



Student Performance on the March 2012 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

OSSLT RESULTS RELEASED BY EQAO ON JUNE 12, 2012

Highlights of Student Performance

Background information

The March 2012 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 students who entered Grade 9 during the 2010-2011 school year and any others who were placed in this cohort.

Previously eligible students were eligible to write the test in March 2012 if they were not successful during a previous administration of the test, or were absent or deferred from a previous administration. 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 2011-2012 Literacy Test

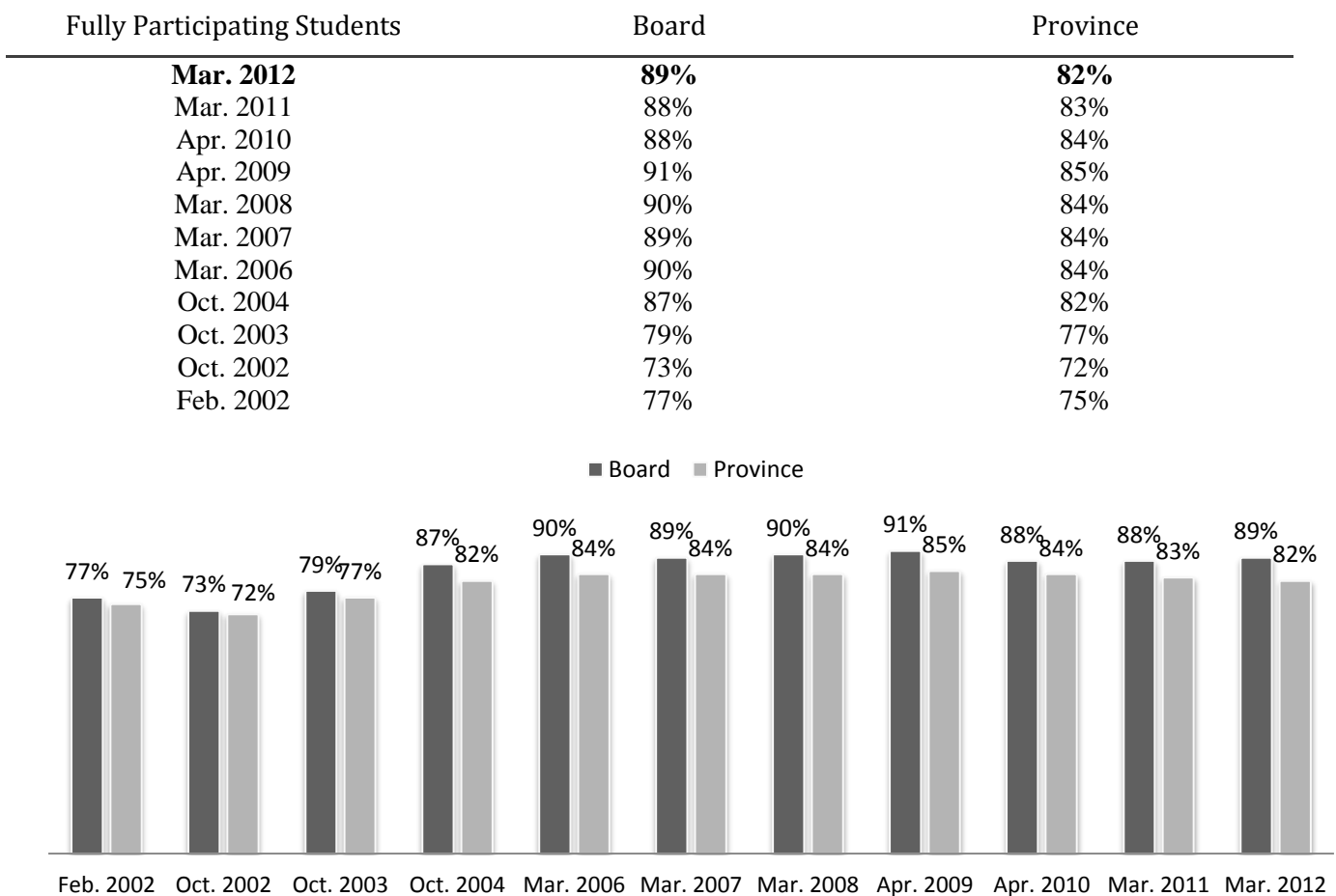
- Of the **4,424** students who were eligible to take the test for the first time, **97%** actually wrote the test and the remainder were absent on the day of the test or were deferred from writing the test. The percentage of students participating in the test has remained fairly stable over the past eight years.
- Of the **4,309** students who actually wrote the test for the first time, **89%** of these students were successful.
- When all first-time eligible students are factored into the overall success rate for the 2010-2011 Grade 9 cohort (i.e., students who actually wrote the test and students who were absent or deferred) the percentage of students who were successful is 86%. (*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 ten years ago, the success rate for first-time eligible students who actually wrote the test has increased by **+12%** for the Board compared to **+7%** for the province.
- Of the 548 students who rewrote the test, 60% of these students were successful.
- Both first-time eligible students and students who retook the test wrote the OSSLT on March 29, 2012.

First-Time Eligible Students: Historical Context

Assessment results from the March 2012 administration of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)¹ indicate that eighty-nine percent (89%) 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. *These results represent an increase for the Board since the previous administration of the Literacy Test and declining achievement over the last four years for the province.*

Results since the first administration of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test indicate an increase of +12% 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.

Table 1: Results for Fully Participating² First-Time Eligible (FTE) students in the Board and across the province who were successful on the Literacy Test since its first administration



¹ The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) released the OSSLT results on June 12th, 2012.

² 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

1. 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 (89%) compared to students attending schools across the province (82%). There was an increase in the performance of first time eligible students attending schools in the York Catholic District School Board (+1%) and a decrease in the performance of students across the province (-1%). Over the last four administrations of the Literacy Test, there has been a small but steady decline in the performance of students attending schools across the province.
2. Results for All Eligible Students - Of the students who were *eligible to write the test*, 86% of students in the Board were successful, maintaining a fairly similar rate of success (+0%) compared to the previous year. Results for all eligible students includes those who were absent or deferred from writing the test.
3. Over time, the same proportion of first-time eligible students in York Catholic have been absent or deferred (1%) from writing previous administrations of the test. This year, there was a small increase in the percentage of students who were deferred (+1%) from the previous year.
4. More female students who wrote the test (91%) were successful compared to male students (86%). Both male and female students demonstrated improvement in their performance from the previous year (+1%).
5. This year, there was roughly the same proportion of students with special education needs {excluding gifted} writing the test compared to the previous year and these students (+3%) experienced an increase in achievement. Students who were accommodated with an IEP & IPRC (+2%) also experienced an increase in achievement. While students who were accommodated with an IEP only (+0%) maintained their level of performance from the previous year.

Note: Please refer to Table 2 on the following page.

6. There were more English language learners who wrote the Literacy test compared to the previous year and these students demonstrated an improvement in performance from the previous year (+6%).
7. 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 (+1%) and ESL/ELD English (+7%) courses demonstrated improvement from the previous year. While students taking academic (-1%) and locally developed compulsory credit English (-10%) courses experienced a decline in achievement from the previous year.

<u>English Course</u>	Success Rate	Percent Change
Academic:	95%	-1%
Applied:	53%	+1%
Locally Developed:	24%	-10%
ESL/ELD:	55%	+7%



Table 2: Results for First-Time Eligible Students in the Board who were successful on the Literacy Test by Contextual Information

First-Time Eligible Students	Successful			
	Absent	Deferred	All Students ³	Fully Participating ⁴
Eligible Students (<i>N</i> = 4,424)	1% (+0%)	2% (+1%)	86% (+0%)	89% (+1%)
Females (<i>N</i> = 2,224)	1% (+0%)	1% (+0%)	90% (+2%)	91% (+1%)
Males (<i>N</i> = 2,200)	1% (+0%)	2% (+0%)	83% (+0%)	86% (+1%)
English Language Learners (<i>N</i> = 92)	2% (-1%)	10% (-5%)	59% (+9%)	67% (+6%)
Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted) (<i>N</i> = 607)	1% (-1%)	8% (+2%)	55% (+3%)	60% (+3%)
Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (IEP Only) (<i>N</i> = 146)	1% (-1%)	0% (+0%)	61% (+0%)	62% (+0%)
Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (IEP and IPRC) (<i>N</i> = 365)	1% (-1%)	0% (+0%)	56% (+2%)	57% (+2%)
Academic Level English (<i>N</i> = 3,706)	<1% (+0%)	<1% (+0%)	94% (-1%)	95% (-1%)
Applied Level English (<i>N</i> = 571)	1% (+0%)	2% (-1%)	51% (+2%)	53% (+1%)
Locally Developed English (<i>N</i> = 50)	4% (+0%)	46% (+19%)	12% (-12%)	24% (-10%)
Taking ESL/ELD Course (<i>N</i> = 77)	1% (-2%)	42% (+17%)	31% (-3%)	55% (+7%)

³ Results for All Students are based on eligible students from the 2010-2011 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.

⁴ Results for Fully Participating are based on students in the 2010-2011 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

1. Approximately half of the students in the York Catholic District School Board (60%) and across the province (48%) who were required to retake the test and actually did were successful on the most recent administration of the Literacy test.
2. The OSSLT results for students in York Catholic who were previously eligible (i.e., students who entered Grade 9 prior to 2010-2011 and who were previously unsuccessful on the test represent a decrease in the success rate for the Board (-3%) and the province (-1%) from the previous administration of the test.
3. There was an increase (+1%) in the proportion of previously eligible students in York Catholic who were absent on the day that the test was administered.
4. More than a third of previously eligible students in York Catholic (38%) were enrolled in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) this year. This represents a large increase from the previous year (+21%).
5. Fifty-four percent of the previously eligible students in York Catholic (548 / 1018), who were eligible to re-write the test, actually re-wrote it:
 - One hundred and seventeen (117) students were exempted from writing the Literacy test, as they were no longer working to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).
 - Forty (40) students were absent on the day the test was administered.
 - Forty-four (44) students were deferred from writing the test.
 - Three hundred and eighty-six (386) students were 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.)

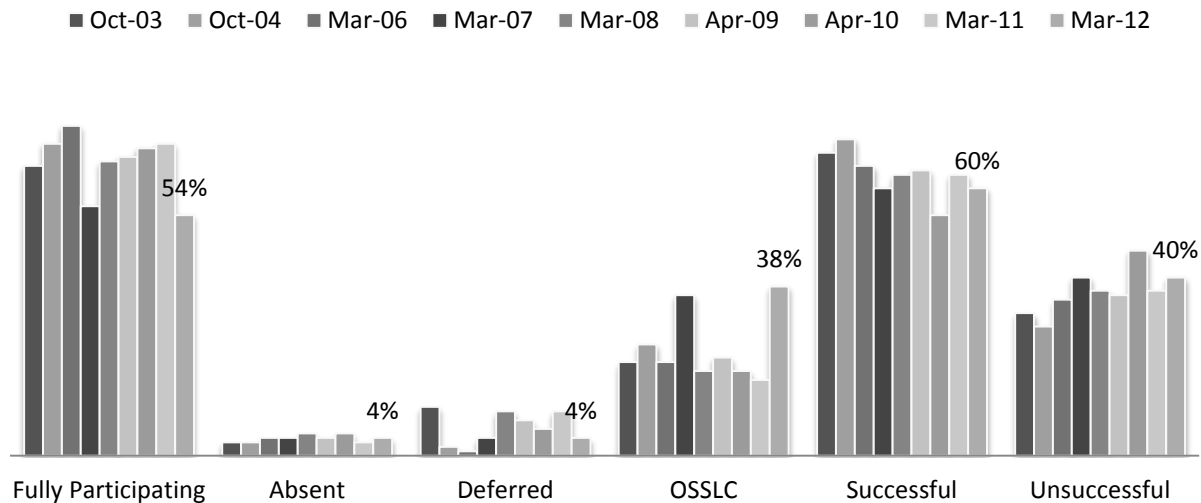
Note: Please refer to Table 3 on the following page for an overview of student performance over time for previously eligible students.

Previously Eligible Students: Historical Data

Table 3: Student outcomes for Previously Eligible students in York Catholic since the implementation of the OSSLC in the 2003-2004 school year

	Previously Eligible	October 2003	October 2004	March 2006	March 2007	March 2008	April 2009	April 2010	March 2011	March 2012	1-Year Growth
Did not write the test	Eligible Students {=}	1,008	949	640	600	763	815	729	837	1018	+181
	Absent {+}	3% (n=31)	3% (n=27)	4% (n=28)	4% (n=26)	5% (n=37)	4% (n=30)	5% (n=40)	3% (n=26)	4% (n=40)	+1%
	Deferred {+}	11% (n=112)	2% (n=21)	1% (n=6)	4% (n=27)	10% (n=80)	8% (n=65)	6% (n=43)	10% (n=81)	4% (n=44)	-6%
Wrote the test	OSSLC {+}	21% (n=208)	25% (n=237)	21% (n=134)	36% (n=213)	19% (n=144)	22% (n=177)	19% (n=142)	17% (n=141)	38% (n=386)	+21%
	Fully Participating (=)	65% (n=657)	70% (n=664)	74% (n=472)	56% (n=334)	66% (n=502)	67% (n=543)	69% (n=504)	70% (n=589)	54% (n=548)	-16%
	Successful (+)	68% (n=448)	71% (n=471)	65% (n=308)	60% (n=199)	63% (n=317)	64% (n=346)	54% (n=274)	63% (n=370)	60% (n=330)	-3%
	Unsuccessful	32% (n=209)	29% (n=193)	35% (n=164)	40% (n=135)	37% (n=185)	36% (n=197)	46% (n=230)	37% (n=219)	40% (n=218)	+3%

OSSLT Historical Outcomes for Previously Eligible Students



Previously Eligible Students: Contextual Information

Results for Previously Eligible students indicated the following:

- There was no gender achievement gap in performance between males (60%) and females (61%) who re-wrote the test. The performance of both male (-1%) and female (-5%) student declined from the previous year.
- More than a third of the English language learners who re-wrote the test were successful this year (39%). These results represent a large decrease in performance from the previous year (-24%).
- Previously eligible students with an IEP who were accommodated to write the test demonstrated improvement (+11%) from the previous year. The success rate for previously eligible students with special education needs (-1%), as well as students with an IEP and IPRC (-3%) who were accommodated to write the test declined from the previous year. Please refer to Table 4 below.

Table 4: Results for Previously Eligible Students in the Board by Contextual Information, March 2012

Previously Eligible Students	Absent	Deferred	OSSLC	Successful: All Students ⁵	Successful: Fully Participating ⁶
All Previously Eligible (<i>N</i> = 1018)	4% (+1%)	4% (-6%)	38% (+21%)	32% (-12%)	60% (-3%)
Females (<i>N</i> = 405)	5% (+3%)	3% (-8%)	33% (+16%)	36% (-10%)	61% (-5%)
Males (<i>N</i> = 613)	3% (-1%)	5% (-4%)	41% (+24%)	30% (-13%)	60% (-1%)
English Language Learners (<i>N</i> = 75)	3% (+2%)	4% (-10%)	1% (-14%)	36% (-8%)	39% (-24%)
Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted) (<i>N</i> = 445)	3% (+0%)	7% (-7%)	45% (+24%)	23% (-10%)	52% (-1%)
Students Receiving Accommodations (IEP Only) (<i>N</i> = 49)	4% (+2%)	0% (+0%)	0% (+0%)	55% (+10%)	57% (+11%)
Students Receiving Accommodations (IEP and IPRC) (<i>N</i> = 150)	5% (+1%)	0% (+0%)	0% (+0%)	50% (-2%)	52% (-3%)

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, as well as, those who were deferred from writing the test.

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.

