



**Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools**

**District Results**

**2013-14**

**Provincial Achievement Tests  
and  
Diploma Examinations**

**Executive Summary**

**Report to the Board of Trustees  
October 27, 2014**

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## The Role of Assessment as an Integral Part of Instruction

**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.

Provincial Achievement Tests and the Diploma Examinations are considered to be summative assessments but the results can also guide instruction in the following year. These year-end assessments are one of the tools available to teachers. Other assessment for learning opportunities include: teacher assessments including mid-year and final exams, unit exams and performance-based assessments to name a few.

Students learn many other skills that are not assessed with 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 important learning goals in our District and the province are included in our Three-Year Education Plan. These learning goals cannot be measured by paper-and-pencil tests.

Provincial assessments are designed to assess the achievement of provincial standards, although, 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 can vary and involves 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 just the students who wrote the tests. Results for the Diploma Examinations are based only on those who wrote the exams.

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

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.

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

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools (GSACRD) is proud of the achievement of its students and staff on the Provincial Achievement Tests and the Diploma Examinations. GSACRD students consistently outperformed their provincial counterparts in the core subject achievement tests at both the Acceptable Standard and the Standard of Excellence. On the Diploma Examinations, GSACRD students matched or bettered their colleagues on **9 of 11** examinations at the Acceptable Standard and in 10 of 11 at the Standard of Excellence.

Some of the highlights of GSACRD results include:

### **Grade 3 PAT Results**

- This year marks the last administration of the Provincial Achievement test at the grade 3 level. The number of students writing the test dropped by 66%. In the past 45,000 students wrote the test and this year only 16,000 wrote.
- Participation rates dropped slightly as a result of parents requesting that their child not write since it was now optional.
- GSACRD students significantly exceeded the provincial results again this year at the Acceptable Standard. GSACRD students averaged 12% higher in all areas tested including: English Language Arts, French Language Arts and Math at the Acceptable Standard.
- 90% of GSACRD students successfully met the Acceptable Standard in English Language Arts compared to 78% for the province.
- The number of GSACRD students below the Acceptable Standard was much better than the provincial results in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- The 5-year trend indicates that GSACRD students continue to do very well on provincial assessments.

### **Grade 6 PAT Results**

- The participation rate for grade 6 students decreased as a result of parents asking to have their child excused from the Provincial Achievement Test.
- The Provincial Achievement Test will continue in grade 6 for 2 more years.
- GSACRD students significantly exceeded the provincial results at both the Acceptable Standard and Standard of Excellence in **all** curriculum areas; English Language, French Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science.
- The overall percentage of GSACRD students not meeting the Acceptable Standard was better than the province.
- French Immersion students continued their long tradition of success with results above the province.

- 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**

- The participation rate for grade 9 students decreased as a result of parents asking to have their child excused from the Provincial Achievement Tests.
- GSACRD students have 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, Science, and Mathematics).
- The percentage of GSACRD students not meeting the Acceptable Standard is well below the provincial results.
- 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**

- Participation rates in academic high school courses required by post-secondary continues to surpass the level of the province.
- GSACRD students have exceeded the provincial results on all examinations at the Acceptable Standard.
- The average mark attained by GSACRD exceeded the province in every exam with the exception of French Language Arts 30-1 where the average was slightly below that of the province. The good news is that 100% of our FLA 30-1 students achieved the Acceptable Standard.
- Overall, GSACRD students have exceeded the provincial results.



## Looking Ahead

1. The results are being carefully examined by the Central Office Leadership Team and school-based administrators to determine our successes and areas of focus to improve student learning.
2. The overall district results will be shared with our community through our Communications Manager.
3. School-based administrators are in the process of sharing the results with their teachers and will collaboratively determine a plan of action to either maintain successful results or to improve results. 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 results with the district's senior administrative team during the School Results Reviews in late October and 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 District, we will continue to focus on building our strength in the Standard of Excellence throughout the all grade levels.

## Provincial Achievement Test Results 2013-14

	Acceptable			Excellence		
	GSACRD	Prov.	+/-	GSACRD	Prov.	+/-
ELA 3	90.4	78.0	+12.4	13.2	15.3	-2.3
Math 3 All	86.1	74.0	+12.1	26.3	25.1	+1.2
FLA 3	81.6	74.6	+7.0	10.5	10.4	+0.1
ELA 6	87.4	81.9	+6.5	19.7	17.6	+2.1
Math 6	83.9	73.5	+10.4	16.2	15.4	+0.8
Science 6 All	84.7	75.9	+8.8	29.2	24.9	+4.3
Socials 6 All	80.9	70.4	+10.5	20.3	16.6	+3.7
FLA 6	94.3	90.1	+4.2	18.0	15.6	+2.4
ELA 9	88.0	76.3	+11.7	16.1	15.1	+1.0
Math 9	79.2	67.1	+12.1	15.7	17.3	-1.6
Science 9 All	84.0	73.2	+10.8	22.5	22.1	+0.4
Socials 9 All	77.6	65.5	+12.1	23.1	19.9	+3.2
FLA 9	88.7	86.5	+2.2	9.7	11.1	-1.3
Overall Avg. +/-			+8.6			+1.0

## Diploma Exam Results 2013-14

	Acceptable			Excellence		
	GSACRD	Prov.	+/-	GSACRD	Prov.	+/-
Biology 30	87.5	85.2	+2.3	36.5	31.8	+4.7
Chemistry 30	85.7	81.3	+4.4	31.7	35.0	-3.3
ELA 30-1	94.6	87.4	+7.2	16.3	11.8	+4.5
ELA 30-2	95.7	89.8	+5.9	19.6	13.1	+6.5
FLA 30-1	100	96.5	3.5	14.3	14.5	-0.2
Physics 30	84.2	82.9	+1.3	43.4	34	+9.4
Math 30-1	85.7	74.6	+11.1	23.4	27.2	-3.8
Math 30-2	80.3	71.2	+9.1	22.0	14.9	+7.2
Science 30	91.9	85.0	+6.8	33.8	25.5	+8.3
Socials 30-1	93.1	85.5	+7.6	13.3	14.3	-1.0
Socials 30-2	85.0	83.9	+1.1	9.8	14.7	-5.0
Overall Avg. +/-			+5.5			+2.5