

NEWS release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peel District School Board grade 9 EQAO scores increase

More work needed to improve grade 3, 6 scores, says curriculum superintendent

Grade 9 EQAO scores in the Peel District School Board have increased significantly for 2009-10 and results are relatively stable in most primary and junior test areas. Three-year trends show significant increases. Scores are at or above the provincial average in most areas.

“As always, we appreciate the hard work of school staff to support student success and increase EQAO scores,” says Tony Pontes, director of education. “As a board, one of our goals is to raise overall student achievement on EQAO by four per cent. To get there, we are increasing our focus, organizationally, on fewer projects to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of our students. I’m confident that this approach will lead to improved scores over time on EQAO assessments.”

“Clearly we’re pleased with growth in a number of areas, but there’s more work to do in grade 3 reading and math, and grade 6 math,” says Shawn Moynihan, superintendent of curriculum and instruction support services. “Over the next few months, we will review our instructional practices in primary and junior reading and math. We will make sure schools have the resources they need to boost student success and overall achievement on provincial assessments.”

Overall, this is how grade 3 students performed:

	All students – levels 2, 3, 4			All students – levels 3, 4		
	2009-10 Peel	2009-10 province	2008-09 Peel	2009-10 Peel	2009-10 province	2008-09 Peel
reading	86%	87%	86%	59%	62%	58%
writing	97%	96%	97%	70%	70%	69%
math	94%	94%	94%	68%	71%	68%

Overall, this is how grade 6 students performed:

	All students – levels 2, 3, 4			All students – levels 3, 4		
	2009-10 Peel	2009-10 province	2008-09 Peel	2009-10 Peel	2009-10 province	2008-09 Peel
reading	91%	92%	91%	69%	72%	67%
writing	97%	96%	97%	71%	70%	70%
math	90%	91%	90%	57%	61%	62%

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

	All students - levels 2, 3, 4			All students - levels 3, 4		
	2009-10 Peel	2009-10 province	2008-09 Peel	2009-10 Peel	2009-10 province	2008-09 Peel
applied	77%	75%	74%	39%	40%	37%
academic	95%	94%	93%	84%	82%	78%

The five-year trends show significant gains:

- Scores are up six per cent in grade 9 applied math and 14 per cent in academic math.
- Grade 6 students are performing seven per cent higher in writing and five per cent higher in reading.

Other highlights of the report include the following:

- Grade 9 students with special needs have made significant gains over five years—up five per cent in applied math and 14 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 seven per cent over five years, and ELL academic math scores are up 24 per cent over five years.
- Grade 3 English language learners have made significant gains in reading, writing and math. Over three years, ELL reading scores are up by four per cent, writing scores are up by seven per cent and math scores are up by five per cent.
- Grade 6 English language learners have made significant gains in reading and writing. Over three years, ELL reading scores are up by five per cent and writing scores are up by nine per cent.
- Grade 3 students with special needs are performing 13 per cent higher than five years ago in writing, though there has been a decline of 11 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 seven per cent.
- Over the past five years, primary boys’ scores in writing have remained constant but there has been a decline in reading and math scores.
- Junior boys’ scores in reading and writing have increased by eight per cent over the past five years.

Notes Moynihan, “What’s important about provincial testing is the way we use the results to improve teaching and learning. Over the past year, professional development for teachers at the secondary level has helped grade 9 students improve numeracy skills. Our three-year trend shows that we’re on the right track, but that there’s still more work to do to continue to trend upwards.”

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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