



September 17, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Halton Catholic District Board Continues to Surpass Provincial Results on EQAO Primary & Junior Assessments

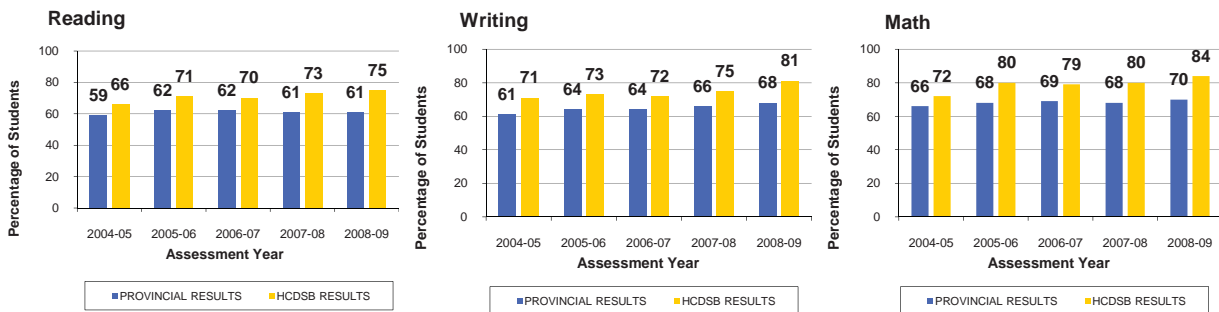
The Halton Catholic District School Board released today its Board and school by school results of the province wide assessment of Grade 3 and 6 students. The test was conducted in the Spring of 2009 in the areas of reading, writing and math by the provincial *Education, Quality, Accountability Office (EQAO)*.

Students in the Halton Catholic District School Board continue to do extremely well compared to the provincial standard (Level 3). Over the past several years, it has been the goal of the Ministry of Education to have 75% of students achieving at or above the provincial standard on the *EQAO* assessment. The results indicate that the Halton Catholic District School Board achieved the provincial standard of 75% in all the Grade 3 and Grade 6 assessment categories. The Halton Catholic District School Board is extremely proud of having achieved or exceeded the provincial target of 75% in all assessment areas.

EQAO Results - Board and Province Highlights 5 Year Trends, 2005-2009

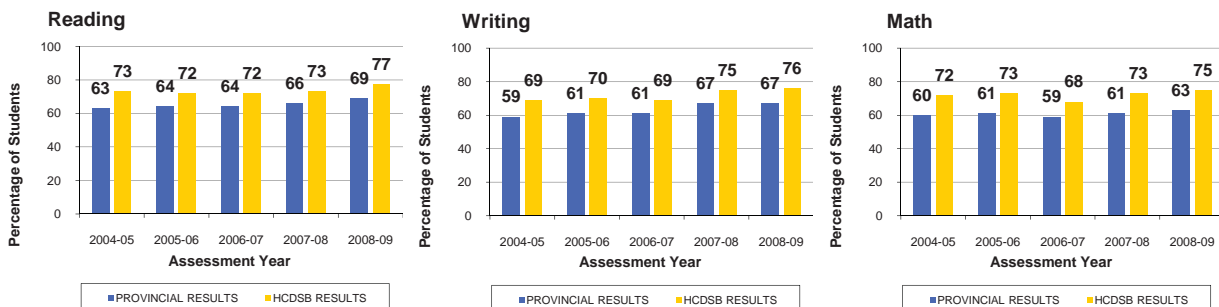
Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division (Grades 1-3)

Percentage of All Grade 3 Students at or Above the Provincial Standard (Levels 3 and 4) Over Time



Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Junior Division (Grades 4-6)

Percentage of All Grade 6 Students at or Above the Provincial Standard (Levels 3 and 4) Over Time



(Halton Catholic Board Continues to Surpass Provincial Results on *EQAO* Primary & Junior Assessments cont'd)

“I am encouraged by the continued hard work, commitment and dedication of both our staff and students,” says Michael W. Pautler, Director of Education, Halton Catholic District School Board. “Our achievements in all areas of the Primary and Junior *EQAO* assessments for the 2008-2009 school year have improved from the previous year.”

Achievements were made in the following areas; Grade 3 – Reading 75%, an increase of 2%; Writing 81%, an increase of 6%; Math 84%, an increase of 4%; Grade 6 – Reading 77%, an increase of 4%; Writing 76%, an increase of 1%; Math 75%, an increase of 2%.

“This represents a nineteen percentage point increase over the six assessment categories, which is a significant improvement,” elaborates Michael W. Pautler. “We will continue with both our Board and school improvement planning to enhance student achievement, and to promote a culture of high expectations, rooted in faith, in each of our Catholic learning communities.”

The overall 2009 achievement results for the Halton Catholic District School Board and our individual schools are outlined in the charts included at the end of this release.

“I wish to commend our administrators, superintendents, teachers, support staff, consultants, itinerant teachers, students and parents, who in working together, have all made valuable contributions in improving student achievement in these *EQAO* assessments. The data received from the assessments is one of a number of measures used to assist the Board and our individual school communities to identify areas for improved student learning,” explains Rick MacDonald, Superintendent of Education, Curriculum Services. “They serve as a basis for the Board, schools, teachers and parents to have a dialogue regarding individual student learning and the important role that each plays in ongoing school improvement planning.”

The Halton Catholic District School Board uses various sets of data, including the *EQAO* results, to inform and plan the instructional strategies used in the classroom; a process which allows school staff to offer our students the best in Christ-centred education.

The learning improvement strategies that the Board implemented during the 2008-2009 school year to support reading, writing and mathematics included, but were not limited to the following:

- Full implementation of the Board Benchmark Assessment Project for Reading and Writing;
- System purchase of a common assessment tool for Writing Grades 1-8, Ontario Writing Assessment (OWA) for Grades 1-8;
- Benchmark Assessment Folders for each of the five (5) Benchmark Assessments for Language with explicit links to the Ministry expectations for Reading and Writing, Class Profile tracking chart and sample analysis scenarios;
- Professional learning opportunities for all Grades 1-8 teachers on the Board Benchmark Assessments
- School Administrators professional learning session October 2008;
- Job-embedded professional learning facilitated by the Board Assessment Team;
- Facilitated Teacher Moderation sessions for school learning communities using student samples from the Benchmark Assessments.
- Creating instructional Pathways (CIP) Planners for Reading and Writing to support student achievement through Differentiated Instruction
- Grade level documents for analyzing Class Profile data to determine next steps for instruction using Provincial and Board resources;
- Itinerant Teachers assigned one day a week to each school to promote a common understanding and use of the assessment and instructional strategies and approaches for Language in Grades 1 to 8;
- Itinerants focused on teaching using the three-part lesson model, teaching through problem solving where students were encouraged to communicate their thinking with each other, and increased use of manipulatives

(Halton Catholic Board Continues to Surpass Provincial Results on *EQAO* Primary & Junior Assessments cont'd)

and technology;

- Teachers new to Grade 3 and 6 attended a session to help them understand the *EQAO* assessment – the language, style of questions, ways to use the practice materials, and ways to interpret the results;
- 9 elementary schools were included in the provincial OFIP-3 program (Ontario Focused Intervention Partnerships) in the Spring, 2008, which included District Review Team (DRT) visits;
- A focus on *EQAO* item analysis by many of our School Improvement Teams to identify next steps for school improvement planning;
- Allocating uninterrupted learning blocks for Literacy and Numeracy to optimize instruction and allow students time to consolidate their skills (i.e. minimum 90 minutes for Literacy, Grades 1-3; minimum 60 minutes for Literacy, Grades 4-8; 60 minutes for Math, Grades 1-8);
- Teacher release time was allocated to each school, which provided time for teachers to work with the School Improvement Team (SIT) and the School Improvement Plan (SIP);
- Workshops were provided to the teaching staff and administrators regarding Differentiated Instruction;
- An emphasis on high-yield strategies, including ongoing assessment and feedback, teacher moderation and the gradual release of responsibility by Curriculum staff to support ongoing professional learning for elementary administrators and their staffs; and
- 14 schools were involved in an after school tutoring program.

A total of 1,794 Grade 3 students and 2,100 Grade 6 students at the Board's 39 elementary schools were eligible to participate in the *EQAO* assessment. Students were assessed in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics based on expectations contained in The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8. The assessments were evaluated 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.

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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 29,000 students of all ages at 50 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

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Halton Catholic District School Board
EQAO Primary Division (Grades 1-3) Overall Achievement Results
 Spring 2009

Achievement Level	Reading				Writing				Mathematics			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Province	7%	26%	53%	7%	<1%	28%	63%	4%	2%	23%	58%	12%
Halton Catholic DSB	3%	19%	65%	10%	0%	17%	75%	6%	1%	13%	65%	19%
Ascension	3%	14%	71%	11%	0%	11%	77%	11%	0%	6%	60%	34%
Canadian Martyrs	0%	24%	76%	0%	0%	10%	81%	10%	0%	24%	67%	10%
Guardian Angels	6%	25%	57%	7%	0%	23%	71%	4%	0%	19%	59%	19%
Holy Cross	0%	13%	71%	8%	0%	16%	74%	8%	0%	0%	79%	18%
Holy Family	0%	10%	83%	7%	0%	17%	76%	7%	3%	3%	66%	28%
Holy Rosary (Burlington)	0%	17%	63%	12%	0%	12%	80%	2%	0%	12%	66%	17%
Holy Rosary (Milton)	6%	17%	70%	4%	0%	19%	77%	2%	2%	19%	60%	17%
Mother Teresa	0%	19%	67%	12%	0%	10%	76%	12%	0%	7%	64%	26%
Our Lady of Peace	1%	31%	61%	6%	0%	12%	75%	13%	0%	12%	66%	22%
Our Lady of Victory	5%	25%	62%	4%	0%	20%	75%	4%	0%	18%	75%	5%
Pope John Paul II	2%	15%	66%	14%	0%	19%	69%	11%	0%	16%	58%	25%
Sacred Heart of Jesus	6%	25%	65%	4%	0%	26%	72%	1%	0%	18%	67%	11%
St. Andrew	3%	22%	65%	7%	0%	17%	72%	9%	0%	13%	72%	13%
St. Anthony of Padua	4%	22%	64%	9%	0%	18%	78%	4%	0%	27%	67%	7%
St. Bernadette	0%	7%	80%	13%	0%	7%	87%	7%	0%	2%	65%	33%
St. Brigid	0%	21%	71%	3%	0%	14%	79%	3%	1%	1%	65%	28%
St. Catherine of Alexandria	3%	21%	61%	13%	0%	16%	75%	7%	2%	7%	66%	25%
St. Christopher	0%	23%	68%	7%	0%	12%	77%	9%	2%	9%	80%	9%
St. Dominic	0%	10%	42%	46%	0%	8%	79%	12%	0%	2%	54%	42%
St. Elizabeth Seton	2%	7%	76%	14%	0%	7%	86%	7%	0%	7%	57%	36%
St. Francis of Assisi	0%	25%	65%	8%	0%	4%	88%	6%	0%	12%	69%	17%
St. Gabriel	0%	16%	62%	16%	0%	16%	73%	5%	0%	11%	49%	35%
St. James	14%	29%	39%	7%	0%	50%	43%	0%	18%	36%	32%	7%
St. Joan of Arc	0%	19%	68%	13%	0%	15%	77%	8%	0%	15%	71%	15%
St. John (Burlington)	3%	18%	71%	5%	0%	18%	74%	8%	0%	13%	71%	13%
St. John (Oakville)	4%	21%	62%	12%	0%	12%	79%	8%	0%	17%	67%	17%
St. Joseph (Acton)	2%	21%	53%	16%	0%	24%	67%	2%	0%	16%	60%	16%
St. Joseph (Oakville)	8%	22%	67%	0%	0%	22%	75%	3%	0%	17%	64%	19%
St. Luke	3%	21%	64%	9%	0%	24%	70%	3%	0%	18%	58%	21%
St. Marguerite d'Youville	11%	16%	63%	7%	0%	27%	61%	10%	1%	16%	67%	14%
St. Mark	6%	3%	75%	12%	0%	6%	81%	9%	0%	9%	75%	12%
St. Matthew	4%	12%	60%	20%	0%	16%	72%	8%	0%	16%	76%	4%
St. Michael	6%	33%	61%	0%	0%	11%	83%	6%	0%	33%	56%	11%
St. Patrick	6%	12%	71%	6%	0%	12%	82%	6%	0%	6%	41%	47%
St. Paul	3%	8%	64%	10%	0%	18%	74%	5%	0%	15%	54%	28%
St. Peter	12%	22%	59%	6%	0%	22%	78%	0%	0%	22%	72%	6%
St. Raphael	0%	7%	70%	13%	0%	3%	83%	3%	0%	3%	60%	27%
St. Timothy	2%	22%	63%	13%	0%	26%	72%	2%	0%	17%	70%	13%
St. Vincent	4%	25%	64%	7%	0%	21%	75%	4%	0%	11%	79%	11%

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to students who were Exempt or had No Data.

Source: EQAO
 Downloaded September 16, 2009

Halton Catholic District School Board
EQAO Junior Division (Grades 4-6) Overall Achievement Results
 Spring 2009

Achievement Level	Reading				Writing				Mathematics			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Province	5%	22%	59%	11%	<1%	29%	58%	9%	6%	27%	49%	13%
Halton Catholic DSB	3%	18%	64%	14%	<1%	22%	65%	11%	3%	20%	57%	18%
Ascension	0%	10%	59%	32%	0%	20%	59%	22%	2%	5%	68%	24%
Canadian Martyrs	0%	16%	76%	8%	0%	11%	84%	5%	0%	13%	63%	24%
Guardian Angels	6%	28%	58%	5%	0%	33%	51%	13%	7%	26%	56%	2%
Holy Cross	2%	23%	66%	7%	2%	27%	64%	4%	0%	20%	64%	14%
Holy Family	9%	21%	62%	6%	0%	24%	71%	3%	3%	26%	50%	15%
Holy Rosary (Burlington)	0%	28%	67%	5%	0%	30%	65%	5%	2%	19%	67%	12%
Holy Rosary (Milton)	8%	30%	53%	9%	0%	45%	51%	4%	4%	42%	51%	4%
Mother Teresa	0%	10%	66%	22%	0%	6%	79%	12%	1%	9%	52%	37%
Our Lady of Peace	2%	17%	68%	11%	0%	28%	66%	5%	2%	24%	56%	17%
Our Lady of Victory	4%	21%	64%	9%	0%	32%	64%	2%	6%	30%	49%	13%
Pope John Paul II	3%	17%	60%	19%	0%	15%	67%	17%	1%	19%	59%	20%
Sacred Heart of Jesus	2%	14%	79%	6%	0%	18%	76%	6%	3%	29%	47%	21%
St. Andrew	2%	22%	65%	7%	2%	28%	57%	11%	0%	17%	65%	17%
St. Anthony of Padua	8%	27%	57%	8%	0%	24%	59%	16%	0%	43%	41%	14%
St. Bernadette	2%	11%	78%	9%	0%	12%	72%	15%	0%	9%	68%	23%
St. Brigid	2%	16%	67%	11%	0%	31%	58%	9%	2%	18%	61%	18%
St. Catherine of Alexandria	3%	16%	71%	9%	0%	24%	70%	5%	1%	22%	61%	15%
St. Christopher	2%	20%	60%	18%	0%	22%	64%	14%	0%	24%	62%	12%
St. Dominic	2%	20%	60%	13%	2%	29%	58%	7%	7%	7%	69%	11%
St. Elizabeth Seton	0%	18%	50%	28%	0%	16%	58%	22%	0%	18%	34%	44%
St. Francis of Assisi	0%	12%	78%	10%	0%	24%	69%	6%	0%	16%	71%	12%
St. Gabriel	1%	19%	67%	9%	0%	17%	71%	8%	3%	31%	52%	11%
St. James	0%	27%	45%	6%	0%	21%	52%	6%	6%	24%	45%	3%
St. Joan of Arc	3%	26%	66%	3%	0%	12%	75%	11%	6%	20%	66%	6%
St. John (Burlington)	9%	16%	58%	16%	0%	28%	58%	14%	2%	42%	51%	5%
St. John (Oakville)	12%	8%	54%	15%	0%	27%	50%	12%	0%	19%	50%	19%
St. Joseph (Acton)	7%	16%	64%	13%	0%	24%	69%	7%	7%	20%	62%	11%
St. Joseph (Oakville)	0%	15%	69%	17%	0%	25%	67%	8%	2%	21%	60%	17%
St. Luke	4%	20%	62%	14%	0%	20%	60%	20%	6%	18%	54%	22%
St. Marguerite d'Youville	1%	13%	63%	20%	0%	11%	63%	23%	1%	17%	57%	20%
St. Mark	0%	17%	62%	19%	0%	12%	76%	10%	2%	5%	52%	38%
St. Matthew	0%	4%	58%	36%	0%	4%	74%	21%	0%	6%	57%	36%
St. Michael	4%	31%	50%	12%	0%	31%	58%	8%	12%	19%	50%	15%
St. Patrick	3%	20%	60%	17%	0%	37%	60%	3%	7%	30%	53%	10%
St. Paul	2%	15%	68%	11%	2%	30%	62%	2%	2%	19%	53%	21%
St. Peter	6%	22%	46%	24%	0%	22%	62%	14%	8%	18%	48%	24%
St. Raphael	5%	23%	53%	16%	0%	19%	67%	12%	0%	26%	51%	21%
St. Timothy	0%	13%	71%	16%	0%	13%	65%	22%	0%	20%	62%	18%
St. Vincent	2%	8%	71%	17%	0%	15%	71%	12%	0%	10%	46%	42%

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