

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 28, 1999

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Alberta Learning Achievement Test Results: June 1999

ORIGINATOR: G. Reynolds, Department Head

RESOURCE

STAFF: Anne Mulgrew, Lorie Welk

INFORMATION

In June 1999, all students enrolled in grade 3 and special needs students in their third year of school wrote achievement tests in language arts and mathematics. All students enrolled in grades 6 and 9 and special needs students in their sixth and ninth year of school, wrote achievement tests in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students enrolled in grades 6 and 9 French immersion also wrote French language arts tests.

Table 1 provides a comparison of district performance in 1999 to 1998. These results include students who wrote in English and students who wrote in French.

TABLE 1
District Results on Alberta Learning Achievement Tests for 1998 and 1999

Test	% Meeting Acceptable Standard			% Meeting Standard of Excellence		
	1999	1998	Difference	1999	1998	Difference
Grade 3						
Language Arts	85.9	82.3	+3.6	13.8	14.2	-0.4
Mathematics	83.7	78.7	+5.0	26.2	20.4	+5.8
Grade 6						
Language Arts	81.3	80.2	+1.1	16.8	13.4	+3.8
Mathematics	83.5	80.8	+2.7	18.8	17.2	+1.6
Science	84.0	79.7	+4.3	27.6	20.1	+7.5
Social Studies	81.3	77.9	+3.4	18.9	18.1	+0.8
Fr. Lang. Arts	90.1	93.0	-2.9	16.4	12.2	+4.2
Grade 9						
Language Arts	85.0	85.2	-0.2	12.5	12.2	+0.3
Mathematics	71.6	72.4	-0.8	19.2	18.0	+1.3
Science	77.6	77.0	+0.6	17.4	14.4	+3.0
Social Studies	79.7	79.7	0.0	21.9	17.5	+4.4
Fr. Lang. Arts	90.4	93.2	-2.8	24.3	29.9	-5.6

Alberta Learning expects 85 per cent of students who write the achievement tests to meet the acceptable standard, and 15 per cent of students to achieve the standard of excellence. The district has also set a standard of meeting and exceeding the provincial expectations.

District results for 1999 show an increase in the percentage of students meeting the acceptable standard for all of the grade 3 and 6 achievement tests except grade 6 French language arts. The percentage of students meeting the acceptable standard decreased for three of the five grade 9 achievement tests. The percentage of students achieving the standard of excellence increased for all achievement tests except grade 3 language arts and grade 9 French language arts.

Appendix I provides a five-year history of the percentage of district students meeting standards on the Alberta Learning achievement tests. Results for mathematics are only provided for two years as the new curriculum was implemented in 1997-98, and new achievement standards were introduced. The information on these graphs indicates general improvement in the percentage of students achieving the acceptable standard over the time frame shown.

Table 2 provides information for the district and province with respect to participation rates and percentages of students meeting the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence for each of the achievement tests.

Table 2
District Results On Alberta Learning Achievement Tests
Compared to Provincial Results: June 1999

Achievement Test	Percentage of Eligible* Students Writing		Percentage of Students Meeting			
	Province	EPS	Province	EPS	Province	EPS
Grade 3						
Language Arts	94.1	94.2	88.7	85.9	15.8	13.8
Mathematics	94.6	94.8	84.8	83.7	25.2	26.2
Grade 6						
Language Arts	92.4	92.3	84.4	81.3	17.4	16.8
Mathematics	92.5	92.5	83.2	83.5	17.2	18.8
Science	92.7	93.2	84.4	84.0	24.1	27.6
Social Studies	92.4	92.6	81.9	81.3	17.3	18.9
Fr. Lang. Arts	94.5	98.2	88.5	90.1	11.3	16.4
Grade 9						
Language Arts	88.5	87.9	87.6	85.0	12.1	12.5
Mathematics	87.8	88.5	72.4	71.6	15.5	19.2
Science	89.0	89.6	78.5	77.6	14.8	17.4
Social Studies	89.2	90.2	80.5	79.7	17.7	21.9
Fr. Lang. Arts	98.5	98.9	87.1	90.4	14.1	24.3

* Students enrolled in grades 3, 6, and 9 and non-graded students in receipt of a special needs allocation who are in their third, sixth, or ninth year of school.

The percentage of eligible students writing the tests was higher for the district than for the province for all achievement tests except grade 6 language arts and mathematics, and grade 9 language arts. The percentage of students meeting the acceptable standard was lower for the district than for the province on all tests except grade 6 mathematics and French language arts, and grade 9 French language arts. The percentage of students meeting the standard of excellence was higher for the district than for the province for all tests except grades 3 and 6 language arts.

The Alberta Learning achievement tests are used as one of the indicators to monitor student achievement in the district. During the budget process in the spring of 1998, schools established targets for student achievement for the 1998-99 school year. The school targets were aggregated to determine a district target for each of the achievement tests with the exception of grades 6 and 9 French language arts. Table 3 provides information on 1999 targets and actual performance.

Table 3
District Results on 1999
Alberta Learning Achievement Tests Compared to Targets

Test	% Meeting Acceptable Standard			% Meeting Standard of Excellence		
	1999 Target	1999 Ach	Ach-Targ	1999 Target	1999 Ach	Ach-Targ
Grade 3						
Language Arts	87.6	85.9	-1.7	19.4	13.8	-5.6
Mathematics	88.0	83.7	-4.3	21.7	26.2	+4.5
Grade 6						
Language Arts	87.0	81.3	-5.7	19.3	16.8	-2.5
Mathematics	88.0	83.5	-4.5	21.8	18.8	-3.0
Science	87.1	84.0	-3.1	21.2	27.6	+6.4
Social Studies	86.7	81.3	-5.4	20.3	18.9	-1.4
Grade 9						
Language Arts	88.0	85.0	-3.0	17.8	12.5	-5.3
Mathematics	80.7	71.6	-9.1	20.3	19.2	-1.1
Science	84.4	77.6	-6.8	20.2	17.4	-2.8
Social Studies	85.2	79.7	-5.5	20.8	21.9	+1.1

District targets for the percentage of students meeting the acceptable standard were not met for any of the achievement tests. At the level of excellence, district targets were not met for any of the tests except grade 3 mathematics, grade 6 science, and grade 9 social studies.

The provincial achievement tests are primarily designed to provide the province and jurisdictions with information about the status of particular aspects of curricula that can be measured by paper and pencil tests. The results provide no information about the other knowledge, skills, and attitudes students are acquiring as they progress through school. Further, the results do not tell us why students performed as they did.

District schools have accessed results for provincial achievement tests. Principals will examine their school results to determine if curriculum is being implemented effectively. Detailed analysis of the data at the school will assist in identifying areas where student performance is different than expected.

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APPENDIX I - Alberta Learning Achievement Test Results: June 1999: Percentage of Students Achieving Standards