

Highlights of 2007-08 EQAO Results

August 27, 2008

Ontario's elementary students continue to improve their reading, writing and math skills, according to provincial test scores released today.

In 2002-03, 54 per cent of students were achieving at or above the provincial standard. Today's results show that 65 per cent of Grade 3 and Grade 6 students are achieving at or above that standard. This represents an 11 percentage point increase since 2003, when the McGuinty government came to office.

The goal is to have 75 per cent of students achieving at or above the provincial standard. To reach this goal, the government will continue to invest in the education system and will target resources at priority groups and high-impact strategies that are proven to get results.

Since 2003, the government has provided increased resources, including funding for an additional 7,730 elementary teachers to reduce class sizes and improve student achievement.

Quotes

"It's great to see Ontario students continuing to improve in the essential skills of reading, writing and math. They are critical for success in the classroom, in life and to the future of our province," said Education Minister Kathleen Wynne.

"This year's results are good, but I know we can do better. I look forward to seeing even greater improvement next year as we continue working toward our goal," Wynne said.

Quick facts

- The provincial standard on the EQAO tests is equivalent to 70 per cent (a "B") or higher.
- Grade 6 French-language students are already exceeding the provincial goal in all assessment areas.
- 65 per cent of Grade 6 students scored at or above the provincial standard in 2007-08, a gain of 3 percentage points from 2006-07.
- English-language students with special needs have improved in all subjects by between five and 23 percentage points since 2002-03.
- French-language students with special needs have improved in all subjects by between 13 and 28 percentage points since 2002-03.
- Students whose first language is not English have improved in all subjects by between 16 and 29 percentage points since 2002-03.

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) provincial test scores from the 2007-08 school year show that overall, 65 per cent of Ontario Grade 3 and 6 students are meeting or exceeding the provincial standard in reading, writing and math. This is an 11 percentage point increase from 54 per cent in 2002-03.

Improvement from 2002-03 to 2007-08				
	GRADE 3		GRADE 6	
	English-language	French-language	English-language	French-language
Reading	50% – 61% (+11)	47% – 60% (+13)	56% – 66% (+10)	58% – 75% (+17)
Writing	55% – 66% (+11)	58% – 74% (+16)	54% – 67% (+13)	63% – 80% (+17)
Mathematics	57% – 68% (+11)	47% – 62% (+15)	53% – 61% (+8)	66% – 78% (+12)

Numbers in parentheses indicate the percentage point increase from 2002-03 to 2007-08.

Helping schools improve achievement

The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat was created in 2004 to help schools, boards and teachers increase students' reading, writing and math skills. Since then, the government has provided approximately \$200 million in funding to support programs to improve student achievement and reach the goal of 75 per cent of Grade 6 Ontario students achieving the provincial standard.

- Since 2006, the government has invested \$25 million annually in the Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership (OFIP), which provides general support to all school boards plus targeted assistance to almost 1,100 low-performing schools.
- Through OFIP, the government has also invested an additional \$8 million each year for before- and after-school tutoring initiatives to help those students who need it most.
- Currently in its third year, the Schools on the Move initiative highlights over 100 schools that have significantly improved reading, writing and math scores. The initiative creates a network for those schools to share their effective teaching practices and classroom experiences with other schools and boards.
- Since 2004, approximately 5,000 elementary teachers each summer have participated in training to learn about effective strategies to improve students' reading, writing and math skills.

In addition, the government has introduced initiatives to improve student achievement overall.

- Thousands of new teachers were hired to create smaller classes in primary grades. Last year, 99.7 per cent of primary classes had 23 or fewer students. Parenting and Family Literacy Centres facilitate early learning, giving children a strong start when they enter school. This year, the government is investing \$8 million to support 123 centres in schools across the province, including 34 new centres.
- As a result of these initiatives, Ontario elementary students—including those with special education needs and those whose first language is not English—have shown significant improvement over time.