



September 19, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

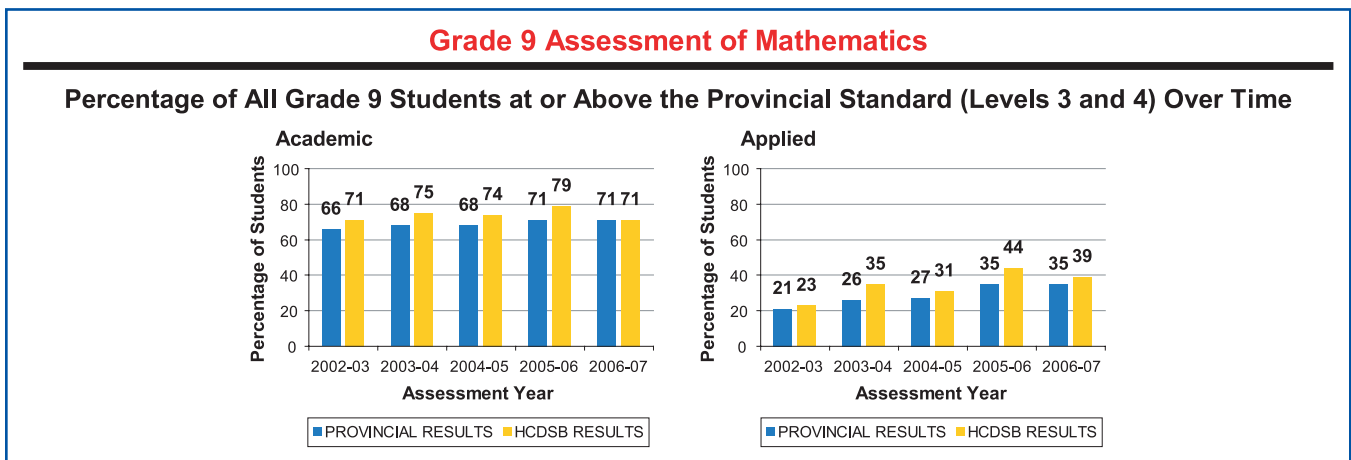
## Halton Catholic School Board Students Score Well On Provincial Grade 9 EQAO 2007 Math Assessments

The Halton Catholic District School Board released today its Board and individual secondary school results of the 2007 Grade 9 Mathematics assessment conducted by the provincial EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office). A total of 2,276 Grade 9 students of the Board’s seven secondary schools participated in the assessment, which was conducted in each semester of the last school year (January, 2007 and June, 2007). 1,775 students participated in the *Academic* assessment and 501 students completed the *Applied* testing.

Two versions of the test were administered – one for students in the Grade 9 Applied Mathematics Program and the other for students in the Grade 9 Academic Mathematics Program. Each version was based on the Grade 9 expectations for students in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10 Mathematics*, which sets Level 3 as the provincial standard. Level 1 and above is equivalent to a passable grade, with Level 3 described as equivalent to a score of 70-79%.

“The Halton Catholic District School Board is concerned with our *Academic program* results, which demonstrate that 71% of our students are achieving at or above Level 3,” states Director of Education, Mr. L. Piovesan. “This reflects an 8% decrease from the 2006 results and indicates that some significant adjustments are required. This is the first time in five years that the Halton Catholic District School Board’s *Academic Mathematics* results have decreased. This year, the *Applied Mathematics program* results show that more than 39% of our students are achieving at or above Level 3, which is a decrease of 5% from the 2006 results. School improvement plans will vigorously focus on *Academic and Applied Mathematics* to improve learning for these students. A continued focus on mathematics professional development initiatives will be required in our Catholic learning community to enhance student learning and achievement.”

“Through continued professional development opportunities, offered by staff in our Curriculum Services Department, teachers will be assisted to further implement effective strategies that support improved student learning,” reinforces Rick MacDonald, Halton Catholic District School Board Superintendent of Education, Curriculum Services.



## (HCDSB Students Score Well On Provincial Math Assessments)

The Halton Catholic District School Board's directive, '*Success for All Through School Improvement Planning*', identifies five initiatives (Catholicity, Safe Schools, Literacy, Numeracy, and Student Success).

Some of the mathematics improvement strategies for implementation in 2007-08 include:

- adopting the *Targeted Implementation and Planning Supports for Revised Mathematics (TIPS4RM)*;
- teachers of *Academic Mathematics* will incorporate the use of manipulatives and technology with the support of the secondary Itinerant teacher;
- all Special Education Resource Teachers and Grade 9 and 10 *Applied Mathematics* teachers will be trained on the use of a mathematics developmental diagnostic tool, *PRIME (Professional Resources and Instruction for Mathematics Educators)*, to support students in the learning of mathematics;
- School Numeracy Teams will use the facilitation material provided by the Ministry of Education for professional dialogue around effective mathematics instruction and assessment;
- ongoing professional development opportunities for mathematics teachers, including the *Ontario Association for Mathematics Education (OAME)* conference;
- the purchase of a new Grade 9 *Academic Mathematics* resource which focusses on problem-solving and the use of manipulatives and is consistent with the EQAO assessment instrument; and
- encouraging cross-panel discussions on mathematics readiness for secondary mathematics and a working knowledge of the EQAO assessment tool .

The overall results for the Halton Catholic District School Board and individual schools are outlined in the attached charts. The individual school results are listed alphabetically. The assessments were graded on a four level system, with one being the lowest and four the highest. The Ministry has defined level 3 as the provincial standard.

As advised by EQAO, it is inappropriate and misleading to rank schools or to make individual school comparisons without taking into account a variety of contextual factors.

-30-

#### **About the Halton Catholic District School Board**

The Halton Catholic District School Board, a provincial leader in student achievement in literacy and numeracy, as well as in Special Education, provides the best of Catholic education to over 28,500 students of all ages at 48 faith-centred learning communities in Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville. Committed to servant leadership, continuous school improvement planning and the preservation of the enduring gift of Catholic education, the Board is an exciting and dynamic system in which to learn, grow and work.

Believing In You . . . Believing In Us

#### **For further information, please contact:**

##### **Rick MacDonald**

Superintendent of Education, Curriculum Services  
Halton Catholic District School Board  
905-632-6314 ext 123

#### Release prepared & distributed by:

Chris G. Jewell

Communications Services

Halton Catholic District School Board  
905-632-6314 ext. 157

**Halton Catholic District School Board**  
**EQAO GRADE 9 MATHEMATICS OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS**  
 Spring 2007

Achievement Level	Academic Program %							Applied Program %						
	E	ND	NE1	1	2	3	4	E	ND	NE1	1	2	3	4
<b>Province of Ontario</b>	0	2	1	9	18	64	6	0	9	7	14	36	30	5
<b>Halton Catholic DSB</b>	0	<1	<1	8	21	67	4	0	2	6	14	39	34	6
Assumption	0	<1	0	6	23	65	6	0	2	0	11	36	46	5
Bishop Paul Francis Reding	0	<1	2	14	27	54	2	0	1	18	23	32	22	3
Christ the King	0	<1	<1	8	22	65	5	0	2	2	14	39	39	4
Holy Trinity	0	0	<1	5	17	73	4	0	1	9	6	40	34	9
Notre Dame	0	2	0	4	17	74	5	0	3	1	8	46	36	6
St Ignatius of Loyola	0	0	0	8	16	72	5	0	3	3	13	45	24	13
St Thomas Aquinas	0	0	1	14	28	54	2	0	2	2	27	37	29	2

**LEGEND:** 'N' - Number of Students 'E' - Exempt 'ND' - No Data 'NE 1' - Not Equal to Level 1

Source: This data was downloaded from the EQAO website September 19, 2007.