



PRESS RELEASE

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September 19, 2018

Rainy River District School Board announces Grade 3, 6, and 9 and OSSLT EQAO test results

The 2017-2018 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results have been released. School and system leaders of the Rainy River District School Board have met to analyze and interpret the results. These results, along with other assessments, help the School Board to develop and refine strategies for achievement in all areas of the curriculum, including Literacy and Math.

Each year, data is reviewed and is used to inform decisions that drive adjustments to the Board's Improvement Plan and School Improvement Plans. Results are also used to plot the course for professional development through staff meetings, professional learning sessions, and professional development days. The professional development that teachers participate in is adapted to student learning needs. The professional development that Principals participate in is adapted to teacher learning needs.

While the 2017-2018 EQAO overall results show that the Board remains below the provincial average in the areas of Literacy and Math, successes are visible at the school levels and for individual students. For instance, all of Sturgeon Creek School's Grade 3 students achieved at or above the provincial level of achievement in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, while 100% of the school's Grade 6 students achieved at or above the provincial level of achievement in Reading. Donald Young School achieved above the provincial level of achievement in nearly all areas and Atikokan High School's Grade 9 students achieved above the provincial level of achievement in both the Applied and Academic Mathematics courses.

Primary Results 2017-2018	
Reading	59 %
Writing	57%
Mathematics	47%

Junior Results 2017-2018	
Reading	72%
Writing	62%
Mathematics	36%

Grade 9 Mathematics 2017-2018	
Applied	30%
Academic	71%

Of the first-time eligible (FTE) students who participated in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test – those in Grade 10 in the 2017-2018 school year – 59% were successful. This demonstrates a need for improvement, as compared to the provincial rate of 79%. OSSLT data provides educators at the Board and school level with a rich set of data to identify particular areas of need, to identify our strengths, and to provide focused instruction and assessment to close those gaps. Alternatively, students can take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) to demonstrate the provincial literacy skills required for graduation. The Board success rate for the OSSLC is 94%.

Literacy and mathematics continue to be priorities of the Rainy River District School Board. This year, the Board will focus on continuous improvement through a balanced mathematics program and a balanced literacy program, K-12. Staff are implementing the balanced mathematics programming, which includes a focus on basic math facts and operational skills, within K-6 classrooms. Literacy Coaches are working with teacher's in their classrooms to enhance current guided reading and writing practices. Coaches and teachers are focusing on using assessment to drive instruction and targeting specific learning goals for small groups and individual students. They will also align balanced literacy and math instructional best practices from Grades 7-12.

When looking at the EQAO data, parents should also consider a wide range of achievement data and other school factors to understand school communities and student learning. EQAO test results should not be seen as absolutes—they are indicators of where students need extra help to improve their reading, writing and math.

For a more in-depth look at the EQAO results please visit the [Education Quality and Accountability Office \(EQAO\) website](#).

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Mission: ***“Together, we empower all students to believe in themselves, to achieve, and to dream.”***

Vision: ***“The Rainy River District School Board is an innovative community, nurturing hearts and minds, to build a foundation for tomorrow, today.”***

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