

Halton students ace math, literacy tests; above provincial average

Halton students are continuing to perform above the provincial average in both math and literacy testing.

Both the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) and Halton District School Board (HDSB) recently released their results of the province-wide 2013-2014 EQAO Assessments for Grade 9 Mathematics, and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

Results show that 89 per cent of the HCDSB Grade 9 students met or exceeded the provincial standard in Academic Math while 57 per cent of Grade 9 students met or surpassed the provincial standard in Applied Math.

In the case of Grade 9 HDSB students, 91 per cent achieved the provincial standard in Academic Math and 56 per cent met the provincial standard in Applied Math testing.

"It is important to note that 85 per cent of our Grade 9 students met the provincial standard or a B grade or better, in their program of choice,



DAVID EUALE

either academic math or applied math," says David Euale, Director of Education for the Halton District School Board.

"Our teachers and program staff continue to focus on math instruction at both the elementary and secondary levels," said Euale.

The 2013 Grade 9 Mathematics Assessment was conducted in each semester of the last school year (2013-2014). Two versions of the test were administered— one for students in the Grade 9 Applied

Mathematics program and the other for students in the Grade 9 Academic Mathematics Program. Each version was based on the Grade 9 expectations for students in The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10 Mathematics, which sets Level 3 as the provincial standard.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) was conducted in April by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). The test is based on the expectations for reading and writing across all core subjects in the Ontario Curriculum up to the end of Grade 9. Successful completion of the OSSLT is one of the requirements leading to an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Overall, 91 per cent of the HCDSB secondary students who wrote the test for the first time successfully completed the assessment.

The HDSB's success rate for students writing the test for the first time increased by one percentage point to 90 per



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cent, while the provincial average was 83 per cent of students.

"As literacy is a measured criteria for graduation, it is reassuring to know that 90% of our students have achieved this standard on their first attempt at the test," said Euale. "In addition to the success on first attempts at the test, results indicate that an additional 314 students achieved the standard on their second attempt. This means that in the Grade 10 cohort, 97% of

Halton students have met the literacy standard."

"While this (both math and literacy results) is encouraging, we know that there is always room for growth," HCDSB Director of Education, Paula Dawson. "The success of our students is not measured merely in terms of test scores, and EQAO results are just one indication (or measure) of student achievement that we will continue to use to identify strategies that enhance student learning across our district."

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For public school results go to <http://www.hdsb.ca/Newsroom/Documents/2013-14%20EQAO%20Gr.%209>

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For Catholic school results go to <http://www.hcdsb.org/News/Pages/2014-09-24-Halton-Catholic-Secondary-Students-Outperform-the-Province-on-EQAO-Assessments-for-Mathematics.aspx>

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