



Kenora Catholic District School Board

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006
Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release

2010-006

Date:	September 14, 2010
Topic:	Kenora Catholic District School Board Builds School and Board Capacity with Research-Based Improvement Plans: EQAO Scores Form a Basis for Planning
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Communication:

The school year may be just starting, but the plans for improvement are well underway. The Kenora Catholic District School Board has been having meetings and discussions about school and board improvement and is supporting student achievement with many significant initiatives and a carefully constructed board improvement plan.

The scores for the board showed improvement in primary and junior reading as well as an increase in junior writing. Primary writing, and both primary and junior math showed slight decreases in scores this year. The results are based on tests done in late May and June across the province and represent the achievement that students are making on curricular expectation in these three subjects.

The scores for grade three showed that 57% of grade three students in the board were achieving a level three or four. (Level 3 is the level that the province has set as its goal for achievement and is considered the provincial standard). In writing, 59% of students are achieving the provincial standard. In mathematics, 69% hit the target.

In grade six, 75% of students were able to score level three or four in the reading assessment completed last spring. On the writing assessment, 68% were at the provincial standard and in mathematics 70% achieved level three or four.

"Although we were successful in raising scores in three key areas, we can see that we still have some work to do," says Mary Cunningham, Assistant Superintendent School Effectiveness for the board. "We know that we have improvements to make and our teachers have made solid plans, based on our evidence and the current research on school improvement that should move our students forward. It takes time to make changes though."

"Our teachers are building in time to work together and collaborate," says Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education for the Catholic board. "We know the value of working as a team. We know that when we put many heads together we will get better results than when we work in isolation." Eikre notes that the goal is to increase student achievement by improving teaching strategies.

The testing has also taken place in grade nine mathematics classes from each of the semesters last year and is also being released now. The results for academic math students show that 88% of students in grade nine in the board are at level 3 or 4. The applied results show that 54% of students in the board are at that provincial standard. This is 14 percent higher than the provincial score for students at level 3 or 4 in applied courses

"We are continuing to work on plans that include a focus on closing the achievement gap for our students. We are working hard to create learning success for all students," adds Eikre. "It is always important to remember that the standards are high. These are not the scores for students who passed these tests. These are the scores for those who achieved a level 3 or 4. That is a higher standard and one for which we are willing to strive."

"Some of the plans for this year's professional development will be focusing on the continued collaborative model of professional learning communities and clearly stated goals that are well monitored and given the supports needed to bring success," says Cunningham whose role is to work with school and board improvement planning. "Other efforts will include the continued participation in an oral language project that focuses on kindergarten to grade three students and a collaborative project with the Keewatin Patricia District School Board and the Literacy Numeracy Secretariat that focuses on Mathematics instruction," she says.

Eikre notes that "all of these initiatives are aligned and focus on bringing the right strategies into our classrooms to continue to produce high achieving students who are ready for 21st Century challenges."

Phyllis Eikre
Director of Education

Darryl Michaluk
Chair of the Board