



**Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools**

**Division Results**

**2010-2011**

**Provincial Achievement Tests**

**And**

**Diploma Examinations**

**Executive Summary**

**Report to the Board of Trustees**

**October 17, 2011**

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

## 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.

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, 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 to name a few.

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.

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 only the students who wrote the tests. Results for the Diploma examinations are based only on those who wrote the tests.

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

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 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 12 of the 13 core subject Achievement tests at the Acceptable Standard and in 11 of the 13 at the Standard of Excellence. On the Diploma Examinations, GSACRD students matched or bettered their colleagues on ALL examinations at the Acceptable Standard and on 7 of the 11 examinations at the Standard of Excellence.

Some of the highlights of GSACRD results include:

### **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 11% higher on the Acceptable Standard and 5% on the Standard of Excellence.
- Over 93% 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 similar to those achieved in Language Arts with GSACRD students 10% ahead of the province on the acceptable standard and 2% higher on the standard of excellence.

### **Grade 6 PAT Results**

- GSACRD students significantly exceeded the provincial results at the Acceptable Standard in all curriculum areas except for the grade 6 French Language Arts.
- GSACRD students exceeded the provincial results at the Standard of Excellence in 4 of the 5 curriculum tested by the Provincial Achievement Tests.
- The overall percentage of GSACRD students not meeting the Acceptable Standard was better than the province.
- French Immersion students dipped below the provincial average for the first time in the past 5 years.
- 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 results at the Standard of Excellence in English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Science and Socials. Math was less than 1% below the province.
- The percentage of GSACRD students not meeting the Acceptable Standard is minimal when compared to 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**

- GSACRD students have exceeded the provincial results on all 11 diploma examinations at the Acceptable Standard.
- GSACRD students exceeded the province in 6 of the 11 diploma examinations at the Standard of Excellence.
- 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 division results will be shared with 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 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.

The following is a summary of results. Those results highlighted indicate areas where GSACRD students out performed others in the province.

### Provincial Achievement Test Results 2010-11

	Acceptable		Excellent	
	GSACRD	Prov.	GSACRD	Prov.
ELA 3	93.1	81.8	22.8	17.5
Math 3	87.3	77.4	28.3	26.0
FLA 3	91.1	80.6	23.7	15.8
ELA 6	90.5	83.0	22.7	18.5
Math 6	81.9	73.7	23.4	17.8
Science 6	83.3	76.2	26.2	25.0
Socials 6	77.8	71.1	21.2	18.5
FLA 6	80.0	89.4	15.2	17.1
ELA 9	87.6	79.1	18.1	16.3
Math 9	77.4	66.1	16.5	17.3
Science 9	84.4	74.8	21.9	20.8
Socials 9	74.9	67.2	20.3	19.0
FLA 9	89.4	88.8	16.3	15.0

### Diploma Exam Results 2010-11

	Acceptable		Excellent	
	GSACRD	Prov.	GSACRD	Prov.
Applied Math	90.9	74.3	15.9	9.9
Biology 30	82.4	81.9	26.7	29.8
Chemistry 30	81.3	75.1	31.1	27.7
ELA 30-1	92.6	84.4	16	10.1
ELA 30-2	93.3	88.6	8.4	9.1
FLA 30-1	100	95.3	13.3	14.3
Physics 30	83.3	76.7	26.9	27.7
Pure Math 30	83.9	81.0	25.1	28.7
Science 30	100	80.4	36.4	21.0
Socials 30-1	90.5	82.8	20.9	14.9
Socials 30-2	88.7	85.6	16.9	15.9