



School Board Report

First-Time Eligible Students



Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011

Board: Peel District School Board (66125)

On behalf of EQAO, I am pleased to provide you with this report, which shows student achievement on the March 2011 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) and its previous four administrations. Enclosed you will also find demographic and attitudinal information about the student population assessed, which will support deeper analysis and provide an important context for these results.

Since the creation of this agency, EQAO data have been a catalyst for improving student learning and achievement at all levels of the education system. From Ontario's classrooms and staff rooms to its school boards and Ministry, educators and education professionals from across the province have become increasingly sophisticated at using EQAO data as an integral part of their continuous improvement efforts.

Within schools, EQAO data are used regularly to guide school improvement initiatives by helping to identify areas of strength and areas needing improvement and by helping to support changes in instructional practices that may be required. Used in conjunction with classroom assessments and school-level and contextual information, OSSLT data can provide educators, parents and students with additional means of identifying achievements and challenges as well as strategies for improvement. Literacy is a critical foundation for success in school and in life outside of school. For this reason, the OSSLT is a particularly valuable gauge of how well Ontario students have acquired skills in reading and writing up to the end of Grade 9.

At EQAO, we are proud to deliver powerful information that supports Ontario's students, parents, educators and administrators in their efforts to improve achievement. I trust that this report will provide you with a useful set of tools to further support the drive toward excellence in your school community. I am confident that the information in the report will contribute to our shared commitment and purposeful actions toward helping each student reach his or her highest potential.

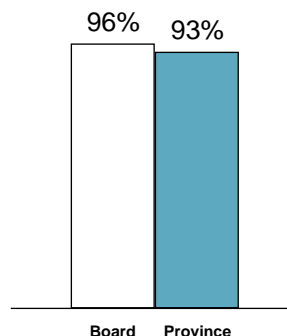
Sincerely,

Marguerite Jackson
 Chief Executive Officer
 Education Quality and Accountability Office

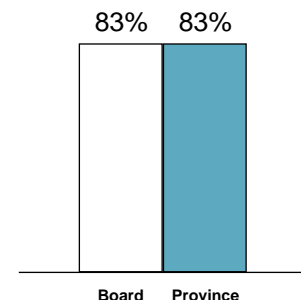
WHERE TO FIND . . .	PAGE
Summary of results: March 2011	1
Participation rates: Over time	2
Achievement results: Over time	3
Tips for using this report	4
Contextual information: March 2011	5
Detailed achievement results: March 2011	
All students	6
Students by gender	7, 8
English language learners	9
Students with special education needs	10
Students with special education needs receiving accommodations	11, 12
Students taking academic English course	13
Students taking applied English course	14
Students taking locally developed English course	15
Students taking ESL/ELD course	16
Contextual information: Over time	17
Percentage of successful students: Over time	18
Percentage of successful students by gender: Over time	19, 20
Student questionnaire results	21–23
Explanation of terms	24

FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS, MARCH 2011: PARTICIPATION RATE AND ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

Percentage of Eligible Students Who Participated Fully



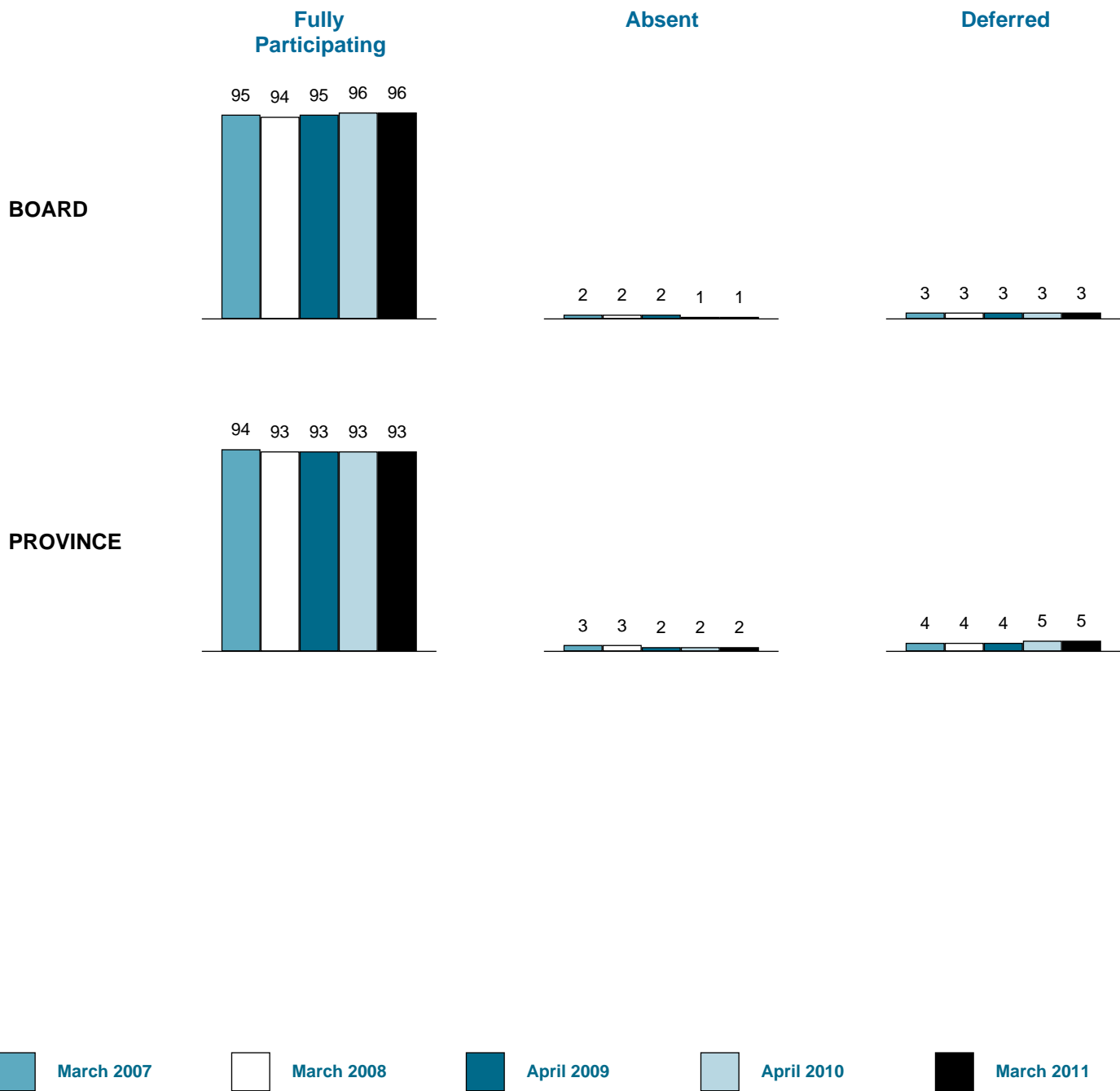
Percentage of Fully Participating Students Who Were Successful



Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011

PARTICIPATION RATES FOR ALL FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS OVER TIME

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS*



	<u>March 2007</u>	<u>March 2008</u>	<u>April 2009</u>	<u>April 2010</u>	<u>March 2011</u>
Board	9 707	9 981	10 010	10 293	10 060
Province	155 906	156 151	152 830	153 490	153 635

* Percentages in graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011

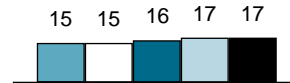
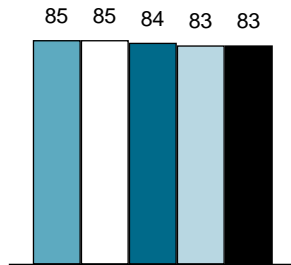
ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR FULLY PARTICIPATING FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS OVER TIME

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS*

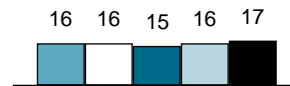
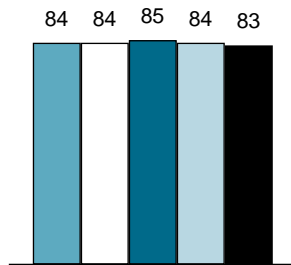
BOARD

Successful

Not Successful



PROVINCE



Number of Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students

	<u>March 2007</u>	<u>March 2008</u>	<u>April 2009</u>	<u>April 2010</u>	<u>March 2011</u>
Board	9 222	9 421	9 497	9 857	9 627
Province	146 173	145 603	142 394	142 955	143 246

* Percentages in graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

TIPS

Each board is unique. To appreciate the distinctive character of a board, look at the contextual information to understand the features and characteristics of the community it serves.



This test captures the performance of students at one point in time each year. Consider the results along with other information about students' performance.



Exercise caution when interpreting results for small boards. Results may vary considerably from year to year, and differences may look exaggerated. For example, in a board of 100 students, a difference of 10% represents only ten students.



Trends may be difficult to identify or to interpret. This is especially true in small boards or in schools where there is a high turnover in the student population.



EQAO values students' privacy. Results are not reported publicly for schools and boards where fewer than 15 students fully participated, because it might be possible to identify individual students.

WHAT IS IN THIS REPORT?

This report shows how well students in this board have met the minimum standard for literacy to the end of Grade 9 as set out in *The Ontario Curriculum*.

This report includes

- ◆ results for this board compared to the province;
- ◆ a comparison of results of the current and previous administrations of the test to aid in monitoring improvement and
- ◆ information about the characteristics of the students who participated.

Specifically, you will find

- ◆ summary graphs showing participation and success rates;
- ◆ detailed tables and graphs showing results for various groups of students, e.g., by gender, English language learners;
- ◆ student questionnaire results and
- ◆ an explanation of all terms used in this report.

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

- ◆ Examine the contextual information to understand the similarities and differences between the board and the province. Consider the challenges that any differences might present.
- ◆ Examine the board results.
 - Are these results consistent with what you would expect?
 - How do these results compare to the provincial results?
 - How do these results compare over time?
 - What influence might students' attitudes have on student performance (refer to the questionnaire results)?
- ◆ Speak to the board chair about the goals for improving student performance.

The Education Quality and Accountability Office is an independent agency that gathers information about student achievement through province-wide assessments.

Learn more about us at www.eqao.com.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

Contextual Information

This information provides a context for interpreting the board's results.

	Board		Province	
Enrolment				
Number of first-time eligible students	10 060		153 635	
Number of schools with first-time eligible students	38		795	
Number of students who were exempted	90		1 744	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Participation in the Test				
Of all first-time eligible students, those who participated fully in the assessment	9 627	96%	143 246	93%
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were absent	149	1%	3 237	2%
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were deferred	284	3%	7 152	5%
Gender[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students				
Female	4 866	48%	74 954	49%
Male	5 194	52%	78 681	51%
Gender not specified	0	0%	0	0%
Student Status[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students				
English language learners*	358	4%	6 854	4%
English language learners receiving special provisions**	178	2%	3 013	2%
Students with special education needs (excluding gifted)*	1 265	13%	26 590	17%
Students with special education needs receiving accommodations (excluding gifted)**	1 119	12%	20 987	15%
Course Type in English[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students				
Academic	7 758	77%	106 194	69%
Applied	1 710	17%	36 362	24%
Locally developed	311	3%	5 557	4%
ESL/ELD	261	3%	3 541	2%
Other	20	<1%	1 980	1%
Language^{††} Based on Student Questionnaire data				
	Number of Respondents:		140 186	
	9 467			
First language learned at home was other than English	4 069	43%	31 377	22%
Speak only or mostly English at home	5 364	57%	105 334	75%
Speak another language (or other languages) as often as English at home	3 097	33%	24 687	18%
Speak only or mostly another language (or other languages) at home	924	10%	9 136	7%

[†] Contextual data are provided by schools and/or boards through the Student Data Collection process. Some data may be missing because they were not provided by schools or boards.

* See Explanation of Terms.

** Percentages are based on fully participating students.

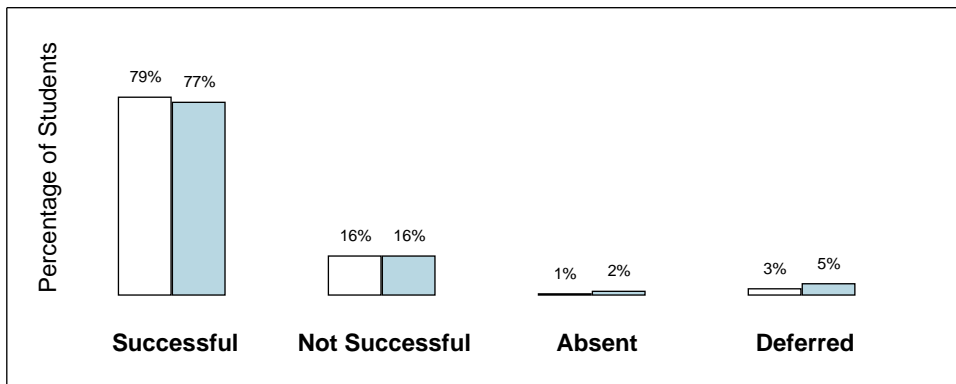
^{††} Contextual data pertaining to "language" are gathered from the Student Questionnaire completed by students. Some data may be missing because they were not provided by students.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

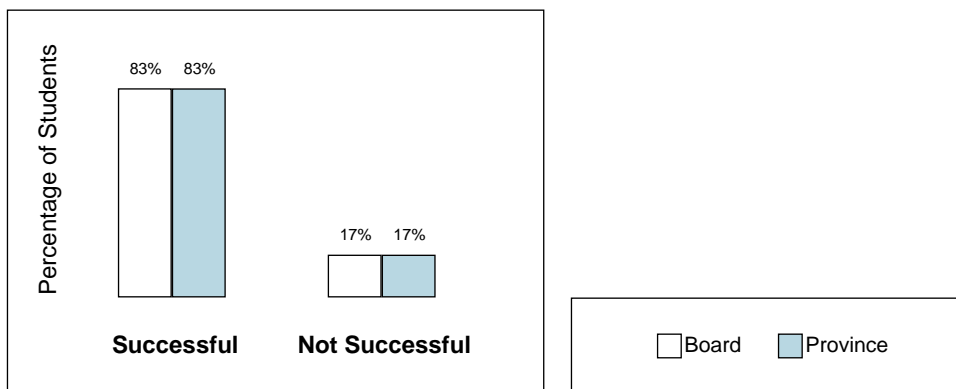
Results for All Students*

	First-Time Eligible Students				
	All		Fully Participating		
	Board # = 10 060	Province # = 153 635	Board # = 9 627	Province # = 143 246	
Successful	7 977	79%	77%	83%	83%
Not Successful	1 650	16%	16%	17%	17%
Fully Participating	9 627	96%	93%		
Absent	149	1%	2%		
Deferred	284	3%	5%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students



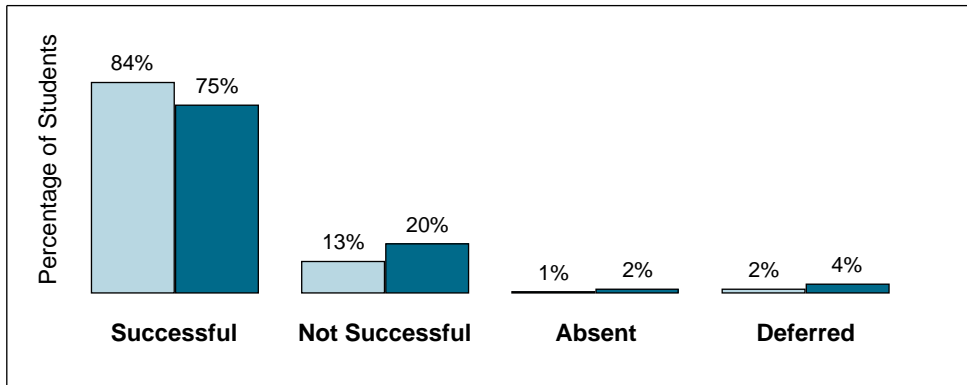
* Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

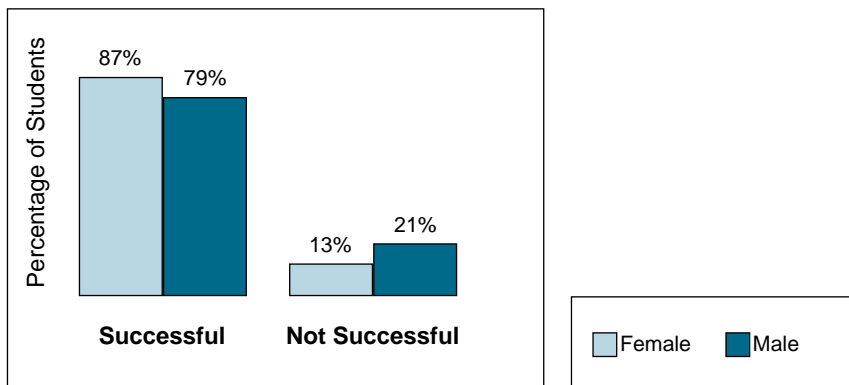
Board Results by Gender*†

Board Results by Gender First-Time Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	Female # = 4 866		Male # = 5 194		Female # = 4 711	Male # = 4 916
Successful	4 090	84%	3 887	75%	87%	79%
Not Successful	621	13%	1 029	20%	13%	21%
Fully Participating	4 711	97%	4 916	95%		
Absent	59	1%	90	2%		
Deferred	96	2%	188	4%		

Board Results for All First-Time Eligible Students by Gender



Board Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students by Gender



* Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

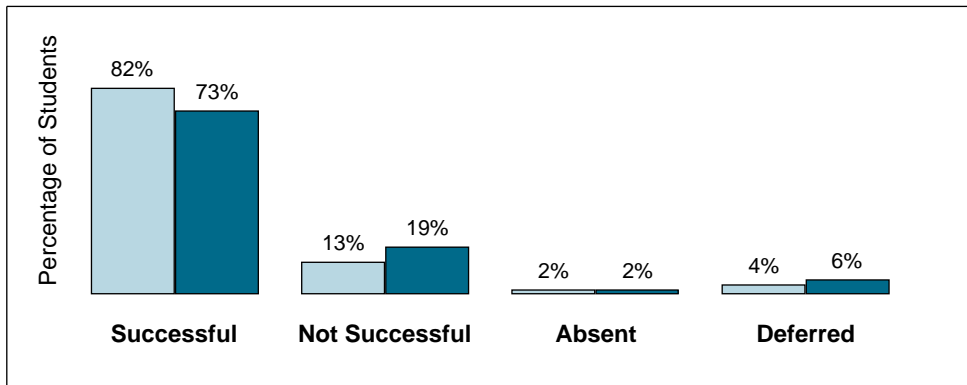
† Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

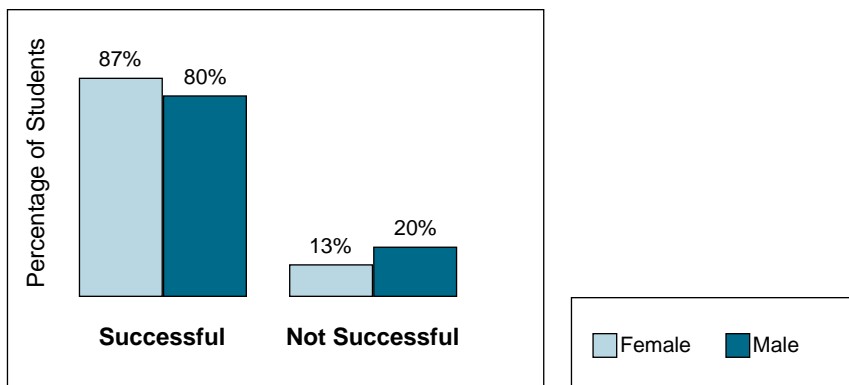
Provincial Results by Gender^{*†}

	Provincial Results by Gender First-Time Eligible Students			
	All		Fully Participating	
	Female # = 74 954	Male # = 78 681	Female # = 70 606	Male # = 72 640
Successful	61 154	82%	57 807	73%
Not Successful	9 452	13%	14 833	19%
Fully Participating	70 606	94%	72 640	92%
Absent	1 578	2%	1 659	2%
Deferred	2 770	4%	4 382	6%

Provincial Results for All First-Time Eligible Students by Gender



Provincial Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students by Gender



* Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

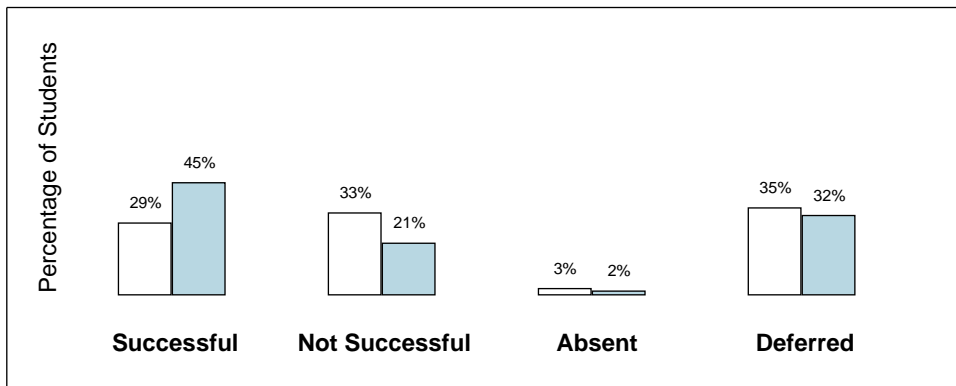
† Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

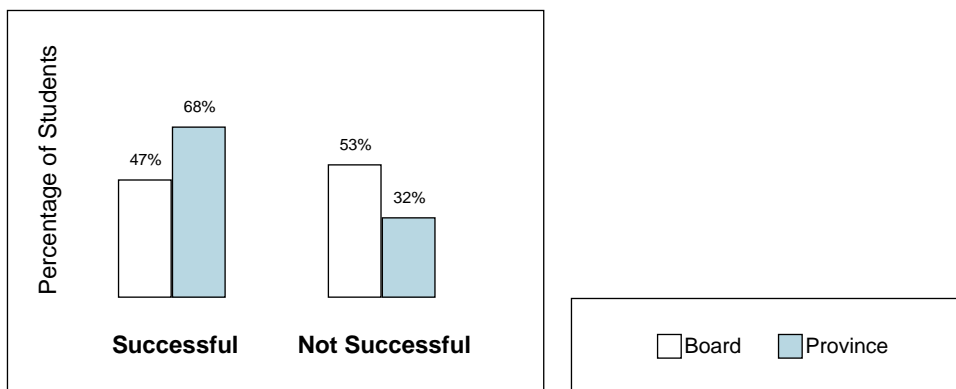
Results for English Language Learners*

Results for English Language Learners First-Time Eligible Students					
	All			Fully Participating	
	Board # = 358		Province # = 6 854	Board # = 223	Province # = 4 505
Successful	104	29%	45%	47%	68%
Not Successful	119	33%	21%	53%	32%
Fully Participating	223	62%	66%		
Absent	10	3%	2%		
Deferred	125	35%	32%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible English Language Learners



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible English Language Learners



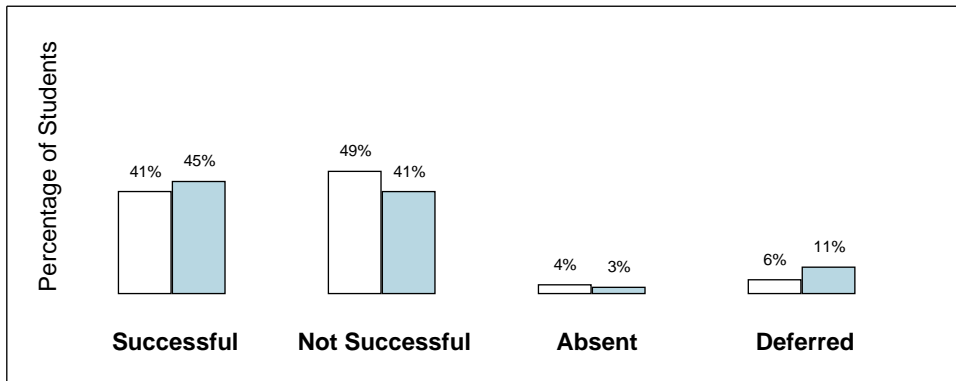
*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

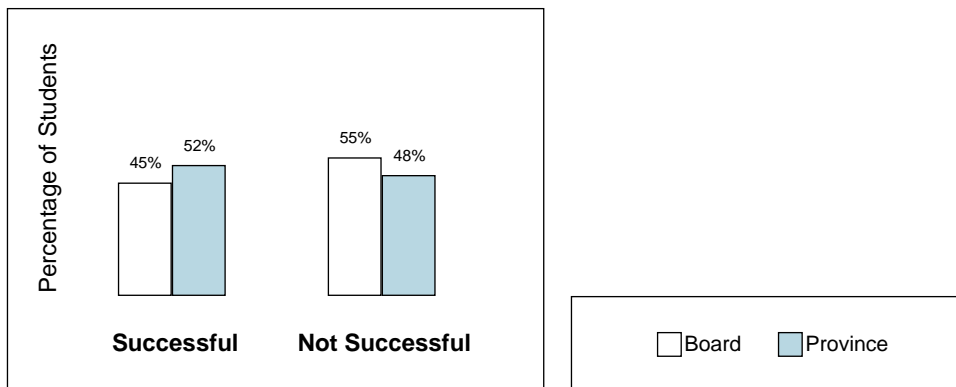
Results for Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted)*

Results for Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted) First-Time Eligible Students					
	All			Fully Participating	
	Board # = 1 265	Province # = 26 590		Board # = 1 137	Province # = 22 776
Successful	514	41%	45%	45%	52%
Not Successful	623	49%	41%	55%	48%
Fully Participating	1 137	90%	86%		
Absent	49	4%	3%		
Deferred	79	6%	11%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted)



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted)



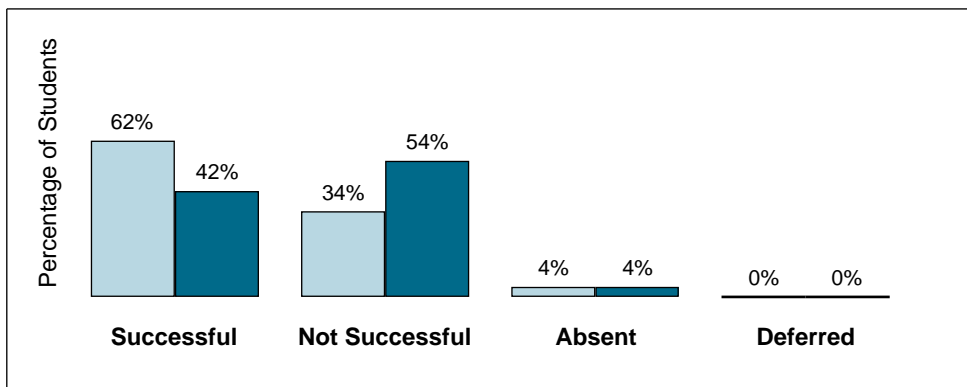
*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

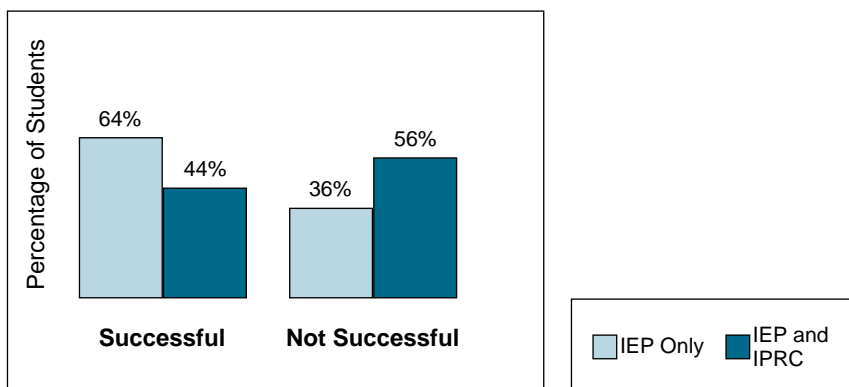
Board Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)*

Board Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted) First-Time Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	IEP Only # = 73		IEP and IPRC # = 1 094		IEP Only # = 70	IEP and IPRC # = 1 049
Successful	45	62%	459	42%	64%	44%
Not Successful	25	34%	590	54%	36%	56%
Fully Participating	70	96%	1 049	96%		
Absent	3	4%	45	4%		
Deferred	0	0%	0	0%		

Board Results for All First-Time Eligible Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)



Board Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)



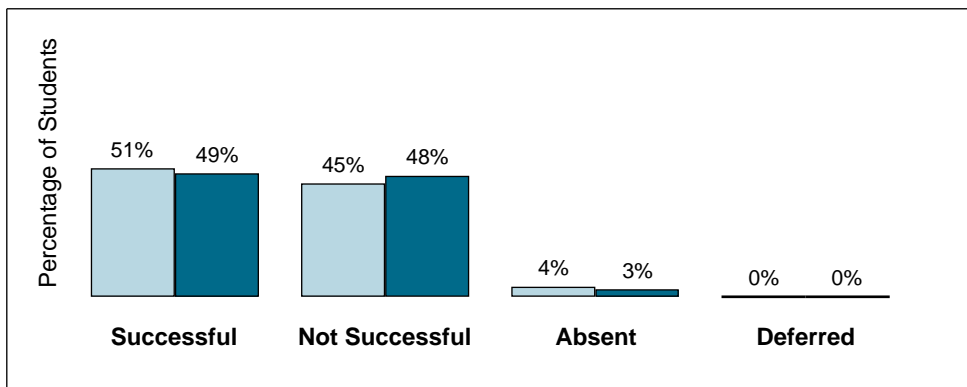
*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

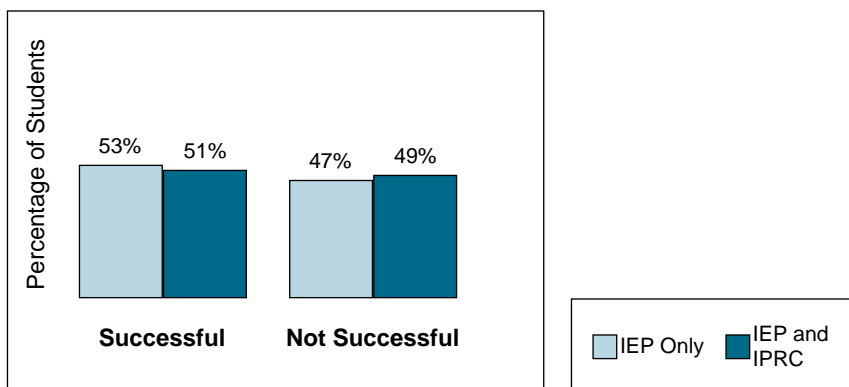
Provincial Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)*

Provincial Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted) First-Time Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	IEP Only # = 7 666		IEP and IPRC # = 14 066		IEP Only # = 7 356	IEP and IPRC # = 13 631
Successful	3 921	51%	6 900	49%	53%	51%
Not Successful	3 435	45%	6 731	48%	47%	49%
Fully Participating	7 356	96%	13 631	97%		
Absent	310	4%	435	3%		
Deferred	0	0%	0	0%		

Provincial Results for All First-Time Eligible Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)



Provincial Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)



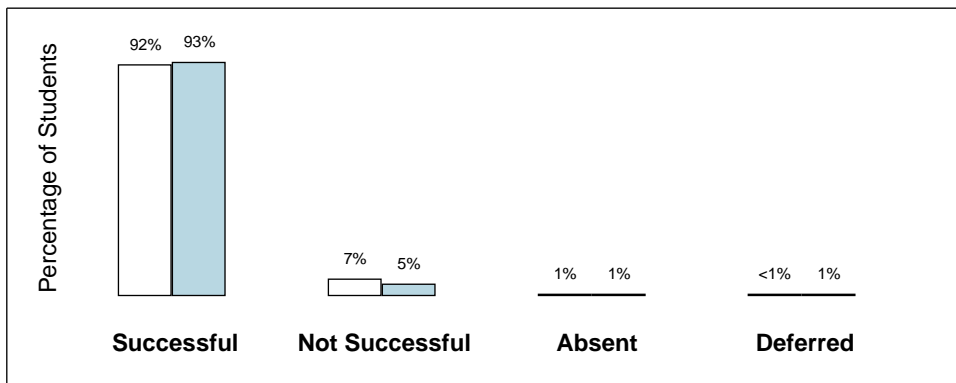
*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

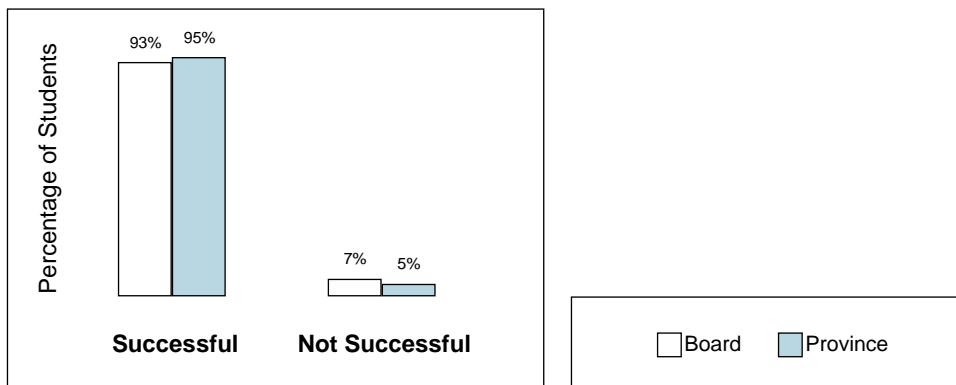
Results for Students Taking Academic English Course*

Results for Students Taking Academic English Course First-Time Eligible Students					
	All		Fully Participating		
	Board # = 7 758	Province # = 106 194	Board # = 7 681	Province # = 104 274	
Successful	7 148	92%	93%	93%	95%
Not Successful	533	7%	5%	7%	5%
Fully Participating	7 681	99%	98%		
Absent	53	1%	1%		
Deferred	24	<1%	1%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students Taking Academic English Course



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students Taking Academic English Course



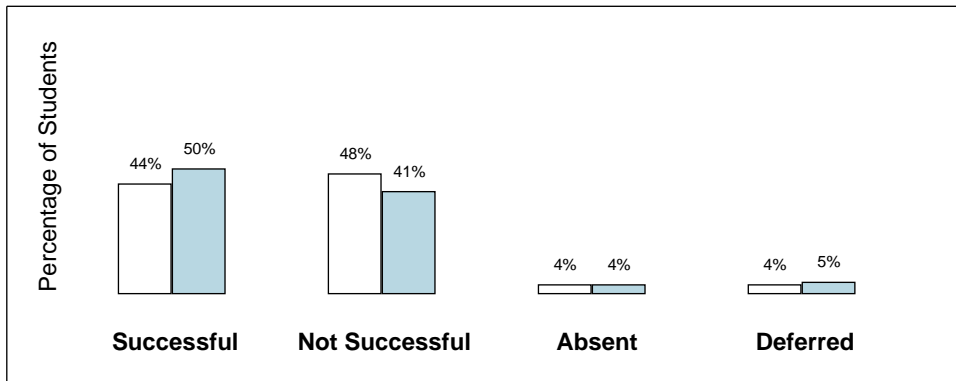
*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

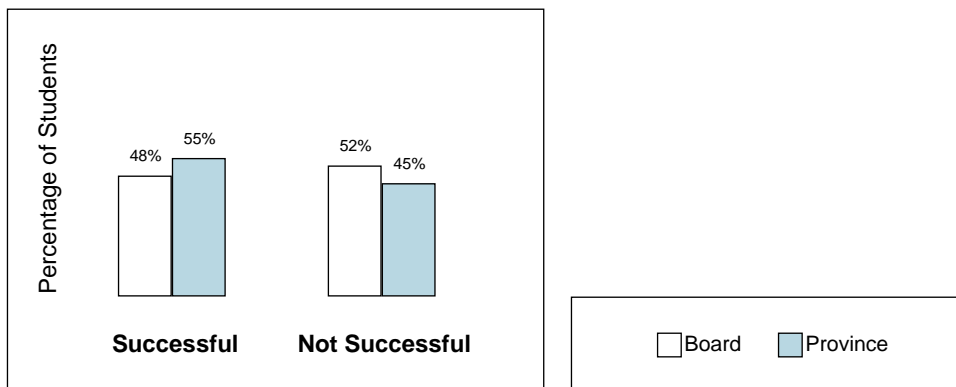
Results for Students Taking Applied English Course*

Results for Students Taking Applied English Course First-Time Eligible Students				
	All		Fully Participating	
	Board # = 1 710	Province # = 36 362	Board # = 1 583	Province # = 33 149
Successful	755	44%	50%	48%
Not Successful	828	48%	41%	55%
Fully Participating	1 583	93%	91%	
Absent	63	4%	4%	
Deferred	64	4%	5%	

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students Taking Applied English Course



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students Taking Applied English Course



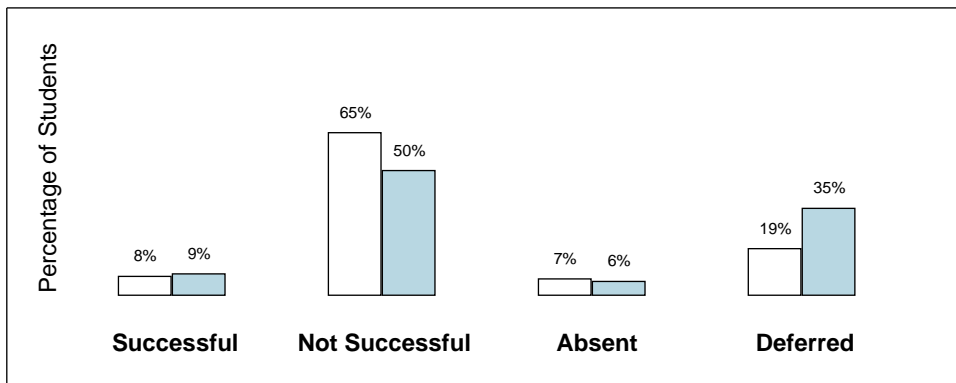
*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

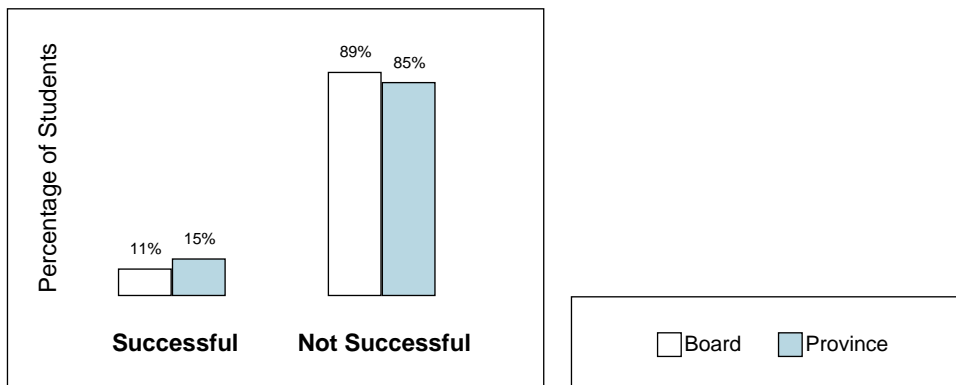
Results for Students Taking Locally Developed English Course*

Results for Students Taking Locally Developed English Course First-Time Eligible Students					
	All			Fully Participating	
	Board # = 311	Province # = 5 557		Board # = 229	Province # = 3 252
Successful	26	8%	9%	11%	15%
Not Successful	203	65%	50%	89%	85%
Fully Participating	229	74%	59%		
Absent	22	7%	6%		
Deferred	60	19%	35%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students Taking Locally Developed English Course



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students Taking Locally Developed English Course



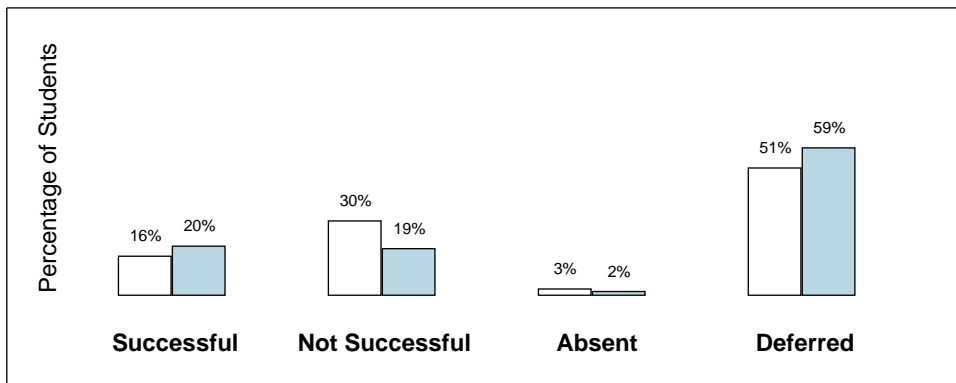
*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

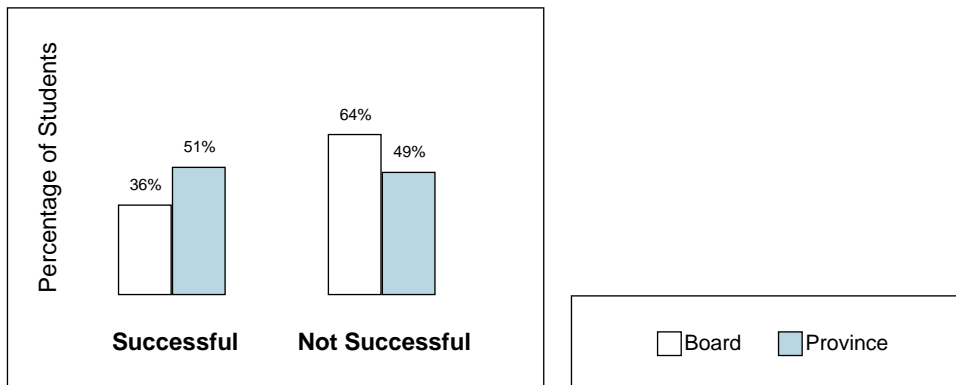
Results for Students Taking ESL/ELD Course*

Results for Students Taking ESL/ELD Course First-Time Eligible Students					
	All			Fully Participating	
	Board # = 261		Province # = 3 541	Board # = 121	Province # = 1 388
Successful	43	16%	20%	36%	51%
Not Successful	78	30%	19%	64%	49%
Fully Participating	121	46%	39%		
Absent	7	3%	2%		
Deferred	133	51%	59%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students Taking ESL/ELD Course



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students Taking ESL/ELD Course



*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

Contextual Information over Time

This information provides a context for interpreting the board's results of the current and previous administrations.

	Mar. 2007	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2009	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2011
Enrolment					
Number of first-time eligible students	9 707	9 981	10 010	10 293	10 060
Number of schools with first-time eligible students	37	42	44	37	38
Number of students who were exempted	72	77	104	81	90
Participation in the Test					
Of all first-time eligible students, those who participated fully in the assessment	95%	94%	95%	96%	96%
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were absent	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were deferred	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Gender[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students					
Female	48%	48%	47%	48%	48%
Male	52%	52%	53%	52%	52%
Gender not specified	0%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Student Status[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students					
English language learners*	5%	4%	3%	4%	4%
English language learners receiving special provisions**	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Students with special education needs (excluding gifted)*	11%	14%	12%	12%	13%
Students with special education needs receiving accommodations (excluding gifted)**	11%	11%	11%	11%	12%
Course Type in English[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students					
Academic	74%	75%	74%	77%	77%
Applied	18%	17%	17%	17%	17%
Locally developed	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%
ESL/ELD	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%
Other	2%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%
Language^{††} Based on Student Questionnaire data					
Number of Respondents:	9 156	9 314	9 367	9 767	9 467
First language learned at home was other than English	40%	41%	41%	43%	43%
Speak only or mostly English at home	60%	60%	59%	57%	57%
Speak another language (or other languages) as often as English at home	28%	30%	31%	32%	33%
Speak only or mostly another language (or other languages) at home	11%	10%	10%	10%	10%

[†] Contextual data are provided by schools and/or boards through the Student Data Collection process. Some data may be missing because they were not provided by schools or boards.

* See Explanation of Terms.

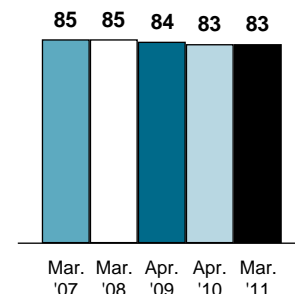
** Percentages are based on fully participating students.

^{††} Contextual data pertaining to "language" are gathered from the Student Questionnaire completed by students. Some data may be missing because they were not provided by students.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students Results over Time, March 2007–March 2011

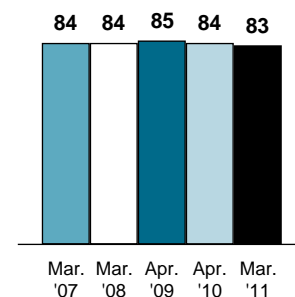
Board Results: All First-Time Eligible Students*										
	March 2007		March 2008		April 2009		April 2010		March 2011	
<i>Number of Students</i>	9 707		9 981		10 010		10 293		10 060	
Successful	7 812	80%	7 967	80%	7 999	80%	8 152	79%	7 977	79%
Not Successful	1 410	15%	1 454	15%	1 498	15%	1 705	17%	1 650	16%
Fully Participating	9 222	95%	9 421	94%	9 497	95%	9 857	96%	9 627	96%
Absent	206	2%	228	2%	205	2%	144	1%	149	1%
Deferred	279	3%	332	3%	308	3%	292	3%	284	3%
Fully Participating Successful	7 812	85%	7 967	85%	7 999	84%	8 152	83%	7 977	83%

**Board Results over Time:
Percentage of Fully Participating
Successful Students**



Provincial Results: All First-Time Eligible Students*										
	March 2007		March 2008		April 2009		April 2010		March 2011	
<i>Number of Students</i>	155 906		156 151		152 830		153 490		153 635	
Successful	122 475	79%	122 324	78%	120 776	79%	120 218	78%	118 961	77%
Not Successful	23 698	15%	23 279	15%	21 618	14%	22 737	15%	24 285	16%
Fully Participating	146 173	94%	145 603	93%	142 394	93%	142 955	93%	143 246	93%
Absent	3 932	3%	4 357	3%	3 707	2%	3 479	2%	3 237	2%
Deferred	5 801	4%	6 191	4%	6 729	4%	7 056	5%	7 152	5%
Fully Participating Successful	122 475	84%	122 324	84%	120 776	85%	120 218	84%	118 961	83%

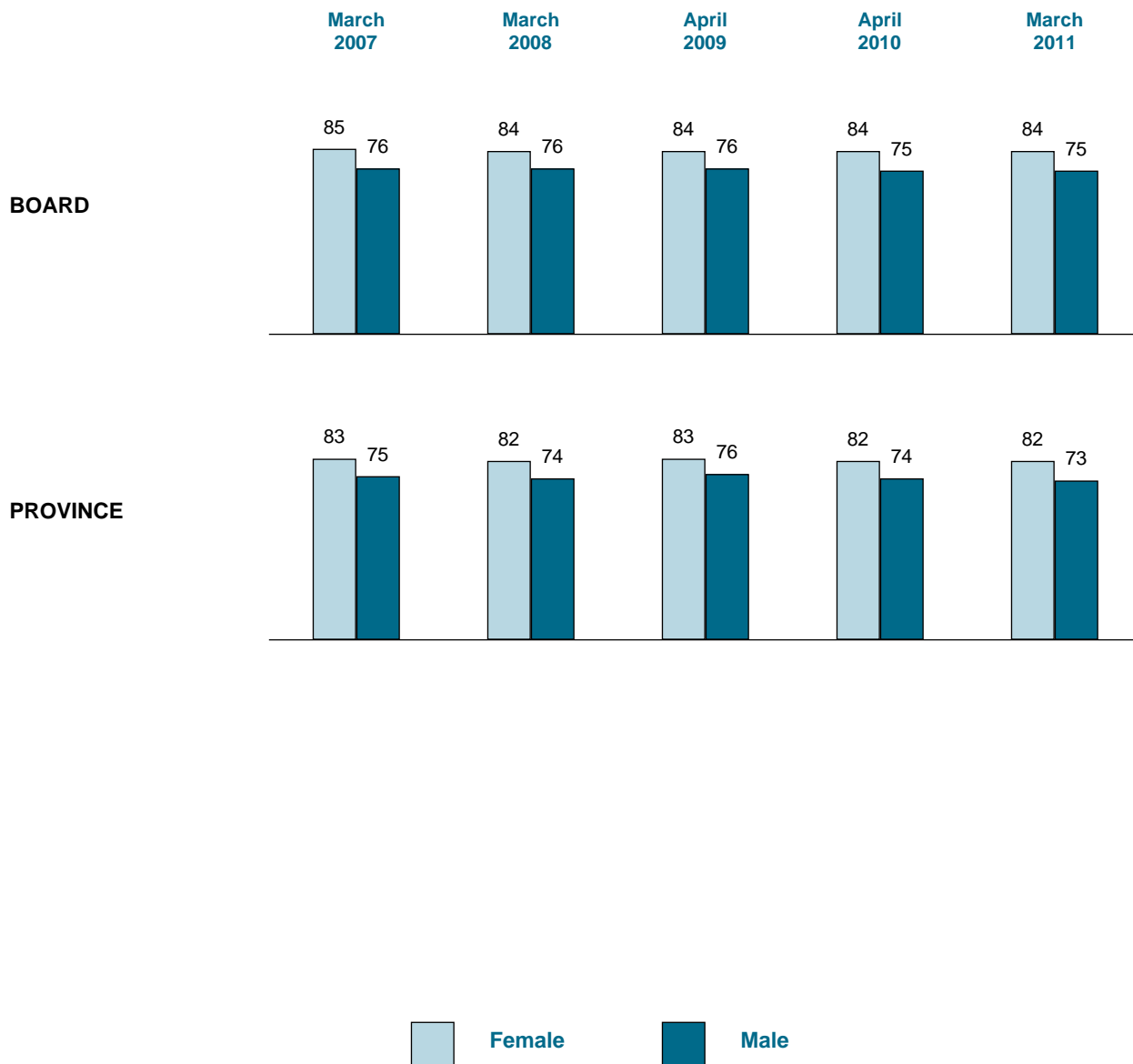
**Provincial Results over Time:
Percentage of Fully Participating
Successful Students**



* Percentages in tables may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS OVER TIME BY GENDER†

**PERCENTAGE OF ALL FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO WERE SUCCESSFUL:
ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST**



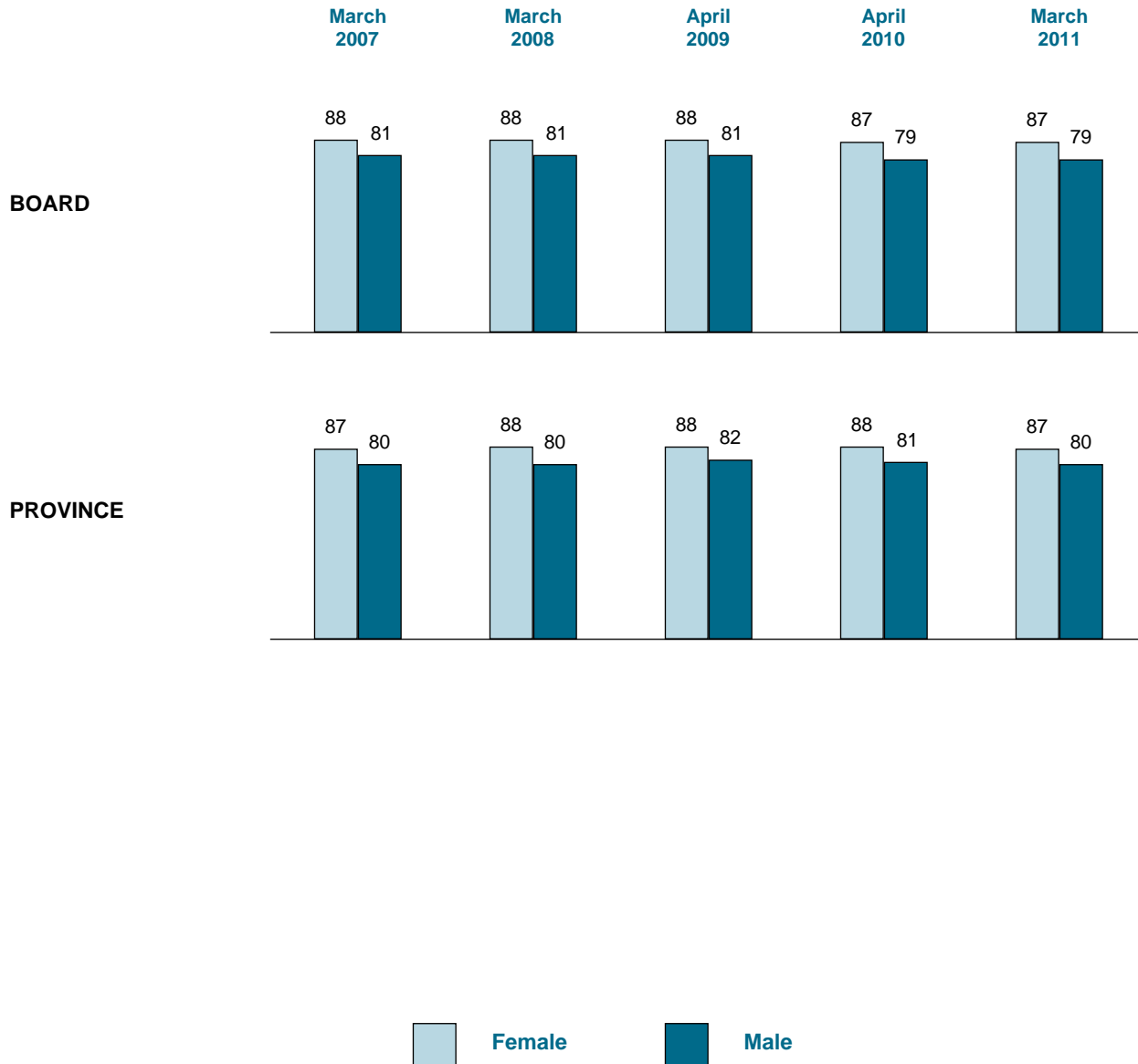
Number of First-Time Eligible Students†

	<u>March 2007</u>		<u>March 2008</u>		<u>April 2009</u>		<u>April 2010</u>		<u>March 2011</u>	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Board	4 657	5 050	4 768	5 212	4 694	5 315	4 916	5 377	4 866	5 194
Province	76 252	79 638	76 226	79 904	74 355	78 459	74 545	78 940	74 954	78 681

† Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS OVER TIME BY GENDER†

**PERCENTAGE OF FULLY PARTICIPATING FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO WERE SUCCESSFUL:
ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST**

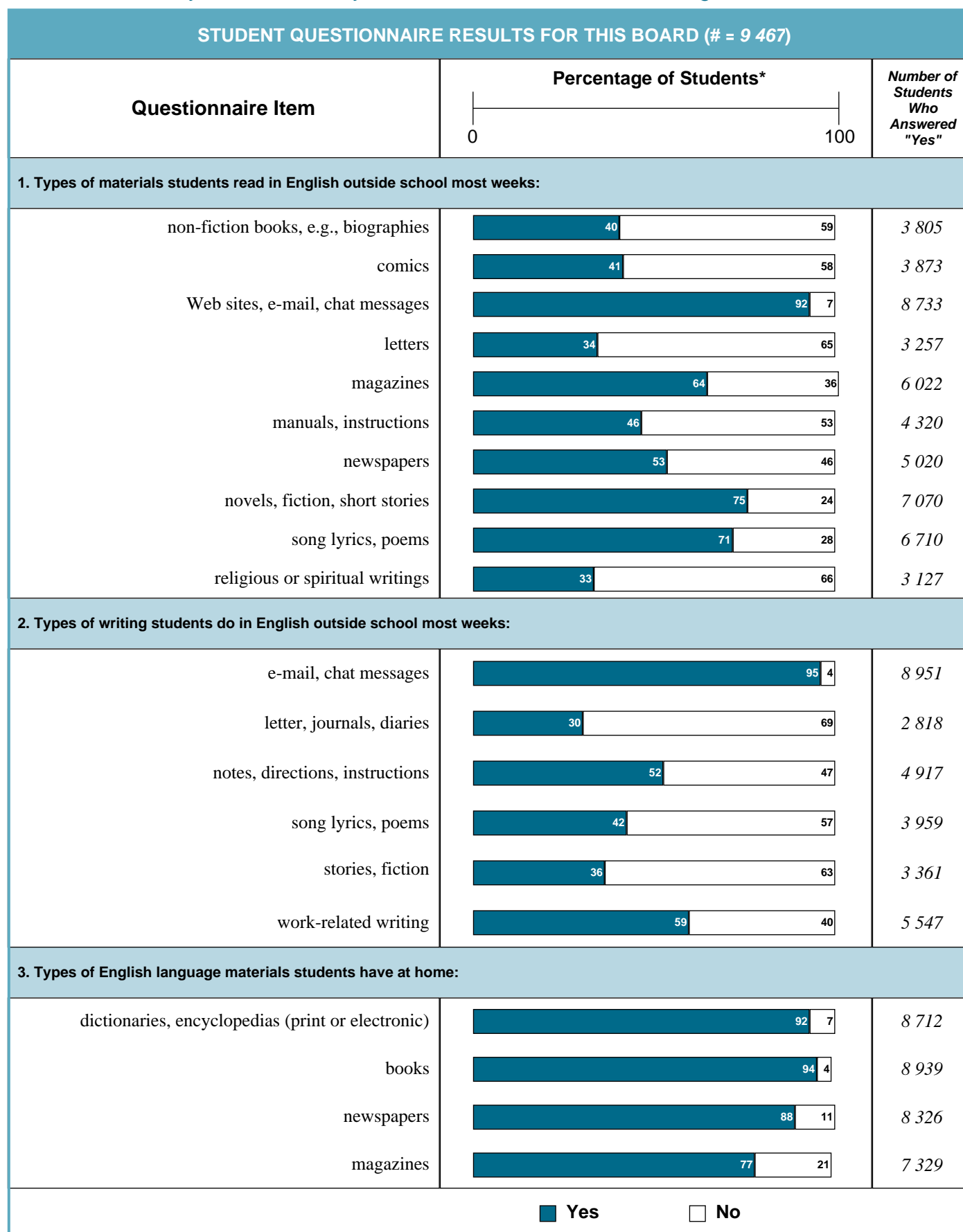


Number of Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students†

	<u>March 2007</u>		<u>March 2008</u>		<u>April 2009</u>		<u>April 2010</u>		<u>March 2011</u>	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Board	4 487	4 735	4 543	4 877	4 498	4 998	4 742	5 115	4 711	4 916
Province	72 031	74 129	71 615	73 969	69 954	72 432	70 055	72 896	70 606	72 640

† Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students



* Percentages may not add to 100, due to a lack of or ambiguous responses. Where there is no number in a bar, the percentage of responses is smaller than four.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS FOR THIS BOARD (# = 9 467)		
Questionnaire Item	Percentage of Students*	
		Number of Students
4. Number of hours a week students read materials written in English outside school, not including homework:		
one hour or less	27	2 603
more than one hour but less than three hours	34	3 173
more than three hours but less than five hours	19	1 846
five hours or more	19	1 766
5. Number of hours a week students write in English outside school, not including homework:		
one hour or less	34	3 264
more than one hour but less than three hours	35	3 270
more than three hours but less than five hours	17	1 568
five hours or more	13	1 258
6. How often students use a computer at home for homework:		
don't have a computer at home	1	109
never or hardly ever use a computer for homework	5	473
use a computer once or twice a month for homework	11	997
use a computer once or twice a week for homework	35	3 351
use a computer almost every day for homework	48	4 512
7. First language students learned at home was English:		
yes	57	5 391
no	43	4 069
8. Language(s) students speak at home:		
only or mostly English	57	5 364
another language (or other languages) as often as English	33	3 097
only or mostly another language (or other languages)	10	924

* Percentages may not add to 100, due to a lack of or ambiguous responses.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011, First-Time Eligible Students

STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS FOR BOARD AND PROVINCE (all students, female, male)	Board			Province		
	All (#= 9 467)	Female* (#= 4 656)	Male* (#= 4 811)	All (#= 140 186)	Female* (#= 69 390)	Male* (#= 70 796)
Percentage of students indicating that they						
have a computer at home.	99%	99%	98%	98%	98%	97%
use the computer almost every day for homework.	48%	50%	45%	32%	34%	30%
Percentage of students indicating that they read the following types of materials in English outside school most weeks:						
non-fiction books, e.g., biographies	40%	38%	43%	36%	34%	38%
comics	41%	34%	47%	34%	27%	41%
Web sites, e-mail, chat messages	92%	94%	90%	92%	94%	89%
letters	34%	38%	31%	33%	37%	29%
magazines	64%	75%	53%	66%	77%	55%
manuals, instructions	46%	38%	53%	40%	31%	50%
newspapers	53%	50%	56%	47%	45%	49%
novels, fiction, short stories	75%	86%	63%	69%	82%	57%
song lyrics, poems	71%	82%	60%	68%	80%	56%
religious or spiritual writings	33%	34%	32%	22%	23%	21%
Percentage of students indicating that they read materials written in English outside school, not including homework, for						
more than three hours a week.	38%	44%	32%	36%	42%	30%
Percentage of students indicating that they have the following English language materials at home:						
dictionaries, encyclopedias (print or electronic)	92%	94%	90%	89%	91%	87%
books	94%	97%	92%	94%	96%	91%
newspapers	88%	89%	87%	83%	83%	82%
magazines	77%	83%	72%	83%	87%	79%
Percentage of students indicating that they do the following types of writing in English outside school most weeks:						
e-mail, chat messages	95%	96%	93%	94%	96%	92%
letters, journals, diaries	30%	44%	16%	28%	43%	14%
notes, directions, instructions	52%	55%	49%	46%	50%	43%
song lyrics, poems	42%	48%	36%	40%	47%	33%
stories, fiction	36%	40%	31%	31%	36%	25%
work-related writing	59%	60%	57%	50%	51%	50%
Percentage of students indicating that they write in English outside school, not including homework, for						
more than three hours a week.	30%	33%	27%	26%	29%	22%
Percentage of students indicating that the first language they learned at home was						
other than English.	43%	43%	43%	22%	23%	22%
Percentage of students indicating that they speak the following language(s) at home:**						
only or mostly English	57%	57%	56%	75%	75%	75%
another language (or other languages) as often as English	33%	34%	31%	18%	18%	17%
only or mostly another language (or other languages)	10%	8%	12%	7%	6%	7%

* Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

** Percentages may not add to 100, due to a lack of or ambiguous responses.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2011

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

First-Time Eligible Students	First-time eligible students typically entered Grade 9 during the 2009–2010 school year. These students (and any others who were placed in this cohort) were required to write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for the first time in March 2011. First-time eligible includes all students in the first-time eligible cohort who are working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).
Previously Eligible Students	Previously eligible includes all students who were absent, deferred or not successful during a previous administration, and who are working toward an OSSD.
All Eligible Students	This method of reporting provides percentages based on all students in the cohort who are working toward an OSSD. The only students excluded are those who are not working toward an OSSD (exempt students).
Fully Participating Students	This method of reporting provides percentages based on students for whom there is work for both sessions of the administration of the OSSLT and who were assigned an achievement result (successful, not successful). Students who are not working toward an OSSD, those who were absent and those who were deferred are excluded.
Successful	Students who fully participated in the OSSLT and received a score that met the expected standard.
Not Successful	Students who fully participated in the OSSLT and received a score that did not meet the expected standard.
Absent	Students are deemed to be absent if there is no work for one or both sessions of the administration.
Deferred	Students' participation in the OSSLT can be deferred under several circumstances, as outlined in EQAO's <i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i> . A student is categorized as deferred only if the school indicates a deferral. If a student completed any portion of the OSSLT, he or she is not categorized as deferred.
OSSLC	Students are placed in this category of reporting if the school indicated that the students would be fulfilling the literacy requirement through the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC). For details about the OSSLC, see the Ministry of Education Web site (www.edu.gov.on.ca). If a student completed any portion of the OSSLT, he or she is not categorized as OSSLC.
Exempted	Students can be exempted from the OSSLT only if they are not working toward an OSSD. A student is categorized as exempted only if the school indicates that the student is exempted. If a student completed any portion of the OSSLT, he or she is not categorized as exempted.
English Language Learners	Students who have been identified by the school in accordance with <i>English Language Learners: ESL and ELD Programs and Services: Policies and Procedures for Ontario Elementary and Secondary Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12</i> (2007). Prior to 2007, English language learners were called English as a second language (ESL)/English literacy development (ELD) learners.
English Language Learners Receiving Special Provisions	English language learners identified by the school as receiving special provisions. Detailed information about special provisions is available in EQAO's <i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i> .
Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted)	Students who have been formally identified by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC), as well as students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students identified as gifted are not included.
Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)	Students with special education needs identified by the school as receiving test accommodations. Students identified as gifted are not included. Detailed information about accommodations is available in the Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 127 and in EQAO's <i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i> .
N/R	"Not reported" indicates that the number of students fully participating (fewer than 15 in a group) or responding to the Student Questionnaire is so small (fewer than six in a group) that identification of individual student results might be possible; therefore results are not reported.
N/D	"No data available" is used to indicate that there were no students in the group or year specified.
W	Results are being withheld by EQAO. For further information, please contact personnel at the board.