

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 8, 2005

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Acting Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Alberta Education Diploma Examination Results

ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Anne Mulgrew, Kathy Toogood, Lorie Welk, Corrie Ziegler

INFORMATION

This report provides results of the provincial diploma examinations written during the 2004-2005 school year. The results are taken from data provided by Alberta Education which merges results from the January, June, and August examination writings.

The grade 12 diploma examination program is intended to develop and maintain excellence in educational standards by certifying academic achievement. The program provides examinations in English 30-1 and 30-2, Social Studies 30 and 33, Pure and Applied Mathematics 30, Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Physics 30, Science 30 and French Language Arts 30. All grade 12 students in Alberta are required to write at least two diploma examinations, English 30-1 or 30-2 and Social Studies 30 or 33, to receive a high school diploma.

To obtain credit in a diploma examination course, students must write both parts of that diploma examination and attain a final blended mark of 50 per cent or higher. The final blended mark is the average of the school-awarded mark and the diploma examination mark. Appendix I provides detailed results on diploma examination participation rates and percentages of students achieving standards. Appendix II provides information for the past five years based on students who wrote diploma examinations. This graph shows the percentage of students achieving the standard of excellence and the acceptable standard based on blended marks. For English 30-1 and English 30-2, data prior to the 2003-04 school year is not included as a new program of studies was implemented in this year.

The major generalizations with respect to the information included in this report are as follows:

- District data showing the percentage of third year high school students who wrote grade 12 diploma examinations increased for 7 out of 10 diploma examination courses relative to 2004. There were substantial increases for grade 12 English courses.
- Relative to the province, the district has substantially higher participation rates for all four grade 12 science courses.
- The percentage of students meeting the standard of excellence on diploma examinations was higher for the district than for the province for six out of ten diploma examination courses.

Implications for Action

The Alberta Education diploma examinations are used as one of the indicators to monitor student achievement in the district. As schools strive to increase high school completion rates and more students successfully complete grade 10 and 11 courses, participation rates are increasing in diploma examination courses. As part of high school district professional development, staff will continue to be provided with

- strategies for using data effectively to support students “at risk” of not completing courses
- research on the factors that affect high school completion
- support for understanding the standards embedded within all diploma examination courses with an emphasis on alternate stream courses

These structures and processes are designed to assist more students to challenge and successfully complete diploma examination courses which will in turn result in increased high school completion rates.

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APPENDIX I - Detailed Results

APPENDIX II - Student Achievement Report: 2001 – 2005 Based on Blended Marks

DETAILED RESULTS

Diploma Examination Participation Rates

One factor to be considered in reviewing diploma examination results is participation rates. The participation rate reflects the percentage of students enrolled in their third year of high school who complete the course by August 31 of the reported school year. Students may have completed the course in the reported year, or an earlier school year. Regardless of how many times they complete the course, students are only counted as a participant once, in their third year of high school.

Table 1 provides information on the 2004-2005 diploma examination participation for the district compared to 2003-04 rates.

TABLE 1
DISTRICT PARTICIPATION RATES FOR GRADE 12 DIPLOMA COURSES
FROM 2003-2004 TO 2004-2005

Diploma Examination Course	2003-2004 (%)	2004-2005(%)	Difference
English 30-1	53.2	57.2	+4.0
English 30-2	24.4	27.4	+3.0
English Grade 12 Total	77.6	84.6	+7.0
Social Studies 30	53.2	54.8	+1.6
Social Studies 33	30.2	29.2	-1.0
Social Studies Grade 12 Total	83.4	84.0	+0.6
Applied Mathematics 30	21.6	21.1	-0.5
Pure Mathematics 30	44.8	46.3	+1.5
Mathematics Grade 12 Total	66.4	67.4	+1.0
Biology 30	45.7	45.3	-0.4
Chemistry 30	40.3	41.3	+1.0
Physics 30	26.4	27.5	+1.1
Science 30	9.0	10.2	+1.2

Since grade 12 students are typically enrolled in either the academic or the alternate stream course of study for English, social studies, and mathematics, it makes sense to look at participation rates based on the total for the two streams. A total is not included for grade 12 science courses because enrolment in these courses is not mutually exclusive. District participation rates for grade 12 English courses, social studies courses, and mathematics courses have increased relative to 2003-04. The increases observed for English courses are substantial in nature. With the exception of Biology 30, participation rates also increased for grade 12 science courses. It is anticipated that these higher participation rates will result in a positive impact on high school completion rates for 2004-05 when they are available next spring.

Table 2 provides information on the 2004-2005 diploma examination participation rates for the district and for the province.

**TABLE 2
DISTRICT AND PROVINCIAL PARTICIPATION RATES
FOR GRADE 12 DIPLOMA COURSES: 2004-2005**

Diploma Examination Course	Province (%)	EPS (%)	Difference
English 30-1	59.4	57.2	-2.2
English 30-2	26.1	27.4	+1.3
Grade 12 English Total	85.5	84.6	-0.9
Social Studies 30	53.7	54.8	+1.1
Social Studies 33	32.3	29.2	-3.1
Grade 12 Social Studies Total	86.0	84.0	-2.0
Applied Mathematics 30	22.0	21.1	-0.9
Pure Mathematics 30	45.6	46.3	+0.7
Grade 12 Mathematics Total	67.6	67.4	-0.2
Biology 30	43.3	45.3	+2.0
Chemistry 30	38.5	41.3	+2.8
Physics 30	24.0	27.5	+3.5
Science 30	7.8	10.2	+2.4

District participation rates are lower than provincial rates for English, social studies and mathematics, but are higher than provincial rates for all of the science courses.

Diploma Examination Results

Table 3 provides a comparison of district results to provincial results based on diploma examination marks.

**TABLE 3
DISTRICT AND PROVINCIAL RESULTS FOR
GRADE 12 DIPLOMA EXAMINATIONS: 2004-2005**

Diploma Examination	Percentage of Students Meeting Acceptable Standard			Percentage of Students Meeting Standard of Excellence		
	Prov.	E.P.S.	Diff.	Prov.	E.P.S.	Diff.
English 30-1	89.1	87.5	-1.6	17.8	19.7	+1.9
English 30-2	89.4	85.8	-3.6	10.1	9.6	-0.5
Social Studies 30	85.2	85.0	-0.2	24.3	26.9	+2.6
Social Studies 33	85.1	82.2	-2.9	17.6	15.2	-2.4
Applied Math 30	87.6	85.1	-2.5	21.8	19.9	-1.9
Pure Math 30	80.6	81.9	+1.3	25.6	29.0	+3.4
Biology 30	81.9	82.0	+0.1	26.6	29.2	+2.6
Chemistry 30	88.1	88.1	0.0	33.4	34.8	+1.4
Physics 30	84.2	85.4	+1.2	27.8	28.4	+0.6
Science 30	88.1	84.9	-3.2	22.0	19.8	-2.2

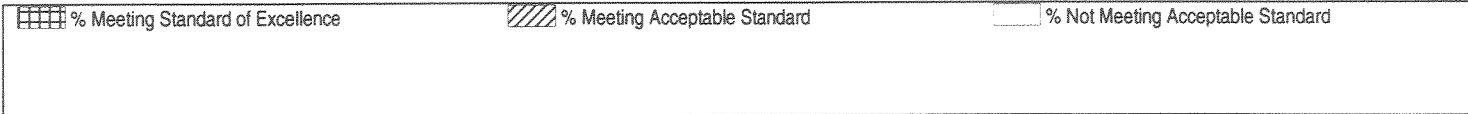
The percentage of students achieving the acceptable standard on individual diploma examinations is higher for the district than for the province for Pure Mathematics 30, Biology 30 and Physics 30, equal to the province for Chemistry 30, but lower than the province for the remaining six diploma examinations. The percentage of district students achieving the standard of excellence was higher

than for the province for English 30-1, Social Studies 30, Pure Mathematics 30, Biology 30, Chemistry 30, and Physics 30. The percentage of district students achieving the standard of excellence was lower than for the province for English 30-2, Social Studies 33, Applied Mathematics 30 and Science 30.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT 2001-2005

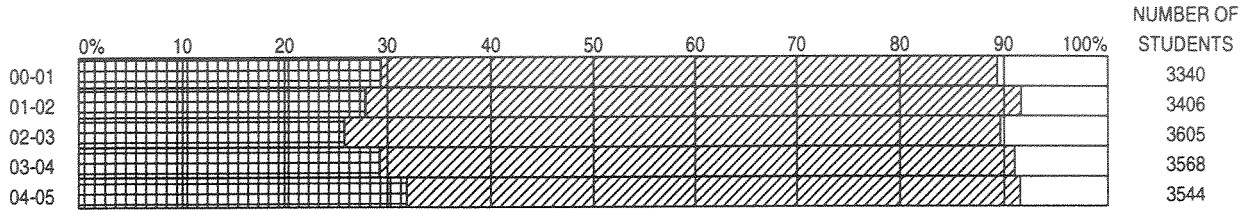
Based on Blended Marks

District

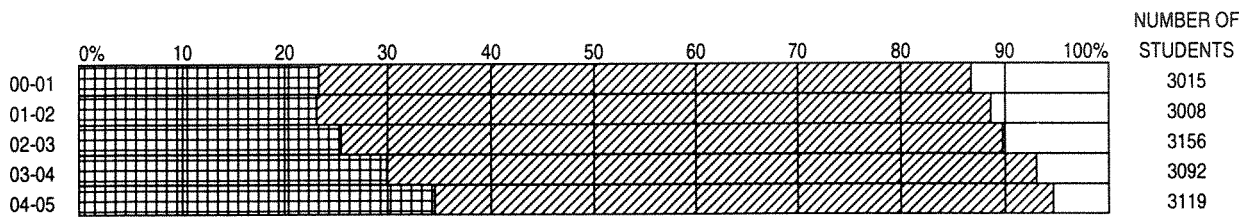


ALBERTA LEARNING DIPLOMA EXAMINATIONS

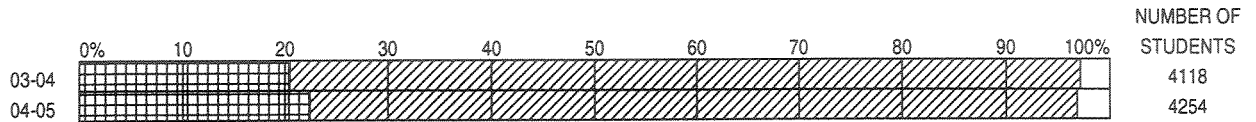
Biology 30



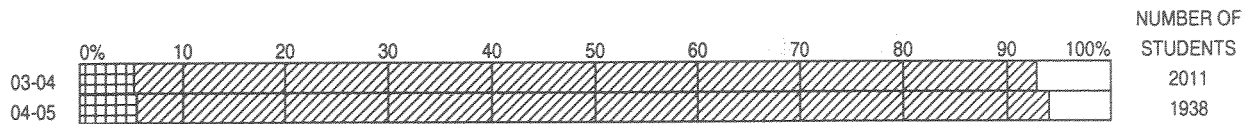
Chemistry 30



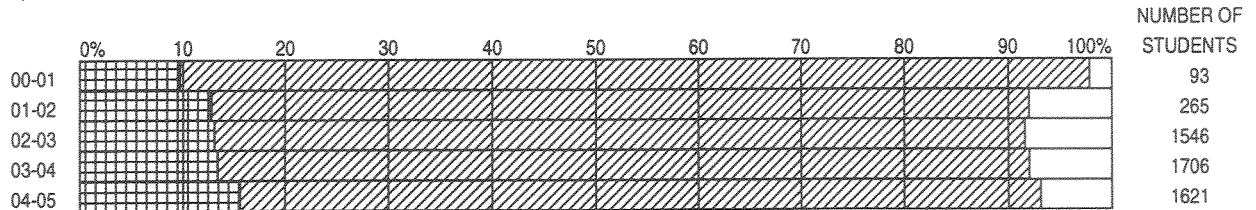
English 30-1



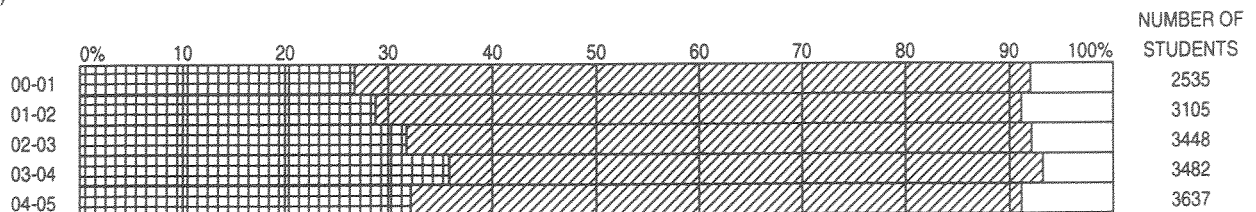
English 30-2



Mathematics 30 (Applied)



Mathematics 30 (Pure)

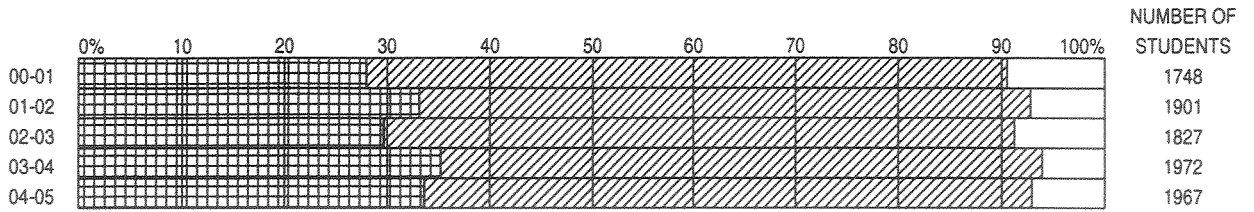


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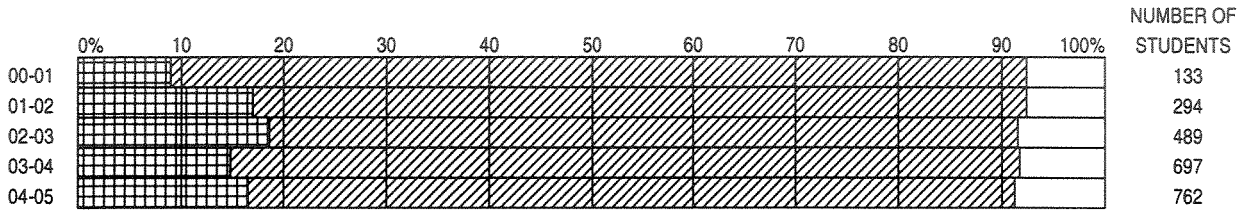
Based on Blended Marks

District

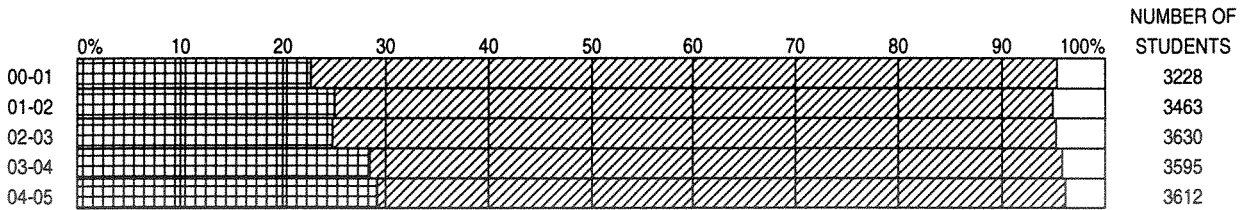
Physics 30



Science 30



Social Studies 30



Social Studies 33

