, and tests/assessments conducted by external agencies and approved by the Department of Education or the AVRSB.

The AVRSB believes that large-scale external assessments may provide valuable information about the delivery of curricula and programming when used to assist and support school and teacher judgments in assessing student achievement. The AVRSB believes that external tests/assessments are only one indicator of school or student achievement, and must be used in the context of improving teaching and learning, not to measure teacher competency nor to compare schools.

The AVRSB believes that assessment results tracked over a number of years provide a more reliable indicator of performance than single-year results.

**Specifically:**

- The AVRSB will participate in large-scale assessments mandated by and conducted through the Department of Education. This will include assessments formulated and conducted for the province of Nova Scotia by the Department of Education, and those national and international assessments (e.g. SAIP, PISA) administered by the Department of Education on behalf of these agencies.
- Results and interpretations from such large-scale external assessments will be released and disseminated in a timely fashion, and in a method and format deemed appropriate by the AVRSB.
- The Director of Programs and Services will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of this policy.
- The policy will be monitored annually.

**Monitoring:**

- The Director of Programs and Services is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and revision of this policy.
- This policy will be monitored annually.

**Board Approved:** December 4/02

**Ref:** AP 402.10

**Monitoring Date:** Annually

**Revised:**