

# York students tops in grade 3, 6 test scores

BY STEFANIA RIZZI  
Staff Writer

York Region's Grade 3 and 6 students are the best in the Toronto region in reading, writing and math, according

to provincial test scores released Tuesday.

Results from last May's standardized testing administered by the Education Quality and Accountability

Office reveal York students are well above the provincial average in these subjects.

Compared to the GTAs other school boards, York Region District and Catholic

Boards have the highest percentage of Grade 3 and 6 students meeting or exceeding provincial standards.

Among other test requirements, students had to answer multiple choice, problem solving and investigation questions and read literary passages.

The tests, administered for two-and-a-half hours a day for five days, were graded based on the province's four-level achievement scale.

More than 19,000 students across the region participated.

Sixty-three, 67 and 74 per cent of Grade 3 Catholic students meet or exceed provincial standards in reading, writing and math, compared to 62, 64 and 66 per cent last year.

Overall, Grade 3 students have improved 12 per cent in those areas.

Sixty-nine per cent of the board's Grade 6 students are

reading or exceeding provincial levels, compared to 65 per cent of students meeting those levels in writing and math.

*Increasing student achievement occurs slowly with time.*

*The (EQAO) tests are not designed to pick up the small changes our students are making.*

Those results indicate a seven per cent increase over last year.

In contrast, 64, 68 and 77 per cent of Grade 3 public school students are meeting or exceeding the provincial standard in reading, writing

and math, indicating a three per cent increase from last year.

Sixty-seven, 64 and 71 per cent of Grade 6 students are meeting or surpassing provincial expectations in reading, writing and math.

There has been no improvement in the three tested areas among the public board's Grade 6 students, and the per cent of Grade 3 students reading and writing at the appropriate levels slipped one or two per cent.

But superintendent of curriculum Sharon Craigen is still pleased with the results.

"Increasing student achievement occurs slowly with time."

"The (EQAO) tests are not designed to pick up the small changes our students are making," she said.

"Over the years, we've been pretty consistent."

See SCHOOL, page 15.

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