

Information for Parents, Guardians, and Students

What is the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP)?

The Pan-Canadian Assessment Program is an assessment that measures the knowledge and skills of Grade 8 (in Quebec, Secondary II) Canadian students in three subjects: science, reading, and mathematics.

This assessment was developed by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC).

PCAP 2023 will focus mainly on science. However, students will also respond to reading and mathematics questions.

What is the purpose of PCAP?

The PCAP assessment has two main purposes: to investigate how prepared Grade 8/Secondary II students are for future academic challenges, and to help policy-makers make informed decisions about education across Canada.

Each province and territory has its own education system, and, as such, school programs differ from one part of the country to another. However, all Canadian students study science, reading, and mathematics, and PCAP identifies the knowledge and skills common in those subject areas.

Who will take part in the PCAP assessment?

Over 30,000 Grade 8/Secondary II students in close to 1,600 schools from across the country will participate in PCAP 2023. The assessment will be administered to both anglophone and francophone students.

What will participating students have to do?

Students will complete an online assessment that assesses their knowledge and skills in science. The assessment will take about 90 minutes to complete.

An additional 30 minutes will be required for students to complete a contextual questionnaire intended to collect information on students' characteristics and attitudes toward learning.

Do students need to prepare for PCAP?

No. Students do not need to study for this assessment. Normal classroom activities in science classrooms provide ample preparation for this assessment.

Will the results affect students' marks?

No. The results of this assessment will not affect students' academic records in any way. The results will be compiled only for provinces/territories, not for individual schools, students, or school boards/districts.

Will the PCAP assessment be fair to all students?

Yes. Teachers from across the country have developed and reviewed this assessment. It is designed to give all students a chance to show their knowledge and skills. PCAP has been tested for bias based on culture, gender, and regional differences, and has been found to be fair, appropriate, and bias-free.

A Personal Note to Students

Thank you in advance for taking part in PCAP 2023.

When you participate in this assessment, you will help us improve education for all students in Canada.

We're counting on you.

Please do your best!