



2015 PROFILE ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST

YCDSB Vision Statement:

Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate
Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.

Student Performance on the 2015 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Number of First-Time Eligible Students Expected to Write the Assessments	4,467
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Participating Students	97%
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Number of Students Exempt from Participating	25
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Pass Rates for Fully Participating Students

Participating Students	88% (+1%) (N = 4,316)
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Females	91% (+1%) (N = 2,154)
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Males	84% (+0%) (N = 2,162)
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English Language Learners	72% (+4%) (N = 96)
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Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted)	61% (+8%) (N = 566)
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Academic	94% (-1%) (N = 3,683)
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Applied	49% (+5%) (N = 520)
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LDCC	7% (-16%) (N = 14)
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ESL/ELD	62% (+8%) (N = 65)
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ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST

The 2015 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) results report on two groups of students: “first-time eligible students” and “previously eligible students.” First-time eligible students are expected to write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for the first time in the spring of their second year of secondary school; this also applies to students who entered Grade 10 from out of province.

Previously eligible includes all students who were absent or deferred, or were unsuccessful during one or more previous administrations; were previously exempted but are now working toward an OSSD; entered Grade 11 or 12 from out of province or enrolled in an adult education program and began Grade 9 in or after the 2000-2001 school year. Students who are not successful must successfully complete the Literacy Test or, alternatively, the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) – which is one of thirty-two requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

Highlights of Achievement on the 2015 Literacy Test

- Of the 4,467 students who were eligible to take the test for the first time, 97% actually wrote the test and the remainder were absent on the day of the test or were deferred from writing the test. The percentage of students participating in the test has remained fairly stable over the past eleven years.
- Of the 4,316 students who actually wrote the test for the first time, 88% of these students were successful.
- When all first-time eligible students are factored into the overall success rate for the 2013-2014 Grade 9 cohort (i.e., students who actually wrote the test, as well as students who were absent or deferred), the percentage of students who were successful was 85%. (Deferrals are granted, by school principals, to students who are not ready to write the Literacy test.)
- Since the first administration of the Literacy test, the success rate for first-time eligible students who actually wrote the test has increased by +11% for the Board compared to +7% for the province.
- Of the 552 students who rewrote the test, 59% of these students were successful.
- Both first-time eligible students and students who retook the test wrote the OSSLT on March 26, 2015.

First-Time Eligible Students: Historical Data

Assessment results from the 2015 administration of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) indicate that eighty-eight percent (88%) of first-time eligible students in the Board and eighty-two per cent (82%) of first-time eligible students across the province who fully participated in the test were successful.

Results since the first administration of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test indicate an increase of +11% in the proportion of first-time eligible students in the Board passing the Literacy Test compared to an increase of +7% for students attending schools across the province.

Results for Fully Participating¹ First-Time Eligible (FTE) students in the Board and across the province who were successful on the Literacy Test since its first administration are presented in the table below.

Fully Participating Students	Board	Province
Mar. 2015	88%	82%
Mar. 2014	87%	83%
May 2013	89%	82%
Mar. 2012	89%	82%
Mar. 2011	88%	83%
Apr. 2010	88%	84%
Apr. 2009	91%	85%
Mar. 2008	90%	84%
Mar. 2007	89%	84%
Mar. 2006	90%	84%
Oct. 2004	87%	82%
Oct. 2003	79%	77%
Oct. 2002	73%	72%
Feb. 2002	77%	75%

¹ Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students are based on all students in the cohort who are working to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and excludes those students who were absent or deferred from writing the test.

First-Time Eligible Students: Contextual Information

- Results for Fully Participating Students - More first-time eligible students attending York Catholic schools who *actually wrote the test* were successful on the Literacy Test (88%) compared to students attending schools across the province (82%). There was a small increase in performance for the Board (+1%) and a small decrease for the province (-1%), since the previous administration of the Literacy Test.
- Results for All Eligible Students - Of the students who were *eligible to write the test*, 85% of students in the Board were successful, maintaining a similar rate of success when compared to the previous year (+0%). Results for all eligible students include those who were absent or deferred from writing the test.
- Over time, the same proportion of first-time eligible students in York Catholic have been absent (1%) or deferred (2%) from previous administrations of the test.
- More female students who wrote the test (91%) were successful compared to male students (84%). Female students demonstrated improved performance from the previous year (+1%) while male students maintained their previous level of performance (+0%).
- Students with special education needs {excluding gifted}, students with special education needs with an IEP only and students with an IEP & IPRC who received accommodation(s) to write the test demonstrated considerable improvement in performance from the previous year (+8%, +10% and +6% respectively). A similar proportion of students with special education needs (14%) wrote the Literacy test during the two most recent administrations of the test.
- This year, there was an increase in the proportion of English Language Learners who wrote the Literacy test from the previous administration of the test (+2%). Notwithstanding, these students demonstrated improved performance from the previous year (+4%).
- As in previous administrations of the test, a larger proportion of students enrolled in an academic English course successfully completed the Literacy Test compared to students enrolled in other English courses.
- Both students taking applied English (+5%) and ESL/ELD English (+8%) courses demonstrated improvement from the previous year. Students taking an academic English course and students taking a locally developed compulsory credit English course experienced a decline in performance from the previous year (-1% and -16% respectively).

<u>English Course</u>	Success Rate	Percent Change
Academic	94%	-1%
Applied	49%	+5%
Locally Developed	7%	-16%
ESL/ELD	62%	+8%

OSSLT Outcomes for First-Time Eligible Students

First-Time Eligible Students	Absent	Deferred	Successful	
			All Students ²	Fully Participating ³
Eligible Students (<i>N</i> = 4,467)	1% (+0%)	2% (+0%)	85% (+0%)	88% (+1%)
Females (<i>N</i> = 2,208)	1% (<1%)	1% (+0%)	89% (+0%)	91% (+1%)
Males (<i>N</i> = 2,259)	1% (+0%)	3% (+1%)	81% (-1%)	84% (+0%)
English Language Learners (<i>N</i> = 109)	0% (+0%)	12% (-21%)	63% (+17%)	72% (+4%)
Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted) (<i>N</i> = 623)	2% (+1%)	7% (+4%)	56% (+5%)	61% (+8%)
Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (IEP Only) (<i>N</i> = 152)	3% (+2%)	0% (+0%)	63% (+9%)	65% (+10%)
Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (IEP and IPRC) (<i>N</i> = 385)	1% (+0%)	0% (+0%)	56% (+6%)	57% (+6%)
Academic Level English (<i>N</i> = 3,731)	1% (+0%)	<1% (+0%)	93% (-1%)	94% (-1%)
Applied Level English (<i>N</i> = 549)	2% (+1%)	4% (+3%)	46% (+3%)	49% (+5%)
Locally Developed English (<i>N</i> = 33)	0% (+0%)	58% (+30%)	3% (-14%)	7% (-16%)
Taking ESL/ELD Course (<i>N</i> = 117)	1% (+1%)	44% (-9%)	34% (+8%)	62% (+8%)

² Results for All Students are based on eligible students from the 2013-2014 Grade 9 cohort who are working to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and include students who were absent, as well as, those who were deferred from writing the test.

³ Results for Fully Participating are based on students in the 2013-2014 Grade 9 cohort who actually wrote the test and are working to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). These results exclude students who were absent or deferred from writing the test.

Previously Eligible Students: Achievement Highlights

- More than half of the students in the York Catholic District School Board (59%), and half of the students attending schools across the province (49%), who were required to retake the test and actually did were successful on the most recent administration of the Literacy test.
- The OSSLT results for students in the Board who were previously eligible⁴ represent a decrease in the success rate for the Board (-2%) from the previous administration of the test.
- There was a small increase, from the previous year, in the proportion of previously eligible students (+1%) in the Board who were absent on the day that the test was administered.
- More than a third of previously eligible students in the Board (38%) were enrolled in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) this year. This represents an increase of 4% from the previous year.
- Fifty-four percent of the previously eligible students in the Board (552/1,031) who were eligible to re-write the test, actually re-wrote it. Of the remaining students,
 - One hundred and twelve (112) students were exempted from writing the Literacy test, as they were no longer working to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).
 - Forty-one (41) students were absent on the day the test was administered.
 - Forty-seven (47) students were deferred from writing the test.
 - Three hundred and ninety-one (391) students were reported to be fulfilling the diploma requirement through the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC). (The OSSLC is a full-credit course that was developed by the Ministry of Education to give students an alternative method of demonstrating their literacy skills. The option to take the course is given to students who were previously unsuccessful on the Literacy Test.)

⁴ Previously eligible students are all students who were absent or deferred, or were unsuccessful during one or more previous administrations; were previously exempted but are now working toward an OSSD; entered Grade 11 or 12 from out of province or enrolled in an adult education program and began Grade 9 in or after the 2000-2001 school year.

Previously Eligible Students: Contextual Information

Results for Previously Eligible students indicated the following:

- There was a small achievement gap between male (58%) and female (60%) students who re-wrote the test. While there were more male previously eligible students than female students participating in the test, male students maintained their level of performance from the previous year (+0%) and the performance of female students (-5%) declined over the same period.
- More than half of the English Language Learners who re-wrote the test were successful this year (55%). These results represent a small decrease in performance from the previous year (-1%).
- The success rate for previously eligible students with special education needs with an IEP and IPRC increased from the previous year (+1%). The performance of students with special education needs (excluding gifted) and students who were accommodated with an IEP only declined from the previous year (-1% and -4% respectively). Please refer to the table below.

Previously Eligible Students	Absent	Deferred	OSSLC	Successful: All Students ⁵	Successful: Fully Participating ⁶
All Previously Eligible (<i>N</i> = 1031)	4% (+1%)	5% (+2%)	38% (+4%)	32% (-4%)	59% (-2%)
Females (<i>N</i> = 403)	5% (+3%)	3% (-1%)	33% (+2%)	35% (-6%)	60% (-5%)
Males (<i>N</i> = 628)	3% (+0%)	5% (+2%)	41% (+5%)	29% (-4%)	58% (+0%)
English Language Learners (<i>N</i> = 131)	5% (+5%)	6% (-5%)	2% (-6%)	48% (+3%)	55% (-1%)
Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted) (<i>N</i> = 410)	3% (-1%)	4% (+1%)	45% (-1%)	25% (+1%)	51% (-1%)
Students Receiving Accommodations (IEP Only) (<i>N</i> = 47)	2% (-5%)	0% (+0%)	0% (+0%)	53% (+0%)	54% (-4%)
Students Receiving Accommodations (IEP and IPRC) (<i>N</i> = 145)	3% (-2%)	0% (+0%)	0% (+0%)	50% (+2%)	51% (+1%)

⁵ Results for **All Students** are based on previously eligible students who are working to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and include students who were absent, those who were deferred from writing the test and those enrolled in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC).

⁶ Results for **Fully Participating** are based on previously eligible students who actually wrote the test and are working to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). These results exclude students who were absent or deferred from writing the test and those enrolled in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC).