



Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

Jurisdiction Results

2008-2009

Provincial Achievement Tests

And

Diploma Examinations

Executive Summary

Report to the Board of Trustees

October 19, 2009

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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 but one tool that educators in Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools (GSACRD) use to guide their instruction, although Alberta Education and our parent population consider them significant and high stake 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 and the Diploma Examinations. GSACRD students out performed their provincial counterparts in all 12 core subject Achievement tests at the Acceptable Standard and in 9 of the 12 at the Standard of Excellence. On the Diploma Examinations, GSACRD students bettered their colleagues on 6 of the 11 examinations at the Acceptable Standard and on 4 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 both English Language Arts and Mathematics. GSACRD students averaged 11% higher on the Acceptable Standard and 6.8% on the Standard of Excellence.
- Over 90% of GSACRD students successfully met the acceptable standard in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- 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 student achievement is improving over time at the Acceptable Standard and the Standard of Excellence in both Mathematics and English Language.

Grade 6 PAT Results

- GSACRD students significantly exceeded the provincial results at the Acceptable Standard in all 5 areas tested by the Provincial Achievement Tests (English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics). GSACRD students bettered the province by an average of 7.5% on the Acceptable Standard and 4% on the Standard of Excellence.
- GSACRD students exceeded the provincial results at the Standard of Excellence in all 5 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, by an average of 10%, the provincial results at the Acceptable Standard on all 5 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 both English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- The percentage of GSACRD students not meeting the Acceptable Standard was less than the provincial percentage of students on four out of five areas tested by the Provincial Achievement Tests.
- The 5-year trend indicates that the outstanding success of GSACRD grade 9 students at the Acceptable Standard has remained stable in all 5 areas tested by the provincial Achievement tests (English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Mathematics).

Diploma Examination Results

- GSACRD students have equaled or exceeded the provincial results on 6 of the 11 diploma examinations at the Acceptable Standard and on 4 of the 11 diploma examinations at the Standard of Excellence.
- GSACRD's participation rate of students writing the Diploma Examinations has exceeded the provincial participation rate on 9 of the 11 courses tested.
- The participation rate of GSACRD students in French Immersion is almost 2 and one-half that of the province.



Looking Ahead

1. The results will be carefully examined by both our Central Office Leadership Team and our school-based administrators to determine areas of success and areas of focus to improve student learning. The results have been analyzed and charts have been created to assist administrators and teachers to better comprehend the data provided through the results.
2. The overall jurisdiction results will be communicated to our community through our Communications and Public Relations Coordinator.
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
2007-2009**

Program		Acceptable Standard		Standard of Excellence		Participation Rate	
		2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08
Gr. 3 English Language Arts	Province	81.3	80.1	18.2	16.1	90.6	89.8
	Jurisdiction	93	91.9	29.2	22.7	97.4	96.3
Gr. 3 Mathematics	Province	79.6	78.7	26.8	23.9	91.2	90.5
	Jurisdiction	90.4	88.4	34.8	28.3	97.6	95.8
Gr. 6 English Language Arts	Province	81.8	81.1	18.9	21.0	90	89.5
	Jurisdiction	91.7	91.9	24.8	27.2	96.4	97.4
Gr. 6 French Language Arts	Province	91.5	87.7	15.9	14.2	97.6	95.6
	Jurisdiction	92.6	98.0	20.4	26.0	97.2	99.0
Gr. 6 Mathematics	Province	76.6	74.6	16.8	15.9	90.6	90
	Jurisdiction	86.6	86.5	19.1	22.4	96.2	97.8
Gr. 6 Science	Province	76.5	74.8	24.8	24.1	89.6	89
	Jurisdiction	85.4	87.6	26.7	30.7	96.4	98
Gr. 6 Social Studies *	Province	65.8	77.9	21.4	23.8	77.5	89.2
	Jurisdiction	n/a	89.8	n/a	28.3	n/a	97.6
Gr. 9 English Language Arts	Province	78.7	76.5	14.7	14.8	89.7	87.7
	Jurisdiction	88.5	81.2	17.2	12.5	96.3	87.9
Gr. 9 French Language Arts	Province	81.8	84.5	10.3	12.4	95.2	96.8
	Jurisdiction	86.2	95.5	14.6	9.0	99.2	100
Gr. 9 Mathematics	Province	67	64.5	18.5	17.8	89.7	87.4
	Jurisdiction	82.1	79.3	16.1	13.3	97	97.1
Gr. 9 Science	Province	72.2	69.3	17.4	13	90.4	89
	Jurisdiction	81.9	81.4	15.4	10.7	96.2	97.5
Gr. 9 Social Studies	Province	65.5	71.7	20.9	18.9	79.3	88.9
	Jurisdiction	76.2	83.1	15.4	21.5	93	97.5

* Grade 6 Students wrote the PAT for the pilot program and have not been included in provincial comparisons.

Diploma Examination Results 2007-2009

Program		Acceptable Standard		Standard of Excellence		Participation Rate	
		2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08
Applied Mathematics 30	Province	79.4	76.3	13.5	10.7	22	21.3
	Jurisdiction	79.5	86.3	12.5	14.7	27.2	22.6
Pure Mathematics 30	Province	82.1	81.3	26.3	25.8	45.8	45.8
	Jurisdiction	81.5	83.2	19	23.9	48	48.9
English Language Arts 30-1	Province	86.1	87.1	12.3	15.5	59.8	58.9
	Jurisdiction	87.2	92.5	12.8	14.9	63.5	62.9
English Language Arts 30-2	Province	88.2	88.9	8.5	8.8	27.4	26.8
	Jurisdiction	94.5	91.5	14.5	5.9	28.2	27.8
French Language Arts 30-1	Province	95.1	94.9	18.9	24.5	3	2.9
	Jurisdiction	93.3	97.4	13.3	28.2	7.4	8.6
Biology 30	Province	83	82.3	26.6	26.3	44.3	43.3
	Jurisdiction	77.3	74.6	21.4	23.8	51.9	52.3
Chemistry 30 (new)	Province	76.6	89.2	27.7	39.2	33.3	38.4
	Jurisdiction	73.8	89.1	22.6	37.1	37	39.6
Physics 30 (new)	Province	79.3	85.7	23.1	32.0	19.8	22.8
	Jurisdiction	83.3	88.7	25	28.3	20.8	23.3
Science 30	Province	86	88.6	20.9	21.6	9.3	8.2
	Jurisdiction	100	100	22.2	10.0	0.7	1.1
Social Studies 30	Province	84.2	84.7	21.4	21.5	53.2	51.7
	Jurisdiction	74.5	82.6	18.6	17.8	64.2	54.1
Social Studies 33	Province	85.6	85.3	20.2	18.9	34.1	32.2
	Jurisdiction	89.2	89.6	16.9	15.6	29.4	24.7