

## **Rainy River District School Board Has Continued Success on the Literacy Test**

The Rainy River District School Board's results for October 2004 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test indicate that the district's students continue to perform well in the areas of reading and writing. Of the 284 students who wrote the test, 80% passed both the reading and writing components, an increase of 2% from the previous test's results.

While the board results are 2% lower than the provincial results, the board has demonstrated continued growth. Since October 2002, the success rate has increased by 10%. "Student success is what we are interested in and what we are striving for," stated Ian Simpson, Assistant Superintendent, Rainy River District School Board. "We are going to work hard next year to be at or above the provincial average."

The growth demonstrated is due to several initiatives, both at the system and school levels, that support students in further developing foundational literacy skills. One such example is Later Literacy, an intervention program that provides one-on-one or small group support for students in enhancing their reading and writing skills across the curriculum. Other initiatives have involved "bridging the gap" between the elementary and secondary panels to align literacy teaching practices and to help elementary teachers understand the provincial assessment.

This year, E.Q.A.O. announced upcoming changes to the administration of the literacy test. Rather than writing the test over two mornings in the fall, students will complete the test in one morning in the spring.

Further information and provincial results are available on the E.Q.A.O. website at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).