



## **Rainy River District School Board Announces EQAO Scores**

(September 13, 2006) – EQAO results have been released. The Rainy River District School Board will use these results to celebrate achievements and identify challenges, and to inform teacher practice that will support improved student learning. These results will also guide all school improvement planning.

EQAO is a large-scale assessment providing one piece of data illustrating how students are doing in the Board's schools. Unlike classroom assessments, which are the richest source of student achievement data – it represents a snapshot of student performance at one point in time.

Students in all publicly funded schools in Ontario, including 14 schools in the Rainy River District School Board, wrote the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) tests during the 2005–2006 school year. These results were made public on the EQAO website – [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).

In Grade 3 Reading, 68% of all students were at or above the provincial standard (Level 3) in 2005-2006. In Grade 3 Writing, 61% of all students achieved at or above the provincial standard (Level 3) in 2005-2006. Grade 3 Mathematics results for 70% of all students were at or above the provincial standard (Level 3) in 2005-2006.

In Grade 6 Reading, 58% of all students were at or above the provincial standard (Level 3) in 2005-2006. In Grade 6 Writing, 52% of all students achieved at or above the provincial standard (Level 3) in 2005-2006. Grade 6 Mathematics results for 56% of all students were at or above the provincial standard (Level 3) in 2005-2006.

Although the Rainy River District School Board has seen some small increases and decreases from one year to the next, it is more interested in the general trend with the results over time.

Some of the successes noted over time include:

- ★ Math and Reading scores in Grade 3 remain above the provincial results and have shown increases of 15% and 7% over the last 5 years
- ★ Exemption rates for both Grades 3 and 6 have been cut in half since 2002/03 – giving more students – even those with special needs – an opportunity to write the test
- ★ Gap between boys and girls achieving Levels 3 and 4 in Grade 3 is decreasing in Reading, Writing and Math
- ★ Cohort of Grade 6 students who wrote the Grade 3 test in 2002/03 have shown improvement
- ★ The Board is moving students from Levels 1 to 2, 2 to 3 and 3 to 4

## **Challenges**

- ★ The Board still has a large number of students achieving at Level 2 , which is a focus for 2006-2007
- ★ Close the gap between females and males achieving Level 3 and 4 especially at the junior division
- ★ Writing remains an area of focus for Grades 3 and 6

Progressive steps the Board has taken to improve student achievement in the last year:

- ★ Provided intensive professional development for all primary and junior teachers on effective practice based on research
- ★ Established professional learning communities in all elementary schools with release time provided monthly for all Primary and Junior teachers to discuss and learn about effective teaching strategies that will move students forward
- ★ Established .2 literacy leaders in eight locations to support all elementary schools
- ★ Hired special Literacy and Numeracy Co-ordinators to work directly with schools in literacy and numeracy
- ★ Allocated resources to schools to support literacy and numeracy programs
- ★ Developed comprehensive Literacy, Numeracy and Long Range plans which includes a special plan for Writing

## **Steps for improvement in 2006-2007**

- ★ Careful analysis of EQAO results at all school sites
- ★ Focus on Level 2 students
- ★ Focus on Writing
- ★ Focus on precision teaching, personalizing student programs, and professional learning