



Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

2009-2010

**Provincial Achievement Tests
And Diploma Examinations
Jurisdiction Results**



Executive Summary

**Report to the Board of Trustees
October 25, 2010**

*Report by David Quick,
Assistant Superintendent of
Learning Services*

Achievement test results and diploma examination results provide only a part of the overall picture of the performance of the province, a school jurisdiction, or a school.

The Role of Assessment as an Integral Part of Instruction

Although provincial assessments are designed to assess the achievement of provincial standards, many important learning outcomes cannot be measured by time-limited paper-and-pencil tests. In addition, the interpretation of achievement test results and diploma examination results involves considering many factors that contribute to achievement. It should be noted that for the Provincial Achievement Tests results, the results included in this report are based on all of the students enrolled in a particular grade (the cohort) and not only the students who wrote the tests. Results for the Diploma examinations are based only on those who wrote the tests.

Assessment of learning is a critical part of the instructional process as it enables educators to regularly use achievement data to identify and address areas of concern and identify areas of strength. **Assessment for learning** strategies used throughout the instructional process assist teachers to ensure that students have learned what they were taught and are ready to move to new concepts. Teachers use assessment of and for learning to guide quality instruction.

The Provincial Achievement Tests and the Diploma Examinations are one tool that educators in Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools (GSACRD) use to guide their instruction, and along with Alberta Education and our parent population, we consider them significant and important assessment tools. Added to these are teacher assessments including mid-year and final exams, unit exams, performance-based assessments, and many others.

As well, students learn many other skills that we do not assess on standardized testing - most notably how to live and work with others, and how to become contributing members of society in a Christ-like manner. These are important learning goals in our Division and the province and are included in our Three-Year Education Plan. These learning goals are measured in alternative ways than paper-and-pencil testing.

Discussion of individual school results will form part of the presentations by school administrators on their School Results Reports in November and December.

Overview of the Results of the Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Examinations

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools is proud of the achievement of its students and staff on the Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) and the Diploma Examinations (DIP). GSACRD students out performed their provincial counterparts in all 11 core subject Achievement tests at the Acceptable Standard and in 9 of the 10 at the Standard of Excellence. On the Diploma Examinations, GSACRD students met or exceeded their colleagues on 10 of the 11 examinations at the Acceptable Standard and on 6 of the 11 examinations at the Standard of Excellence.

Grade 3 PAT Results

- GSACRD students significantly exceeded the provincial results at both the Acceptable Standard and Standard of Excellence in Provincial Achievement Tests in English Language Arts. GSACRD students averaged 9% higher on the Acceptable Standard and 8% on the Standard of Excellence.
- Over 90% of GSACRD students successfully met the acceptable standard in English Language Arts.
- The number of GSACRD students below the Acceptable Standard was much better than the provincial results in English Language Arts.
- The 5-year trend indicates that student achievement is improving over time at the Acceptable Standard and the Standard of Excellence in English Language Arts.
- Mathematics results for grade 3 were not released provincially because of the new program.

Grade 6 PAT Results

- GSACRD students significantly exceeded the provincial results at the Acceptable Standard in all areas tested by the Provincial Achievement Tests (English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Social Studies and Science). GSACRD students bettered the province by an average of 9.5% on the Acceptable Standard and 6% on the Standard of Excellence.
- GSACRD students exceeded the provincial results at the Standard of Excellence in all areas tested by the Provincial Achievement.
- The percentage of GSACRD students not meeting the Acceptable Standard was better than the provincial percentage of students in all subject areas tested by the Provincial Achievement Test.

- The 5-year trend indicates that the number of students achieving the Acceptable Standard and the Standard of Excellence has remained very high and relatively constant over time.

Grade 9 PAT Results

- GSACRD students have significantly exceeded the provincial results at the Acceptable Standard on all areas tested by the Provincial Achievement Tests (English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics).
- GSACRD students exceeded the provincial standard at the Standard of Excellence in English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Science and Socials.
- The percentage of GSACRD students not meeting the Acceptable Standard was less than the provincial percentage of students in all areas tested by the Provincial Achievement Tests.
- The 5-year trend indicates that the outstanding success of GSACRD grade 9 students has remained stable in all areas tested by the Provincial Achievement Tests.

Diploma Examination Results

- GSACRD students have equaled or exceeded the provincial results on 10 of the 11 diploma examinations at the Acceptable Standard compared to 6 of 11 last year.
- GSACRD students exceeded the rate of the province in 6 of the 11 diploma examinations at the Standard of Excellence compared to 4 of 11 in the previous year.
- GSACRD's participation rate (students writing 4 or more diploma exams) exceeded the provincial participation rate and was deemed to be at a high level as reported on the provincial Accountability Pillar.
- The participation rate of GSACRD students in French Immersion is more than twice that of the province.



Looking Ahead

1. The results will be carefully examined by our Central Office Leadership Team and our school-based administrators to determine areas of success and areas of focus to improve student learning.
2. The overall jurisdiction results will be made available to our community through our Communications Manager.
3. School-based administrators will share the results with their teachers and will collaboratively determine a plan of action to either maintain successful results or to improve results in areas requiring improvement. Celebration of achievement will be encouraged at the school level to recognize the work of teachers and the success of our students.
4. School-based administrators will share the results with their school councils and parent communities.
5. School-based administrators will share their school PAT and DIP results with the division's senior administrative team during the School Results Reviews in November. Strategies to address those areas requiring improvement at the school level will be shared with trustees and the Central Office Leadership Team at that time.
6. As a Division, we will continue to focus on building our strength in the Standard of Excellence throughout the grade levels.

Provincial Achievement Test Results 2008-09 & 2009-10

Program		Acceptable Standard		Standard of Excellence		Participation Rate	
		2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10
Results in %							
Gr. 3 English Language Arts	Province	81	82	18	20	90	91
	Jurisdiction	93	91	29	27	97	96
Gr. 3 Mathematics	Province	79	N/A	26	N/A	91	94
	Jurisdiction	90	N/A	34	N/A	97	97
Gr. 6 English Language Arts	Province	81	83	18	19	90	91
	Jurisdiction	91	94	24	26	96	97
Gr. 6 French Language Arts	Province	91	88	15	16	97	98
	Jurisdiction	92	96	20	25	97	100
Gr. 6 Mathematics	Province	76	N/A	16	N/A	90	94
	Jurisdiction	86	N/A	19	N/A	96	96
Gr. 6 Science	Province	76	77	24	26	89	91
	Jurisdiction	85	88	26	28	96	97
Gr. 6 Social Studies	Province	65	71	21	16	77	90
	Jurisdiction	N/A	82	N/A	17	N/A	97
Gr. 9 English Language Arts	Province	78	79	14	15	89	90
	Jurisdiction	88	92	17	15	96	97
Gr. 9 French Language Arts	Province	81	86	10	12	95	98
	Jurisdiction	86	86	14	14	99	98
Gr. 9 Mathematics	Province	67	N/A	18	N/A	89	92
	Jurisdiction	82	N/A	16	N/A	97	98
Gr. 9 Science	Province	72	74	17	20	90	90
	Jurisdiction	81	86	15	21	96	97
Gr. 9 Social Studies	Province	65	69	20	19	79	90
	Jurisdiction	76	80	15	19	93	97

* Grade 3, 6 & 9 Students wrote the Math PAT for the pilot program and have not been included in provincial comparisons.

Diploma Examination Results 2008-09 & 2009-10

Program	Results in %	Acceptable Standard		Standard of Excellence		Participation Rate	
		2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10
Applied Mathematics 30	Province	79	77	13	12	22	21
	Jurisdiction	79	78	12	11	27	28
Pure Mathematics 30	Province	82	83	26	30	45	46
	Jurisdiction	81	86	19	24	48	50
English Language Arts 30-1	Province	86	85	12	10	59	60
	Jurisdiction	87	89	12	12	63	65
English Language Arts 30-2	Province	88	89	8	10	27	28
	Jurisdiction	94	96	14	11	28	29
French Language Arts 30-1	Province	95	94	18	16	3	3
	Jurisdiction	93	97	13	11	7	8
Biology 30	Province	83	81	26	28	44	39
	Jurisdiction	77	79	21	23	51	40
Chemistry 30 (new)	Province	76	79	27	30	33	39
	Jurisdiction	73	83	22	34	37	40
Physics 30 (new)	Province	79	74	23	20	19	22
	Jurisdiction	83	79	25	18	20	21
Science 30	Province	86	80	20	23	9	10
	Jurisdiction	100	92	22	33	10	2
Social Studies 30-1	Province	84	85	21	16	53	50
	Jurisdiction	74	87	18	19	64	48
Social Studies 30-2	Province	85	85	20	14	34	30
	Jurisdiction	89	90	16	14	29	28