

NEWS release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peel District School Board EQAO scores increase *Board continues to focus on 'proven strategies' for improvement*

EQAO scores in the Peel District School Board have increased significantly for 2008-09. Five-year trends also show significant increases in most test areas. Peel board scores are at or above the provincial average in most areas.

“As a board, we’ve had an intense, multi-year focus on improving literacy and numeracy skills. We’re pleased to see the EQAO scores confirming that the hard work of teachers, students and parents is paying off,” says Jim Grieve, director of education. “However, this does not mean our emphasis will be changing—if anything, we’ll be even more focused in the year ahead. Our goal is to truly transform the literacy and numeracy attainment of our students, which goes far beyond EQAO scores. And I certainly see that happening every week when I visit schools.”

Overall, this is how grade 3 students performed:

	levels 2, 3, 4			levels 3, 4		
	2008-09 Peel	2008-09 province	2007-08 Peel	2008-09 Peel	2008-09 province	2007-08 Peel
reading	86%	87%	87%	58%	61%	58%
writing	97%	96%	97%	69%	68%	67%
math	94%	93%	94%	68%	70%	65%

Overall, this is how grade 6 students performed:

	levels 2, 3, 4			levels 3, 4		
	2008-09 Peel	2008-09 province	2007-08 Peel	2008-09 Peel	2008-09 province	2007-08 Peel
reading	91%	91%	88%	67%	69%	63%
writing	97%	96%	95%	70%	67%	66%
math	90%	90%	89%	62%	63%	59%

Overall, this is how grade 9 students performed on the math assessment:

	levels 2, 3, 4			levels 3, 4		
	2008-09 Peel	2008-09 province	2007-08 Peel	2008-09 Peel	2008-09 province	2007-08 Peel
applied	74%	73%	71%	37%	38%	33%
academic	93%	92%	92%	78%	77%	76%

The five-year trends show significant gains in many areas:

- Scores are up 13 per cent in grade 9 applied math and 11 per cent in academic math.
- Grade 6 students are performing nine per cent higher in writing and five per cent higher in reading.
- Scores for grade 3 students are six per cent higher in writing.

Other highlights of the report include the following:

- Grade 9 students with special needs have made significant gains over five years—up nine per cent in applied math and 18 per cent in academic math.
- Grade 9 English language learners have made gains in both applied and academic math. ELL applied math scores are up nine per cent over five years, and ELL academic math scores are up five per cent.
- Grade 3 students with special needs are performing 12 per cent higher than five years ago in writing, though there has been a decline of 10 per cent for this group in math scores over the same time period. The five-year trend is also down in math for grade 6 special needs students, by six per cent.

“What’s important about provincial testing is the way we use the results to improve teaching and learning,” says Shawn Moynihan, superintendent of curriculum and instruction. “Over the past four years, we have developed Transformational Practices, a whole-board focus on helping students improve literacy and numeracy skills across all grades and subjects of the curriculum. The practices are proven strategies that we’ve seen in action in Peel schools. Our EQAO results this year, along with the five-year trend, shows that we’re on the right track.”

The Peel board will continue its focus on Transformational Practices, Moynihan says. Last year, teams visited Peel schools to assess how Transformational Practices are working. "Within a few months, we will give schools more resources, based on what the teams learned from schools that had achieved the greatest improvement."

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Media contact: Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, 905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2559

Reference: Sylvia Link, APR, Manager of Communications
905-890-1010 (or 1-800-668-1146) ext. 2814, sylvia.link@peelsb.com

Peel board report—primary and junior division, grade 9 math
EQAO reports for Peel board—primary and junior division, grade 9 math
school-by-school results—primary division, junior division, grade 9 math