

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 8, 2005

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Acting Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: International Baccalaureate Examination Results: May 2005

ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Anne Mulgrew, Lorie Welk, Corrie Ziegler

### INFORMATION

The International Baccalaureate (IB) program is a rigorous program designed for high school students. It is modelled after educational systems used in Europe, in countries such as France and the United Kingdom. Upon completion of the program, students receive a diploma certifying completion. This diploma is useful in obtaining university admission, and is widely recognized throughout the world. Some IB courses are recognized as equivalent to university level courses and universities may award entering students with credit for high IB examination scores.

Students registered as IB diploma students are required to complete the following in their grade 12 year:

- write six IB examinations;
- complete Theory of Knowledge, an interdisciplinary course intended to stimulate critical reflection on the knowledge and experience gained inside and outside the classroom;
- complete the "Creativity, Action, Service" (CAS) component of the program which encourages students to share their energy and special talents with others; and
- complete an extended essay which provides students the opportunity to do an in-depth investigation of a topic of special interest

Students who are not interested in completing the entire diploma program may choose to only take a few IB classes.

In May 2005, 641 students from seven district high schools (Harry Ainlay, Jasper Place, M. E. LaZerte, McNally, Old Scona, Ross Sheppard, and Victoria) wrote a total of 1915 I.B. examinations. This represents an increase of 74 students and 182 examinations compared to the previous year.

Table 1 provides a comparison of district results to world results from the May 2005 test administration for courses in which a minimum of twenty-five students wrote the examination. Information on the total number of students in the world writing each examination is not available.

**TABLE 1  
COMPARISON OF DISTRICT IB RESULTS TO WORLD RESULTS: 2005**

SUBJECT	Average Score (out of 7)		Number of District Students Writing
	E.P.S.	World	
English (HL)	5.23	4.84	311
History (HL)	5.18	4.96	262
Biology (HL)	4.84	4.16	311
Math Methods (SL)	5.64	4.86	291
Chemistry (SL)	5.38	4.32	269
Physics (SL)	5.10	4.13	129
French B (SL)	5.53	5.00	135
Mandarin B (HL)	5.72	6.19	25
Japanese AB (SL)	5.41	5.03	37
Visual Arts A (SL)	4.71	4.38	28

HL - Higher Level

SL - Standard Level

The 2005 district averages are higher than world averages for all of these courses except for Mandarin B (HL). District students also wrote examinations in the following courses: German AB (SL), German B (SL), French AB (SL), Spanish AB (SL), Mandarin AB (SL), Mandarin B (SL), Japanese B (SL), Mathematics (HL), Physics (HL), Computing Science (SL), Visual Arts (HL), Visual Arts A (SL), Theatre Arts (HL), Music Solo Performance (SL), Music Group Performance (SL), Music Composition (SL), Music (HL), Dance (HL), and Dance (SL). The number of students participating in any of these examinations ranged from a high of 21 students to a low of one student. It would not be valid to compare district averages to world averages on such low enrolment courses.

In 2005, 133 out of 136 (97.8%) district I.B. diploma candidates were successful in obtaining their diploma. This represents an increase in the number of diploma candidates relative to 2004 when there were 119 diploma candidates. The percentage of candidates successfully achieving diplomas in 2005 increased by 5.4 per cent relative to 2004.

Appendix I provides longitudinal data from 1999-2000 to 2004-2005 of district averages relative to world averages on I.B. examinations. This data is calculated for each examination by taking the difference between the district average and the world average and plotting it to determine if there are any trends over the six-year time period. Only I.B. examinations with a substantial number of students (greater than 50) are included in this representation. As the graph illustrates, district averages have been higher than world averages over this time frame for all courses which have a substantial enrolment except for the 2004 results, when district averages for English (HL) and History (HL) slipped below world averages. However, district averages for these two courses are once again higher than world averages in 2005.

It is not appropriate to compare district averages from this year to district averages from previous years, since the difficulty levels of the examinations fluctuate from year to year.

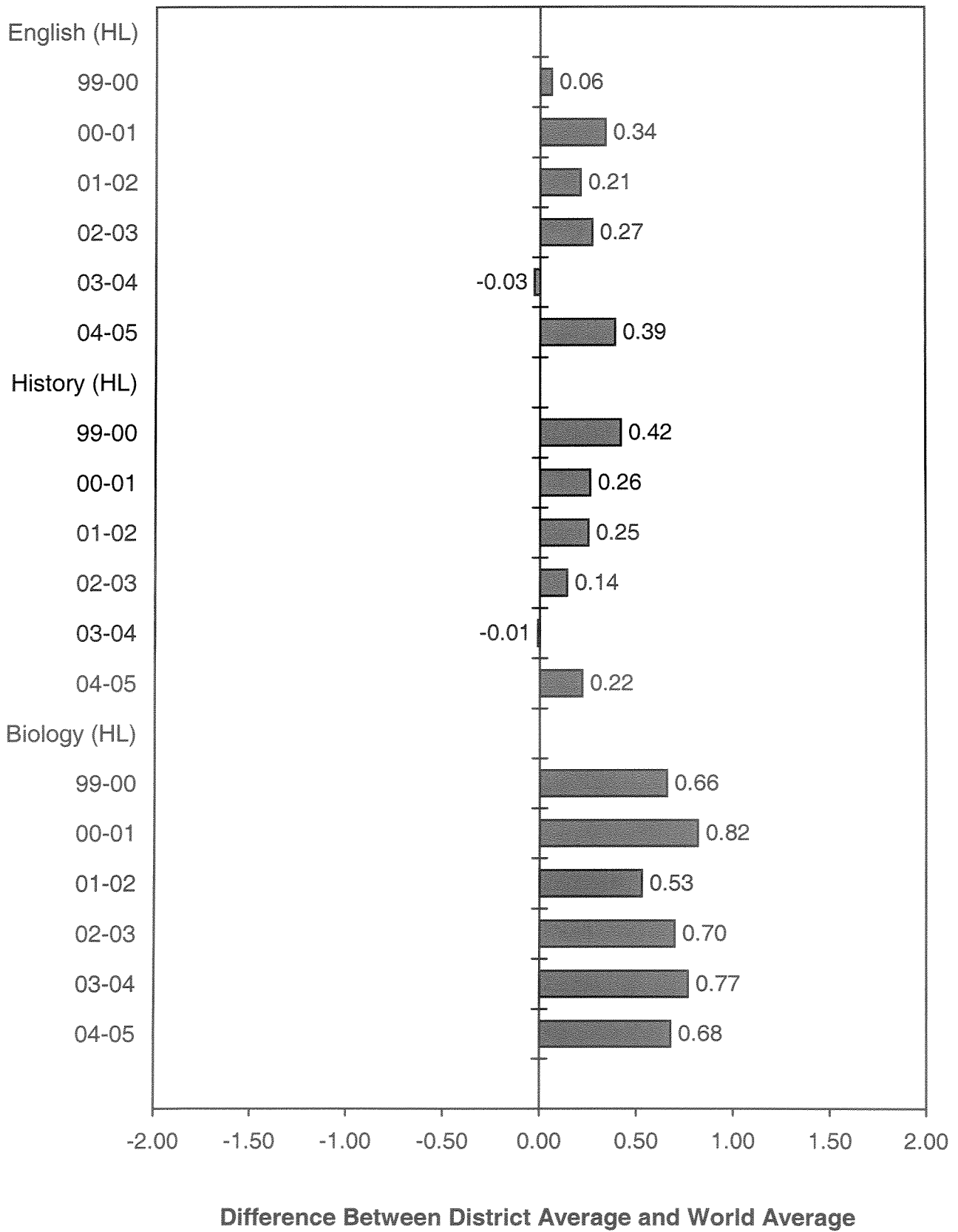
Appendix II provides school-by-school results for May 2005.

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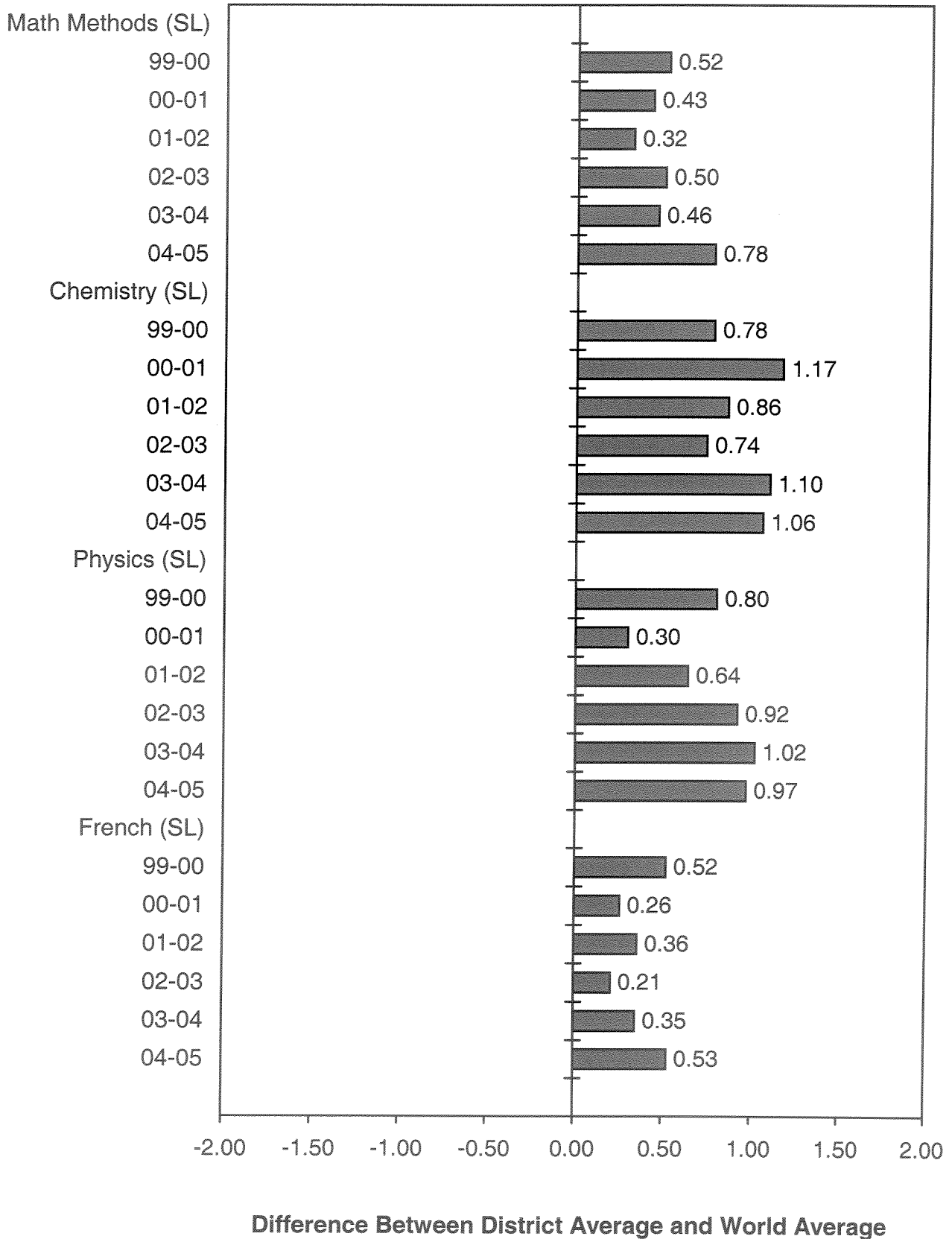
APPENDIX I - Comparison of District and World Averages on I. B. Examinations: 2000-2005

APPENDIX II - I.B. Examination Averages for District Schools: May 2005

**Comparison of District Averages and World Averages  
On IB Examinations 2000 to 2005**



### Comparison of District Averages and World Averages On IB Examinations 2000 to 2005



## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE EXAMINATION AVERAGES FOR DISTRICT SCHOOLS: May 2005

Subject	Harry Ainlay		Jasper Place		M. E. LaZerte		McNally		Old Scona		Ross Sheppard		Victoria	
	N	Ave.	N	Ave.	N	Ave.	N	Ave.	N	Ave.	N	Ave.	N	Ave.
English (HL)	106	5.34	10	5.50	26	4.42	59	4.98	42	5.74	30	5.23	38	5.21
History (HL)	98	5.59	8	4.75	22	4.36	41	4.78	33	5.48	31	5.10	29	4.79
Biology (HL)	107	4.68	8	4.38	29	3.62	40	4.35	85	5.76	32	4.88	10	4.50
Math Methods (SL)	90	5.69	11	5.18	27	4.85	40	6.05	70	6.11	43	5.28	10	4.30
Math (HL)			2	NR										
Chemistry (SL)	77	5.36	9	5.33	29	4.41	26	5.46	79	5.82	41	5.20	8	5.50
Physics (SL)	28	5.71	3	NR	21	3.43	7	5.00	66	5.39	4	NR		
Physics (HL)			4	NR			2	NR						
French B (SL)	68	5.37	1	NR			11	5.82	40	5.83	8	5.13	7	5.57
French AB (SL)					6	4.33	1	NR						
German AB (SL)	20	5.40					1	NR						
German B (SL)													1	NR
Mandarin B (SL)					8	6.75					8	6.50		
Mandarin AB (SL)					3	NR	9	5.56			6	5.50		
Mandarin B (HL)							23	5.65			2	NR		
Japanese AB (SL)	37	5.41												
Japanese B (SL)	2	NR												
Spanish AB (SL)							12	5.42			7	5.86	1	NR
Computing Sc (SL)							1	NR	7	4.71				
Visual Arts A (SL)	7	5.29					20	4.50			1	NR		
Visual Arts (HL)	5	NR												
Theatre Arts (HL)													5	NR
Music (HL)											1	NR		
Music Comp. (SL)							2	NR						
Music Gr. Perf (SL)	8	5.00									1	NR		
Music So. Perf (SL)							2	NR						
Dance (HL)													3	NR
Dance (SL)													2	NR

NR – Averages for courses with enrolments of fewer than 6 students are not reported.