

# Test scores fall short of McGuinty's promise

BY TERESA LATCHFORD  
Staff Writer

A guarantee Premier Dalton McGuinty made in his 2003 campaign literature has fallen far short when it comes to standardized test scores.

After the release of the 2006-07 Education Quality and Accountability Office standardized testing results, less than two-thirds of Grade 6 students across the province have reached the provincial standard, far from the 75 per cent promised by the Liberals when they took office four years ago.

The target for that mandate was intended for 2008, Education Minister Kathleen Wynne argued.

Not so, according to the Liberals' 2003 education promises booklet.

The "excellence for all" mandate put forward by the McGuinty government in 2003, "guarantees that within our first mandate, 75 per cent of our students meet or exceed the provincial standard on provincially tests."

People are under the assumption those guaran-

tees should have applied to the Liberals' first four years in office, PC education critic Frank Klees said.

"In the first place, (Mr. McGuinty) made a statement he shouldn't have made. There are variables beyond a premier's control," Mr. Klees said, adding,

Mr. Klees points out Mr. McGuinty also included in the same campaign literature dated September 2002 he would expect voters and the media to hold him accountable in the next election if the mandate is not met.

Although admitting the promised 75-per-cent success rate has not been reached, Ms. Wynne said she is proud of the improvement over the past four years.

Students in grades 3, 6 and 9 have consistently improved by 6 to 7 percentage points over the past five years, but only 64 per cent of Grade 6 students have reached the standard in reading, according to the latest scores. Sixty-one per cent have reached the standard in writing and 59 per cent in math.

# School's turnaround highlighted by EQAO

BY TERESA LATCHFORD  
Staff Writer

Keswick High School is breaking a stereotype when it comes to student achievement.

"We are getting away from that whole Keswick mentality; that stereotype that our students don't do as well as others in the region," Keswick High mathematics department head Dawn Laliberte said, adding, "Our students want to do well and show the rest of the province Keswick can do it."

In the 2003-04 school year, standardized test results administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office showed 33 per cent of the school's students in the academic stream and 5 per cent in the applied stream were at or above the provincial standard or obtaining a grade of B.

However, four years later, 63 per cent of the school's academic students and 51 per cent of applied students are now at that level as a result of joint efforts of staff, administrators and the public school board.

The school's improvement has earned it a spot in this year's EQAO success stories.

One strategy used to heighten the school's success rate is to have

all Grade 9 students take math at the same time each day, placing each student in a class with others of the same level.

"This is where the timetable blocking comes in," she explained. "Since all Grade 9s have math first period, it allows us to group the students in the appropriate classes, paired with the appropriate teacher, without having an impact on the rest of their timetable," Ms Laliberte said.

The initiative includes working with Grade 8 teachers of area elementary schools to collect data that is used to determine what level of math students have achieved before making the transition to high school.

Once in Grade 9, students are given tests, quizzes and self-assessments, the results of which are compiled to help teachers place students in classes tailored to individual needs.

If a student is level 3 or 4 — the highest provincial standard — he will be placed in a class of about 32 others at the same level, whereas a student at a level 1 or 2 is placed in a class of 20, allowing the teacher to spend more individual time with those who need extra help.

## HOW YORK STACKS UP

**PROVINCIAL RESULTS** (all eligible students at or above the provincial standard):

- ▶ 62% of Grade 3 students met the provincial standard in reading, 64% in writing, 69% in mathematics
- ▶ 64% of Grade 6 students met standard in reading, 61% in writing, 59% in math
- ▶ For Grade 9 math, 71% of academic students and 35% of applied students met standard

**YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD** (including only students who wrote the test):

- ▶ 71% of Grade 3 students met the standard in reading, 78% in writing and 79% in math
- ▶ 74% of Grade 6 students met standard in reading, 75% in writing, 75% in math
- ▶ For Grade 9 math, 72% of academic students and 38% of applied students met standard

**YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD** (all eligible students at or above the provincial standard):

- ▶ 71% of Grade 3 students met the provincial standard in reading, 79% in writing, 79% in mathematics
- ▶ 74% of Grade 6 students met standard in reading, 74% in writing, 71% in math
- ▶ For Grade 9 math, 77% of academic students and 41% of applied students met standard

For results for your child's school and other individual schools across the region, go to [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com)

# careers

Serving York Region through the Aurora/Newmarket Era-Banner, Richmond Hill/Thornhill Liberal, Vaughan Citizen, Markham Economist, Stouffville Sun/Tribune, Georgina Advocate and Bradford Topic

Monday-Friday 8:00am-6:00pm • 1-800-743-3353 • [www.yorkregion.com](http://www.yorkregion.com)

500 Career Training
500 Career Training
505 Careers
505 Careers
505 Careers
505 Careers
505 Careers
505 Careers
525 Office Help

Consider a Career in  
**DENTAL HYGIENE**  
**OXFORD**

Free Information Session  
Please join us  
September 27th @ 7pm

OXFORD NORTH TORONTO  
10087 Yonge St., Richmond Hill Ont.  
(905)780-9023 #222  
[www.oxfordnorth.com](http://www.oxfordnorth.com)

Canadian Premier Life Insurance Company  
Full-time and Part-time Positions Available  
(Part of the Aegon Group)

Exciting career opportunities available for hardworking, enthusiastic individuals seeking to be part of a dynamic team. Provide accurate and prompt response to telephone customer inquiries regarding insurance products in an inbound customer service centre. Competitive benefits and salary package offered.

Bilingual & Unilingual Customer Service Representatives  
(Full-time & Part-time Positions Available)

High School Diploma, College/University or 1 year equivalent work experience. Computer proficiency required. Strong analytical and listening skills required to clearly articulate product features and benefits to customers. Previous call center experience an asset. Provide accurate and prompt response to telephone customer inquiries regarding insurance products in an inbound customer service centre. Comfortable working in a fast-paced environment. Bilingual positions require fluency in English and French.

**Full-time** working hours are 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday however 8-hour shifts range from 08:00 a.m. to 07:00 p.m.  
**Part-time** working hours are 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Please e-mail, fax, or mail resumes to:  
Human Resources Department  
Canadian Premier Life Insurance Company  
80 Tiverton Court, 5th Floor, Markham, Ontario L3R 0G4  
E-mail: [hr@canadianpremier.ca](mailto:hr@canadianpremier.ca) Fax: 905-948-2131  
[www.canadianpremier.ca](http://www.canadianpremier.ca)  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

SCHOLASTIC

Scholastic Canada Ltd., the leading publisher and distributor of children's books, currently requires

## Bilingual Customer Service Representatives

You must have customer service experience and excellent communication skills in English and French. The flexibility to change shifts based on customer calling patterns is required. The rate of pay is \$13.00/hour.

Please apply to: **Human Resources Division, Scholastic Canada Ltd., 175 Hillmount Road, Markham, ON L6C 1Z7**  
Fax: 905-887-3639 e-mail: [resumes@scholastic.ca](mailto:resumes@scholastic.ca)

We wish to thank all candidates for their applications in advance and advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted. No telephone calls or agencies, please.

www.scholastic.ca

DISPATCHER

for Thursday & Friday 4-10pm.  
Saturday 12noon-10:00pm  
Call (905) 472-0025

INSIGHTU

InsightU is an exciting and growing company located in Newmarket. We specialize in web-based solutions for retail and are focused on sales-driven product training.

Content Lead  
e-learning Training Programs  
Instructional design / Adult learning

For further information and to apply, please go to [www.insightu.com](http://www.insightu.com).

EXECUTIVE TELEMARKETING POSITION

Business to business.  
Steeles & Markham Road.  
Send resume [linda@dilin.com](mailto:linda@dilin.com) or call (416)292-8664

IS2 Staffing Services

has immediate job opportunities in Vaughan, Brampton, Etobicoke and Mississauga.  
Interested candidates can apply by email to: [whoehn@is2.ca](mailto:whoehn@is2.ca) or by fax at: (905)629-9503

york region

.com

It clicks home

Check Out Real Estate Listings Every Week!

509 Drivers

RETIREES WANTED

Mature and reliable drivers with clean abstracts, needed to deliver cars across the GTA.  
416-986-8673

515 Skilled & Technical Help

LICENSED INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN

Immediate opening. Schematic and Pneumatic experience necessary. Successful candidate will be a self-starter, responsible for maintenance of buildings and equipment.  
Fax resume: (905)640-8862 (905)640-4788

515 Skilled & Technical Help

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

for property mgmt. co. in Markham. (9am-3pm) Exp. required.  
Fax: 416-385-3410 or email [dundasrealestate@rogers.com](mailto:dundasrealestate@rogers.com)