

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 14, 2004

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: International Baccalaureate Examination Results: May 2004

ORIGINATOR: Bob Holt, Executive Director Instructional and Curricular Support Services

RESOURCE

STAFF: Anne Mulgrew, Lorie Welk

INFORMATION

In May 2004, 567 students from seven district high schools (Harry Ainlay, Jasper Place, M. E. LaZerte, McNally, Old Scona, Ross Sheppard, and Victoria) wrote a total of 1733 I.B. examinations. This represents a decrease of 21 students and 58 examinations compared to the previous year.

Table 1 provides a comparison of district results to world results from the May 2004 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: 2004

SUBJECT	Average Score (out of 7)		Number of District Students Writing
	E.P.S.	World	
English (HL)	4.83	4.86	260
History (HL)	5.05	5.06	238
Biology (HL)	4.86	4.09	264
Math Methods (SL)	5.36	4.90	271
Chemistry (SL)	5.60	4.50	228
Physics (SL)	5.23	4.21	129
French B (SL)	5.34	4.99	125
Mandarin B (HL)	5.59	6.11	27
Japanese AB (SL)	5.50	5.13	34
Visual Arts A (SL)	4.58	4.34	33

HL - Higher Level

SL - Standard Level

The 2004 district averages are higher than world averages for all of these courses except for English (HL), History (HL), and Mandarin B (HL). District students also wrote examinations in the following courses: German AB (SL), German B (SL), Spanish AB (SL), Mandarin AB

(SL), Mandarin B (SL), French AB (SL), Japanese B (SL), Chinese A2 (SL), Mathematics (HL), Biology (SL), Physics (HL), Computing Science (SL), Visual Arts (HL), Visual Arts B (SL), Music Solo Performance (SL), Music Group Performance (SL), Theatre Arts (HL), and Dance (SL). The number of students participating in any of these examinations ranged from a high of 22 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 2004, 110 out of 119 (92.4%) district I.B. diploma candidates were successful in obtaining their diploma. This represents a decrease in the number of diploma candidates relative to 2003 when there were 127 diploma candidates. The percentage of candidates successfully achieving diplomas in 2004 decreased by 2.1% relative to 2003.

Appendix I provides longitudinal data from 1998-2004 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 seven-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, for all three science courses and for French (SL), district averages exceeded world averages by a greater margin than was true in the previous year.

It is not legitimate 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 2004.

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APPENDIX I - Comparison of District and World Averages on I. B. Examinations: 1998-2004

APPENDIX II - I.B. Examination Averages for District Schools: May 2004