

## 2004-2005 Grade 3, 6 & 9 EQAO Tests

School Board	Grade 3 & 6		Grade 9	
	Passed	Change	Passed	Rank
Huron-Perth CDSB	74.17%	+6.67	58.3%	19
York Region CDSB	71.17%	+2.84	63.77%	6
Halton CDSB	70%	+3.50	64.33%	4
York Region DSB	69.67%	+3.00	61.59%	11
Ham/Went CDSB	65.5%	+6.00	59.34%	15
Niagara CDSB	65.33%	+4.66	47.64%	49
London CDSB	65%	+1.17	64.18%	5
Halton DSB	64.5%	+4.50	64.73%	3
Ottawa/Carl CDSB	64.5%	+5.83	55.77%	25
Wellington CDSB	64.5%	+3.00	71.43%	2
St. Clair CSB	64.17%	+4.84	53.10%	36
Windsor-Essex CDSB	64%	+2.33	54.78%	29
Waterloo CDSB	63.17%	+1.84	61.77%	10
Dufferin-Peel CDSB	62.83%	+5.16	58.92%	18
Rainy River DSB	62.83%	+5.83	47.95%	48
Durham CDSB	62%	+4.50	41.40%	55
Thunder Bay CDSB	62%	-2.00	54.54%	31
Upper Grand DSB	62%	+0.67	61.25%	12
Peel DSB	61.83%	+1.50	54.45%	32
Avon Maitland DSB	61.5%	+4.50	63.17%	7
<b>Province</b>	<b>61.17%</b>	<b>+3.67</b>	<b>54.49%</b>	
Durham DSB	60.67%	+5.34	51.07%	42
Renfrew CDSB	60.67%	-0.16	61.24%	13
Niagara DSB	60.5%	+3.67	49.07%	45
Toronto DSB	60.5%	+2.17	49.13%	44
Upper Canada DSB	60.5%	+7.67	51.23%	41
Bruce-Grey CDSB	60.33%	+8.50	56.56%	24
Bluewater DSB	59.67%	+4.50	53.6%	34
Ottawa-Carl DSB	59.67%	+7.17	62.73%	8
Simcoe/Musk CDSB	59.67%	+6.84	43.56%	52
Brant/Hald/Nor CDSB	59.17%	+6.17	59.27%	16
Lamb/Kent DSB	59.17%	+2.84	48.26%	47
Pet/Vic/Nor/Cla CDSB	59.17%	+2.67	54.71%	30
Kenora CDSB	59%	-0.67	76.1%	1
Toronto CDSB	58.83%	+0.50	46.85%	51
Algoma DSB	58.67%	+9.67	37.64%	57
Waterloo Region DSB	58.67%	+2.00	62.62%	9
CDSB of East/Ont	58.5%	+4.17	57.16%	21
Kawartha/PineR DSB	58.33%	+3.66	54.16%	33
Trillium/Lake DSB	58.33%	+5.34	56.86%	23
Northwest CDSB	57.67%	-0.66	NA	NA
Algonquin/Lake CDSB	57.33%	+5.50	51.79%	37
Limestone DSB	57.33%	+3.50	51.56%	39
Sudbury CDSB	57%	+0.67	60.38%	14
Lakehead DSB	56.83%	+3.66	43.47%	53
Thames Valley DSB	56.67%	+1.67	56.87%	22
Renfrew County DSB	56.33%	+1.83	59.13%	17
Greater Essex DSB	56.17%	-0.83	55.58%	26
Ham/Went DSB	55.67%	+5.17	51.78%	38
Superior North CDSB	55.5%	+1.17	NA	NA
Simcoe County DSB	54.83%	+5.16	43.12%	54
Keewatin/Pat DSB	54.5%	+3.17	47.28%	50
Northeastern CDSB	54.5%	+6.33	33.72%	58
Huron-Superior CDSB	54.17%	+6.17	55%	28
Grand Erie DSB	54%	+3.33	51.4%	40
Hast/PrinceEd DSB	53.33%	+3.66	57.99%	20
Ontario NE DSB	53.17%	+2.84	40.03%	56
Superior/Green DSB	53.17%	+2.50	53.35%	35
Rainbow DSB	52.17%	-0.83	49.42%	43
Nipissing/PS CDSB	48.83%	+3.00	55.28%	27
Near North DSB	48%	+0.50	49.05%	46

## Go West, Young Man

*Boys are doing well in the Huron-Perth Catholic board.*

### Malkin Dare

Once again, we used data from the annual EQAO provincial tests to rank the major Ontario English-speaking boards on the basis of the percentage of their students that met or exceeded the provincial standard (achieved level 3 or 4).

To find out how many of the province's students are succeeding at grade 9 math, we multiplied the number of students in each group by the percentage of students who met or exceeded the provincial standard, added the two products together, and divided the sum by the total number of students. For example, here are the calculations for the province:  $(51,155 \times .27 + 104,100 \times .68) \div 155,255 = 54.49\%$ . The fourth column shows the percentage of successful students and the fifth column shows each board's rank compared to the other school boards. As a whole, the province's English-speaking grade 9 students made virtually no gains over last year.

For the grade 3 and 6 tests, the score for each board was calculated exactly as it was last year, namely by averaging the average percentage of grade 3 students who met or exceeded the standard in reading, writing, and math with the average percentage of grade 6 students who did the same. The boards are listed in rank order. The second column shows the average percentage of successful students and the third column shows the difference between last year's average and this year's.

As a whole, the grade 3 and grade 6 students improved by an average 3.67 percentage points. In 2003-2004, 57.5% of students scored at or above the provincial standard. In 2004-2005, 61.7% of students were in this category.

There is, unfortunately, no way of knowing whether the rise in the grade 3 and grade 6 results indicates a real improvement in student learning. The problem is that variations from year to year in the test itself, the test conditions, and the grading of the test can influence test scores.

Some of the factors include: the percentage of students exempted from the test; the percentage of students granted "accommodations" and "special provisions"; the timing of the test (this year, the tests were administered several weeks later than customary); and the difficulty of the test (this year's test was much shorter and contained more multiple choice questions). The available data do not allow us to tell whether the higher test scores are the result of real improvements in student learning or variations in the way the learning was measured.

These uncertainties must be borne in mind when it comes to modest increases like 3.67 percentage points. However, the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board is in a different category. Last year, the board racked up a staggering improvement of 12.33 percentage points. This year, it improved by another 6.67 percentage points. In two years, the board has improved so much that it now outscores every other English-speaking board in the province, and by a respectable margin. Furthermore, the boys are doing almost as well as the girls!

What is going on in Huron-Perth and why is no one talking about it? Given that all Ontario boards receive more or less the same funding, it seems highly unlikely that the Huron-Perth Catholic board has reduced class size significantly or raised its teachers' salaries. The student body probably hasn't changed appreciably. Could it be that the teachers are doing something different? Might this school board have something to teach us?