

CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD FACES SAGGING TEST SCORES

STAFF ADDRESS
LATEST EQAO AND
OSSLT RESULTS AND
UPCOMING
CHALLENGES POSED
BY BUDGET CUTS



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Depending on how you look at it, the Catholic school board either needs improvement or is exemplary.

The 2018-2019 EQAO and OSSLT results of the Halton Catholic District School Board were presented to trustees on Oct. 15 who had a mixed response. The provincewide tests measure Grade 3, Grade 6 and Grade 9 students in reading, writing and mathematics skills, against the Ontario curriculum.

The board saw worse student results in a number of categories, but it still consistently performed above the provincial average.

Board staff said it's important to look at the results as merely a snapshot, and it's more valuable to look at the numbers for a single group of students over time as they take the tests at the different grade levels.

Roland Cilliers / Torstar
Halton Catholic District School Board trustee Vincent Iantomasi wants to know what the board is doing to improve the standardized test scores.

Trustee Vincent Iantomasi wanted to know what was being done to reverse the trend.

"Our downward spiral has started for the last four years, into 2019. So, if you're referring to a snapshot, then that snapshot holds true for the last four years. I guess, really, what I'm asking is, 'What do we have in place to ameliorate the scores we're getting?'" said Iantomasi

The board laid out a number of planned and ongoing initiatives that they argue will support student success into the future.

Initiatives include a focus on guided literacy, an early-years numeracy project and new student-centred coaching.

Anna Prkacin, superin-

tendent of education, curriculum services, said recent education cuts may make supporting teachers and students more difficult.

"Fundamentally, we look at almost all the budget and funding for the curriculum department to be less than what it has been and up to half what it has been in previous years. So, definitely a challenge, but we want to be positive and ensure that we're giving teachers and students the support they need, to the best of our abilities," said Prkacin.

For a complete breakdown of the board's results for the 2018-2019 EQAO and OSSLT including how individual schools performed, visit <https://eqao-web.eqao.com>

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