

## IPA18-15 Standard Transmission: Provincial Standards, Standardized Assessments, and the Issue of “Grade Inflation”

**PRESENTED BY****Tim Coates****SERIES SESSIONS**

Date	Time
April 16, 2018	9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

**LOCATION****J. R. Robson School-BTPS Training Lab - 5102 - 46 Street****FEE****\$130.00****QUESTIONS?****Contact Us:****780-623-2248****REGISTER ONLINE****Visit our website to register:****[lnes.ca](http://lnes.ca)**

### Program

Part PD session, part forum, this offering addresses a number of complex and contentious issues related to the expectation that teachers assess to “provincial standards”. Do programs of study, and other ministry documents provide sufficient clarity regarding standards? Are students held to the same standard no matter where they attend school in the province? What is the appropriate role of standardized provincial assessments in a standards-based educational system? Are there alternatives to the current 70/30 weighting split between school-awarded grades and diploma examination marks? What should be the future of PATs and SLAs? The presenter will provide valuable information on how provincial assessments are designed and scored to reflect and communicate provincial standards. There will also be discussion on the potential causes for differentiation in school-awarded grades, and the validity of claims that “grade inflation” becoming endemic. The presenter will argue that formative assessment practices are compatible with the existence of standardized tests, to the point that the success of formative assessment practices can in part be measured by provincial tests. The session will encourage a healthy and spirited debate about appropriate relationships among teacher-awarded grades, and between teacher-awarded grades and standardized assessments. On the lighter side, of this heavy topic, the session begins with an egg-weighing competition to help illustrate a number of standard-

related issues.

One lucky participant will take home a dozen free-range eggs as a prize.

This learning opportunity is being offered through a grant from Alberta Education.

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## Presenters

### Tim Coates

After a number of years in the classroom, Tim Coates was seconded to Alberta Education as a Diploma Examination Manager; first for Social Studies 33, and later for Social Studies 30. From 2005 until 2014 Tim served as the Director of the Diploma Examination Program Branch.

Currently Tim is both a sessional lecturer at the University of Alberta—teaching a course in classroom assessment—and an education consultant providing sessions and workshops on various assessment related topics.

Tim has offered many professional development presentations throughout Alberta and on several occasions in the United States. Tim's educational interests and expertise focus on matters regarding the relationship among assessment, programs of studies outcomes, and instructional practices. He has special interest in working with teachers and school authorities on how to maximize the quality of assessment practices, how to minimize assessment error, ensure an appropriate application of standards, and establish the most appropriate means to report assessment results to multiple assessment "audiences."

In his spare time, Tim raises a small flock of free-range chickens, and has been known to bring along a dozen eggs to sessions, as a prize for a lucky participant.

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## Registration Notes

Registration includes a continental breakfast and lunch.