

NEWS release

September 25, 2019

Peel board EQAO, OSSLT results remain in line with provincial scores

EQAO scores for grade 9 academic math students with special education needs increase over last two years

At the Peel District School Board, most grades 3, 6, and 9 students' EQAO test scores remain in line with the province, while OSSLT results continue to rise above the provincial average. EQAO scores for grade 9 academic math students with special education needs have increased nine per cent in the past year.

"While we acknowledge that we still have work to do in some areas to help raise the bar on student achievement, we recognize and value the daily efforts of our hardworking students, and dedicated staff, who are committed to meeting their needs," says Peter Joshua, director of education. "We will continue supporting students to reach their full potential by focusing on strategies that will improve literacy and numeracy skills of all students and enhance their learning."

"The most important element about these results is the way we use them to improve teaching and learning," says Adrian Graham, superintendent of curriculum and instruction support services. "We know that we continue to have work to do, particularly in mathematics, to ensure students have the foundational skills they need to succeed. As a board, we will continue to review our instructional practices to provide even more support for our students."

Overall, this is how grades 3 and 6 students performed:

	All grade 3 students – levels 3, 4			All grade 6 students – levels 3, 4		
	2018-19 Peel	2018-19 Province	2017-18 Peel	2018-19 Peel	2018-19 Province	2017-18 Peel
reading	75%	74%	75%	81%	81%	83%
writing	69%	69%	72%	84%	82%	82%
math	57%	58%	60%	49%	48%	49%

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

	All grade 9 students – levels 3, 4		
	2018-19 Peel	2018-19 Province	2017-18 Peel
applied	39%	44%	40%
academic	84%	84%	85%

Other highlights of the EQAO results include:

- Grade 6 English language learners (ELL) scores increased by two per cent in writing, compared to the 2017-18 school year results.
- Writing scores for grade 6 students with special education needs have increased by five per cent, compared to the 2017-18 school year results.
- Grade 3 reading scores for students with special education needs are up by three per cent in comparison to the 2017-18 school year results.

Overall, this is how grade 10 students performed on the OSSLT:

	2018-19 Peel	2018-19 Province	2017-18 Peel
Fully participating first-time eligible successful students	83%	80%	81%
Fully participating previously eligible successful students	52%	50%	50%

The OSSLT is a one-day assessment that focuses on key skills in reading and writing. It is based on the reading and writing skills expected in the Ontario curriculum across all subject areas up to the end of grade 9. These summative assessments present a snapshot of student learning and achievement by having students demonstrate their knowledge and skills independently on standardized tasks and under standardized conditions. The OSSLT includes reading selections, multiple choice and short answer questions, as well as a variety of types of writing tasks.

It is important for parents/guardians and the community to understand that OSSLT is not a norm-referenced standardized test. A student's performance on the OSSLT is not compared to that of other students. Instead, a student's performance on the OSSLT compares their knowledge and skills to criteria based on the Ontario curriculum.

Highlights of the Peel board OSSLT results include:

- Of the grade 10 students in the Peel board who took the OSSLT for the first time, 83 per cent were successful, compared to 80 per cent provincially.
- Of the 9,622 Peel board students who were eligible to write the OSSLT for the first time in March 2019, 9,168 or 95 per cent wrote the test—the other students were deferred or absent.
- Seventy-five per cent of English language learners who wrote the test passed, compared to 71 per cent provincially. This year, 14 per cent of eligible students are identified as English language learners.
- Ninety-two per cent of students in academic English courses who wrote the test were successful, compared to 37 per cent in applied English courses who were successful, and six per cent of students in locally developed English courses.

For detailed results including EQAO reports and school-by-school results, visit <http://www.peelschools.org/parents/EQAO>.

-30-

Media contact: Adrian Graham, Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, 905-890-1010 ext. 2343, adrian.graham@peelsb.com

Reference: Audrey Crasto, School Communications Assistant, 905-890-1010 ext. 3360, audrey.crasto@peelsb.com