



# Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

## District Results

2016-2017

## Student Learning Assessments, Provincial Achievement Tests & Diploma Examinations

### Executive Summary

Report to the Board of Trustees

October 2, 2017

*(Embargoed until October 12, 2017)*

## District Results Review 2016-2017

### Introduction

In this report, we define high quality assessment practices, emphasize key points from our analysis of Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) and Diploma Examination (DIP) results for our jurisdiction, and conclude with suggested next steps for improvement.

### High Quality Assessment Practices

In Alberta, teachers gather information about student progress on outcomes as prescribed by Alberta Education's programs of study before, during and after instruction:

- **Diagnostic assessment (Before learning):** Information is gathered by teachers *before* instruction to see what students know and can do, and what gaps exist in students' learning. These results are not used for report card scores; they provide teachers and students with information to guide next steps in instruction. Examples: diagnostic reading assessments and pre-tests.
- **Formative assessment (During learning):** Information is gathered by teachers *during* instruction to see what students know and can do and what they *still* need to learn in order to continue to build necessary knowledge and skills. These assessments are not used on report cards; they provide teachers and students with information to guide what the student needs to do to improve performance. Examples: mid-point quizzes and "feedback only" tests.
- **Summative assessment (After learning):** Information is gathered by teachers *after* instruction to see how well students learned the intended outcomes. These assessments are the basis of student report cards. The assumption is that students have been guided with diagnostic and formative assessments to improve performance on outcomes and are now ready to show what they know and have learned. Examples: end-of-unit tests and standardized tests such as provincial achievement tests and diploma exams. Provincial achievement tests and Diploma Examinations are *summative assessments* that happen at the *end* of a school year in grades 6, 9, and 12. The results are released publically to inform us about how well students learned curriculum in their respective grades.

## Overview of District Results on Provincial Assessments

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools (GSACRD) performs admirably on standardized provincial assessments. Over the last five years, our **Grade 6, 9 and 12 students** have **consistently outperformed** students provincially **by approximately 9 % in all core subjects** at the **Acceptable Standard on Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Examinations**.

Some of the highlights of GSACRD results include:

### **Grade 3 Student Learning Assessment (SLA)**

- In **2013-2014**, all Grade 3 teachers in Alberta administered the **Grade 3 Student Learning Assessment (SLA)**, which had **4 parts**: an English language arts performance task; a math performance task; English language arts multiple-choice questions; and math multiple-choice questions.
- The **SLA** is intended to be a **diagnostic assessment** used by Grade 3 teachers to identify gaps in students' learning to shape their teaching to be responsive to students' needs.
- In **2014-2015**, **feedback from grade 3 teachers** across the province indicated that the **SLA was onerous** to administer (it took many days to administer and mark).
- In **2015-2016**, **Alberta Education responded to teacher feedback** by selecting **20 school jurisdictions** (GSACRD applied but was not selected) to engage in an intensive pilot study of the SLA to make necessary revisions to the assessment.
- **Presently (2017-2018)**, the province is **proceeding with this 20-jurisdiction pilot study**, and Minister Eggen announced that the Grade 3 SLA was to be administered based on **teacher discretion** (<http://www.edmontonsun.com/2017/05/20/grade-3-assessment-tests-in-alberta-will-be-left-to-teachers-discretion-minister-says>).
- Our District Literacy and Numeracy Coordinators offered GSACRD Grade 3 teachers an opportunity to review what the SLA is and how to administer it. Grade 3 teachers' feedback based on the session showed that **73% (11/15) of GSACRD Grade 3 Teachers are administering the SLA** and **4/11 are uncertain about administering the SLA** (Retrieved from teacher feedback on September 25, 2017). For those teachers who choose to administer the SLA, they are offered another full day to come together to mark their SLAs and to discuss how to use such information.

## Grade 6 PAT Results: Highlights

### Grade 6 Acceptable Standard:

- **In 2017**, GSACRD Grade 6 students performed, on average, **7% higher** than the province at the **Acceptable Standard** for **ALL core subjects**.
- **Over the last 5 years**, GSACRD Grade 6 students performed, on average, **9% higher** than the province at the **Acceptable Standard** for **ALL core subjects**.

### Grade 6 Standard of Excellence:

- **In 2017**, GSACRD Grade 6 students performed, on average, **2% higher** than the province at the **Standard of Excellence** in **ALL core subjects**.
- **Over the last 5 years**, GSACRD Grade 6 students performed, on average, **4% higher** than the province at the **Standard of Excellence** in **ALL core subjects**.

### Grade 6 Subject-based Performance:

- **In 2017**, GSACRD Grade 6 students **far exceeded** the province in

<b>Math 6</b>	<b>+13.8 / +3.9</b>
<b>Science 6</b>	<b>+13.2 / +8.1</b>
<b>Social Studies 6</b>	<b>+14.0 / +5.3</b>
	Acceptable Standard/Standard of Excellence

- **Over the last five years**, GSACRD Grade 6 students **far exceeded the province** in **Math 6 (+12%)** and **Social Studies 6 (+11%)** at the **Acceptable Standard**.
- **Over the last five years**, GSACRD Grade 6 students have excelled in **Science 6** at both the **Acceptable Standard (+9.3%)** and **Standard of Excellence (+6.4%)**.

### English and French Grade 6 Program:

- **Over the last five years**, GSACRD Grade 6 students in English and French programs have achieved consistently **above the province** at the Acceptable Standard **in ALL core subjects**.
- **Over the last five years**, GSACRD Grade 6 students have **sustained above average performance** in **Math 6**, which is noteworthy since the province is experiencing decreases in Math and offering Math teachers bursaries to improve their practices.

## Grade 9 PAT Results: Highlights

### Grade 9 Acceptable Standard:

- *In 2017, GSACRD Grade 9 students* performed, on average, **9 % higher** than the province at the Acceptable Standard for **ALL core subjects**.
- *In 2017, GSACRD Math 9 students* are **sustaining high performance (+10 %)** when the province has implemented a bursary program to support professional learning for math teachers due to declining results.
- *In 2017, GSACRD Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability* students performed **18 % higher** than such students provincially in **four core subjects**.
- **Over the last 5 years, GSACRD Grade 9 students** performed, on average, **9 % higher** than the province at the Acceptable Standard for **ALL core subjects**.

### Grade 9 Standard of Excellence:

- *In 2017, GSACRD Grade 9 students* performed about **1% higher** than the province at the **Standard of Excellence in ALL core subjects**.
- **Over the last 5 years, GSACRD Grade 9 students** performed about **2% higher** than the province at the **Standard of Excellence in English Language Arts 9, French Language Arts 9, and Social Studies 9**.

### Grade 9 Subject-based Performance:

- *In 2017, GSACRD Grade 9 students* **significantly exceeded** the provincial results at the **Acceptable Standard** in **ALL core subjects** written in English.
- *In 2017, GSACRD Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability students* have **significantly exceeded** the provincial results at the **Acceptable Standard** and the **Standard of Excellence** in **ALL core subjects**.
- *In 2017, GSACRD Grade 9 students* **significantly exceeded** the province at the **Standard of Excellence** in **Science 9 (English)**.
- *In the last five years, overall, GSACRD Grade 9 students* have **consistently outperformed** the province at the **Acceptable Standard** in **ALL core subjects** in English and French.

## Diploma Results: Highlights

### Acceptable Standard:

- In 2017, GSACRD high school students performed, on average, **2 % higher** than the province at the **Acceptable Standard** for **ALL core subjects**, and there was an increase at the **Acceptable Standard in Biology 30, Chemistry 30 (English and French)** and **Physics 30** since last year.
- **Over the last five years**, student achievement increased the most (**+8.7%**) in **Social Studies 30-1 (English)** at the **Acceptable Standard**.
- **Over the last 5 years**, GSACRD high school students performed, on average, **9% higher** than the province at the **Acceptable Standard** for **ALL core subjects**.

### Standard of Excellence:

- In 2017, GSACRD high school students performed, on average, about **1.0% higher** than the province at the **Standard of Excellence** in **ALL core subjects**.

### Subject-based performance:

- Overall, high school students are **excelling beyond the province** in five-year trends and in last year's results for both the **Acceptable Standard**.
- **Math 30-2** and **Biology 30** students have **sustained excellent growth** in both the **Acceptable Standard and Standard of Excellence**.

## Looking Ahead

- **GRADE 6:** focus on improving at the **Standard of Excellence** in:  
**English Language Arts 6**  
**Science 6 (French)**
- **Grade 9:** focus on the improving at the **Standard of Excellence** in:  
**Math 9 (French)**  
**Social Studies 9 (French)**  
**Math 9 English**
- **High School:** focus on improving at the **Standard of Excellence** in  
**Social Studies 30-1 and 30-2 (English and French)**  
**Math 30-1 (English)**  
**Chemistry 30 (English)**  
**Physics 30 (English)**  
**Biology 30 (French)**  
**Science 30 (English)**

**Table 1: Provincial Achievement Test Results 2016-2017**

	Acceptable Standard			Standard of Excellence		
	GSACRD	Prov.	+/-	GSACRD	Prov.	+/-
<b>Grade 6 Subjects</b>						
1. English Language Arts 6	92.3	82.5	+9.8	17.1	18.9	-1.8
2. Math 6	82.3	68.4	+13.8	15.7	12.3	+3.9
3. Science 6 English	89.8	76.6	+13.2	37.6	29.5	+8.1
4. Science 6 French	81.4	81.5	=	16.5	21.9	-5.9
5. Social Studies 6 English	84.6	72.6	+14.0	27.7	22.4	+5.3
6. Social Studies 6 French	73.2	76.2	+3.0	13.4	12.8	+0.6
7. French Language Arts 6	82.7	85.1	-2.4	10.2	13.5	+3.3
<b>Overall Avg. +/-</b>			<b>+7.3</b>			<b>+2.0</b>
<b>Grade 9 Subjects</b>						
1. English Language Arts 9	87.7	76.8	+10.9	15.9	14.9	+1.0
2. ELA 9 K & E	92.3	58.8	+33.5	7.7	5.9	+1.8
3. Math 9 English	76.7	66.2	+10.5	18.0	18.7	-0.7
4. Math 9 French	80.6	82.5	-1.9	7.8	23.6	-15.8
5. Math 9 K & E	68.4	57.0	+11.9	15.8	13.3	+2.5
6. Science 9 English	85.3	73.2	+12.1	25.4	21.3	+9.1
7. Science 9 French	87.4	86.0	+1.4	16.5	22.4	-5.9
8. Science 9 K & E	84.6	63.8	+20.8	15.4	13.4	+2.0
9. Social Studies 9 English	73.5	66.3	+7.2	25.0	20.2	+9.8
10. Social Studies 9 French	73.8	77.2	-3.4	12.6	20.9	-8.3
11. Social Studies 9 K & E	64.3	56.3	+8.0	28.6	12.7	+15.9
12. French Language Arts 9	84.5	83.1	+1.9	8.7	10.8	-2.1
<b>Overall Avg. +/-</b>			<b>+9.4</b>			<b>+2.3</b>

- Full Cohort Results (All Students)

**Table 2: Diploma Exam Results 2016-2017**

	Acceptable			Excellence		
	GSACRD	Prov.	+/-	GSACRD	Prov.	+/-
Biology 30 English	100.0	96.6	+3.4	41.3	39.3	+2.0
Biology 30 French	91.7	96.2	-4.5	33.3	40.4	-7.1
Chemistry 30 English	95.3	95.9	-0.6	45.3	44.1	+1.2
Chemistry 30 French	100.0	96.3	+3.7	56.3	43.1	+13.1
English 30-1	99.3	98.3	+1.0	19.3	20.0	-0.7
English 30-2	98.2	96.1	+2.1	16.1	9.1	+7.0
French 30-1	97.1	99.7	-2.6	29.4	33.3	-3.9
Physics 30 English	100.0	97.0	+3.0	47.5	46.2	+1.3
Math 30-1 English	97.4	93.9	+3.5	35.5	38.9	-3.4
Math 30-1 French	100.0	93.9	+6.1	38.5	38.9	-0.4
Math 30-2 English	92.0	94.8	+2.8	18.2	17.6	+0.6
Science 30	100.0	96.1	+3.9	26.8	31.5	-4.1
Social Studies 30-1 English	100.0	98.8	+1.2	18.8	26.2	-7.4
Social Studies 30-1 French	100.0	96.8	+3.2	25.9	26.2	-0.3
Social Studies 30-2 English	95.6	95.5	+0.1	15.6	11.9	+3.7
Social Studies 30-2 French	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Overall Avg. +/-</b>			<b>+1.8</b>			<b>+1.0</b>

- Partial Cohort Results (Only students who wrote the exam) \* Too few students to release publically.

**Table 3: Five Year Trends, Provincial Achievement Tests: Grade 6 and 9**

Subjects	Acceptable Standard					Ave +/-%	Standard of Excellence					Ave +/-%
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
ELA 6	+7.9	+5.5	+10.1	+10.2	+9.8	<b>+8.7</b>	+6.3	+2.1	+1.8	+4.2	-1.8	<b>+2.5</b>
ELA 9	+12.6	+12.5	+11.7	+5.7	+10.9	<b>+10.7</b>	+4.7	+1.0	+2.5	-0.5	+1.0	<b>+1.7</b>
FLA 6	+11.4	+4.2	+3.8	+2.3	-2.4	<b>+3.9</b>	+2.8	+4.2	+3.8	+2.3	+3.3	<b>+3.3</b>
FLA 9	+3.1	+2.2	+7.1	+8.3	+1.9	<b>+4.5</b>	+5.5	-1.3	+3.4	-2.1	-2.1	<b>+0.7</b>
Math 6	+13.5	+10.4	+11.5	+10.6	+13.8	<b>+12.0</b>	+4.1	+0.8	+2.4	+5.4	+3.8	<b>+3.3</b>
Math 9	+12.7	+12.0	+12.0	+16.5	+10.5	<b>+12.7</b>	+0.5	-1.6	-1.1	+2.3	-0.7	<b>-0.1</b>
Science 6	+11.5	+8.8	+11.7	+11.7	+13.2	<b>+9.3</b>	+6.2	+4.3	+6.6	+6.9	+8.1	<b>+6.4</b>
Science 9	+15.0	+10.6	+10.2	+10.2	+12.1	<b>+9.8</b>	+8.8	+0.3	-2.2	-0.5	+9.1	<b>+3.1</b>
Social 6	+15.0	+10.4	+10.4	+14.3	+14.0	<b>+11.0</b>	+4.0	+3.7	+1.1	+4.9	+5.3	<b>+3.8</b>
Social 9	+10.5	+11.9	+9.3	+10.4	+7.2	<b>+9.9</b>	+6.2	+3.2	+1.1	-0.9	+9.8	<b>+3.9</b>
<b>Overall Ave. +/-</b>						<b>+9.3</b>						<b>+2.9</b>

**Table 4: Five Year Trends: Diploma Examination Results**

Subjects	Acceptable Standard					Ave +/-%	Standard of Excellence					Ave +/-%
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
ELA 30-1	+6.4	+7.9	+9.4	+1.5	+1.0	<b>+4.7</b>	+3.0	+4.6	+1.6	+2.8	-0.7	<b>+2.3</b>
ELA 30-2	+8.2	+5.9	+2.9	+2.2	+2.1	<b>+4.3</b>	+3.7	+6.2	+5.6	+3.5	+7.0	<b>+5.2</b>
FLA 30-1	+2.8	+3.4	+4.5	+2.2	-2.6	<b>+2.1</b>	-5.2	-0.3	-1.8	+2.3	-3.9	<b>-1.8</b>
Social 30-1	+4.7	+7.6	+3.0	0.0	+1.2	<b>+8.7</b>	-3.3	-1.0	-3.7	-0.3	-7.4	<b>-3.12</b>
Social 30-2	-2.6	+1.1	-1.6	+5.2	+3.2	<b>+1.0</b>	-2.5	-5.0	-7.4	+2.2	+3.7	<b>-1.8</b>
Math 30-1	+3.7	+9.0	+2.4	+0.7	+3.5	<b>+3.9</b>	-0.4	-2.6	-5.0	+2.3	-3.4	<b>-1.8</b>
Math 30-2	+9.9	+8.7	+4.2	+4.3	+2.8	<b>+6.0</b>	+4.1	+6.5	+2.1	+3.1	+0.6	<b>+3.3</b>
Biology 30	+6.3	+2.0	+5.1	-0.7	+3.4	<b>+3.2</b>	+1.4	+4.0	-0.2	+1.9	+2.0	<b>+1.8</b>
Chemistry 30	+6.6	+3.9	+3.0	-1.2	-0.6	<b>+2.3</b>	+4.4	-3.5	-9.2	+3.2	+1.2	<b>-0.8</b>
Physics 30	+4.7	+0.2	+2.7	-1.2	+3.0	<b>+1.9</b>	+2.1	+8.0	-15.8	-7.7	+1.3	<b>-2.4</b>
Science 30	+0.9	+5.8	+11.3	+1.7	+3.9	<b>+4.7</b>	+5.9	+8.8	+16.9	+4.6	-4.1	<b>+6.4</b>
<b>Overall Avg. +/-</b>						<b>+8.8</b>						<b>+0.7</b>