

Near North District School Board EQAO Results Continue to Follow Provincial Trends

SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 – The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) has released the results of the Grades 3, 6 and 9 Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics as well as the Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) that were written by all Ontario students during the 2016-2017 school year.

“It’s extremely important that we, as a board, take the time to delve deep into the information shared with us. EQAO continues to provide us with useful data which we will explore in its entirety to help inform our planning and practices. I’m very proud of all of our students and teachers and applaud their hard work.” – Jackie Young, Director of Education

Reading and Writing

Grades 3 and 6: Results across the Board varied by school but the trends showed results in Grades 3 and 6 Reading and Writing are at or approaching provincial standard when compared to the provincial results. *In comparison to the previous year’s results, Reading and Writing results demonstrated a slight decrease of students meeting or exceeding the Provincial Standard (Levels 3 or 4).*

- 66% of Grade 3 students and 77% of Grade 6 students continued to meet the provincial reading standard, maintaining a consistent result with last year.
- 59% of Grade 3 students and 72% of Grade 6 students have met the expected level in writing. This represents a decrease of 6% for Grade 3 students and a 1% decrease for Grade 6 students from the 2016 results.

Grade 10: The Grade 10 Literacy Test is a compulsory standardized test for all secondary school students in Ontario wishing to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. The test is based on all of the reading and writing expectations in all subjects up to the end of Grade 9.

- Of first time eligible writers of the Grade 10 Literacy Test, the Board’s test results decreased by 1% from the previous year (75% to 74%) while the province’s results held steady at 81%.

“We are holding relatively steady with our OSSLT results. We will examine and triangulate our data in order to determine where we can implement best practices to continue to improve,” said Superintendent of Student Success Craig Myles.

Mathematics

Grades 3 and 6: Mathematics scores for the NNDSB increased during the 2016-2017 year for Grade 6 students. The percentage of students in Grades 3 who met the provincial math standard decreased within the Near North District School Board and across Ontario. Improving mathematics results for both primary and junior divisions continues to be a focus. The Ministry of Education is taking action to help students across the province gain the mathematical knowledge they need to achieve success. The Near North District School Board has implemented daily focused mathematics instruction for students in grades 1-8 during protected blocks of time. Protected time for mathematics will allow for a more sustained period of effective instruction and assessment every day. The Board is committed to implementing the strategies outlined in the Renewed Math Strategy to improve mathematics learning for all students.

- 47% of Grade 3 students met the standard in 2017 compared to 49% in 2016, indicating a 2% decrease.
- 34% of Grade 6 students met the standard in 2017 compared to 31% in 2016, representing a 3% increase.

Grade 9: The Board is very pleased to see that both the Grade 9 Applied and Academic Math results have increased by 9% and 5% respectively when compared to the results from last year.

Near North District School Board	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-17
Grade 9 Applied Math	30%	39%	48%
Grade 9 Academic Math	77%	70%	75%

Province	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-17
Grade 9 Applied Math	EC*	45%	44%
Grade 9 Academic Math	EC*	83%	83%

* EC—Exceptional circumstances. Provincial-level results are not available for the 2014-2015 school year.

“We are realizing positive results in mathematics because of our concerted effort to align various strategies in a focused manner. We will continue with our efforts on math improvement which includes the implementation of the province’s Renewed Math Strategy for all students in Ontario,” said Superintendent Craig Myles.

“Principals are reviewing their current school results to identify and inform next steps. During the October 2nd professional development day educators will continue their learning related to the Renewed Mathematics Strategy. School teams will examine individual students’ strengths and needs in mathematics and plan for responsive and focused instruction.” said Superintendent of Schools and Program Timothy Graves.

EQAO results are important, but they are just one among many assessment tools that both schools and boards use to measure and improve upon the quality of student programming and student success.

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Ministry of Education: Renewed Math Strategy for Ontario:
http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/april2016/min_math_strategy.html