

# In province-wide Grade 3 testing Catholic students beat provincial average

The Halton Catholic District School Board has exceeded the average provincial results in last spring's province-wide testing of Grade 3 students.

According to statistics released this week by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), Halton Catholic students achieved higher results than the provincial average in all three aspects of the testing—reading writing and mathematics.

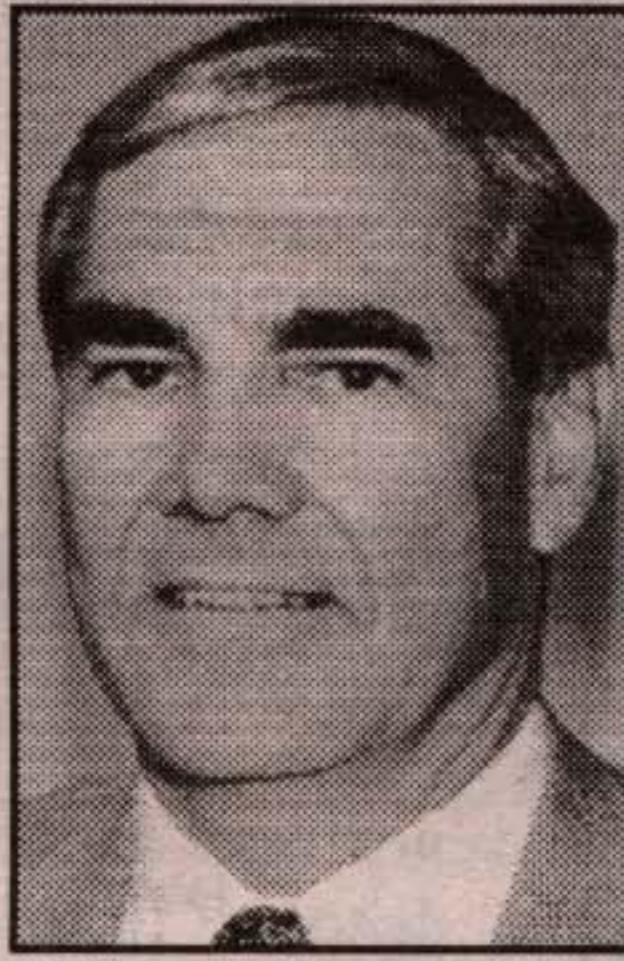
Individual school results are expected to be released by the board later this month.

A total of 1,686 Grade 3 students at all 29 catholic elementary schools in Halton participated in the tests last May.

Students were graded on a four-point system with one being the lowest and four the highest. Level three was the expected range for most children.

According to the EQAO, of all Grade 3 students who wrote the test in Ontario, results were (Halton Catholic District School Board results in brackets):

- Reading: level 1, 15 per cent (9 per cent); level 2, 36 per cent (34 per cent); level 3, 45 per cent (52



FRED SWEENEY

per cent) and level 4, 4 per cent (5 per cent).

- Writing: level 1, 7 per cent (4 per cent), level 2, 39 per cent (33 per cent), level 3, 45 per cent (54 per cent) and level 4 7 per cent (9 per cent).

- Mathematics: level 1, 14 per cent (10 per cent), level 2, 40 per cent (43 per cent), level 3, 42 per cent (43 per cent) and level 4, 4 per cent (4 per cent).

At level 1 students have a limited understanding and application of reading skills.

At level 2 and 3 students have more knowledge, understanding and application of skills and can make connections between content and experience. A level 3 student can grasp more complex ideas than a level 2 student and their connections are more precise.

A level 4 student makes deep connections and displays a greater sophistication of understanding

complex ideas. They are better able to connect what they read to what they are learning in the world.

"In reviewing the EQAO Grade 3 achievement results released today, we are pleased that our Grade 3 students and teachers are continuing to achieve above the provincial results," said Halton Catholic District School Board Director of Education Fred Sweeney.

"Our curriculum department and staff will continue to focus their attention and efforts on how to best further develop and refined curriculum initiatives to improve the way in which our students are taught and learn these critical language and math skills."

Diane Rabenda, Superintendent of Education for curriculum indicated that testing results should improve with the reception of new language and math resources designed to meet the expectations of the new Ontario curriculum.

"We expect that the new resource materials coupled with increased instructional time in these areas will enable students to further improve their skills in these areas, which will be reflected in future assessment results," said Rabenda.

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