

Nov. 18, 2015

Steady scholastic improvements *EQAO results show improvements in three of six categories*

(Windsor, Ontario, Nov. 18, 2015) – Grade 3 and Grade 6 students throughout the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board continue to demonstrate improved scholastic achievement with provincial test scores increasing in three of six categories.

Results from the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Primary and Junior Reading, Writing and Mathematics assessments for the 2014/15 indicate that averaged scores for all of the board's elementary schools in those four categories increased over last years' results anywhere from one to four per cent.

"We're very pleased with the way our students are performing," said Director of Education Paul Picard. "This is the direct result of a concerted effort by our teachers, administrators and trustees to ensure that student achievement is our number one priority."

In Grade 6, the board's students posted hikes in two of three categories: reading scores increased to 81 per cent, an improvement of two per cent; writing increased to 82 per cent, a one per cent improvement; and math remained steady at 60 per cent.

In Grade 3, 73 per cent of students achieved the provincial standard (Level 3 and Level 4) in reading, marking a four per cent increase over last year.

The two areas that saw slight decreases were in Grade 3 writing, which went down by one per cent to 80 per cent, and in math, where scores dropped by two per cent to 66 per cent.

Board Chair Barbara Holland said she was delighted by the results.

"Any time you see a fluctuation there's cause for concern, but you need to look at the big picture," she said. "In most categories we've been steadily trending upward for the last five years. We have extremely dedicated teachers and administrators, and we have a great amount of confidence in their ability to use proven methods in their classrooms to help students who aren't meeting expectations to achieve their desired learning outcomes."

Unfortunately, WECDSB administrators have no way of knowing how their students compared to others across Ontario. Provincial data will not be available because students in the some boards did not write the test due to work-to-rule job actions.

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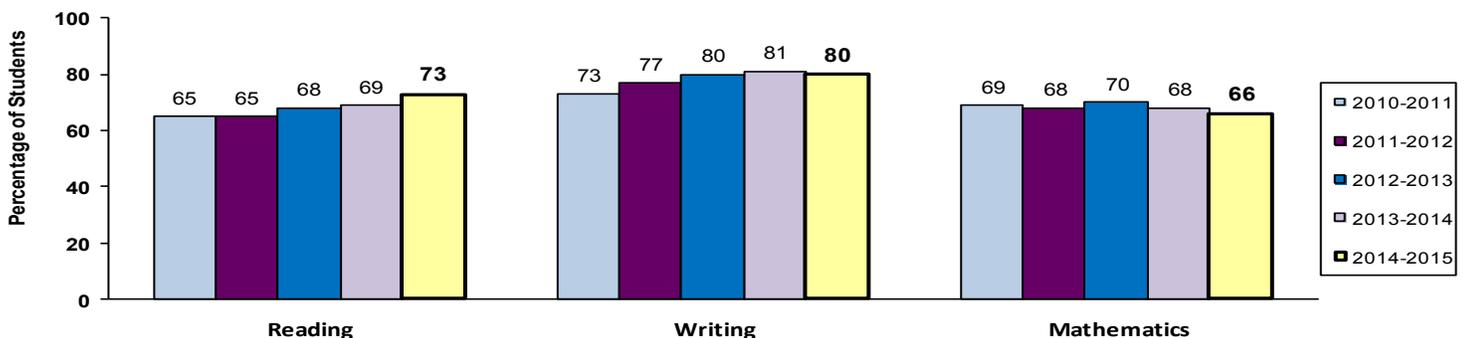


Highlights of EQAO Results (2014-2015) Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics Primary Division (Grades 1-3)

EQAO Results for All Students, Primary Division (Grades 1-3)

- 1,355 Grade 3 students wrote the 2014-2015 assessment.
- The assessment measures the Reading, Writing and Mathematics skills *The Ontario Curriculum* expects students to have learned by the end of Grade 3.

Primary EQAO - Percentage of All Students At or Above the Provincial Standard (Levels 3 and 4) Over Time



The percentage of Grade 3 students in the WECDSB who achieved the provincial standard (Levels 3 and 4) **increased by 4% in Reading**. There was a slight **decrease of 1% in Writing** and **2% in Mathematics**.

- Since 2010-2011, students achieving the provincial standard (Levels 3 and 4) has **increased by 8% in Reading** and **7% in Writing**.
- Over the past four years, Students with Special Education Needs in Grade 3 who have achieved the provincial standard (Levels 3 and 4) has increased by 14% in Reading and 27% in Writing. For the 2014-2015 assessment Mathematics was an area of challenge for Students with Special Education Needs in Grade 3.
- Over the past four years, English Language Learners (ELL) who met the provincial standard (Levels 3 and 4) has increased by 13% in Reading, 23% in Writing and 4% in Mathematics.
- For the 2014-2015 assessment, the gender gap in Grade 3 favoured females in Reading, Writing and Mathematics, with the smallest gap being in the area of Mathematics. The gender gap has consistently favoured females in Reading and Writing over the past few years; however in the area of Mathematics, the gender gap has alternated between favouring males and females.

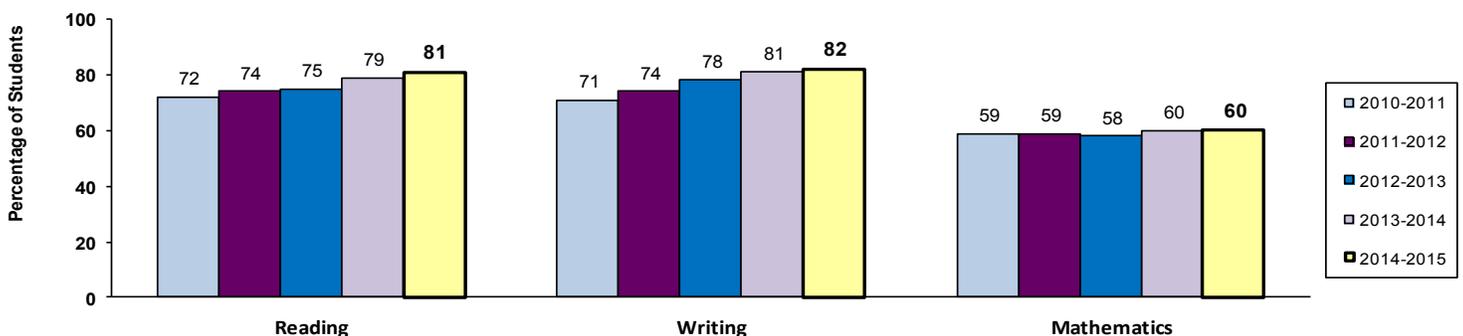


Highlights of EQAO Results (2014-2015) Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics Junior Division (Grades 4-6)

EQAO Results for All Students, Junior Division (Grades 4-6)

- 1, 475 Grade 6 students wrote the 2014-2015 assessment.
- The assessment measures the Reading, Writing and Mathematics skills *The Ontario Curriculum* expects students to have learned by the end of Grade 6.

Junior EQAO - Percentage of All Students At or Above the Provincial Standard (Levels 3 and 4) Over Time



The percentage of Grade 6 students in the WECDSB who achieved the provincial standard (Levels 3 and 4) **increased by 2% in Reading, 1% in Writing** and remained the **same** as last year in **Mathematics**.

- Since 2010-2011, students achieving the provincial standard (Levels 3 and 4) has increased by **9% in Reading, 11% in Writing** and **1% in Mathematics**.
- For the 2014-2015 assessment, Students with Special Education Needs in Grade 6 improved in all areas. Since 2010-2011, there has been an increase of 14% in Reading and 28% in Writing of Students with Special Education Needs who have met the provincial standard (Levels 3 and 4).
- English Language Learners in Grade 6 improved in all areas for the 2014-2015 assessment. Since 2010-2011, there has been an increase of 6% in Reading and 12% in Writing of English Language Learners (ELL) who have met the provincial standard (Levels 3 and 4).
- The gender gap in Grade 6 favoured females in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.
- When tracking the cohort (same group of students) from Grade 3 to Grade 6, the percentage of students who maintained the standard (Levels 3 and 4) was 62% in Reading, 70% in Writing and 55% in Mathematics.