

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 30, 2003

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: International Baccalaureate Examination Results: May 2003

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

RESOURCE

STAFF: Anne Mulgrew, Lorie Welk

INFORMATION

In May 2003, 588 students from seven district high schools (Harry Ainlay, Jasper Place, M. E. LaZerte, McNally, Old Scona, Ross Sheppard, and Victoria) wrote a total of 1791 I.B. examinations. This represents an increase of 25 students and 88 examinations compared to the previous year.

Table 1 provides a comparison of district results to world results from the May 2003 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: 2003**

SUBJECT	Average Score (out of 7)		Number of District Students Writing
	E.P.S.	World	
English (HL)	5.19	4.92	270
History (HL)	5.17	5.03	258
Biology (HL)	5.11	4.41	286
Math Methods (SL)	5.41	4.91	291
Chemistry (SL)	5.01	4.27	239
Physics (SL)	5.31	4.39	104
French B (SL)	4.92	4.71	144
Mandarin B (SL)	5.63	5.40	41
Japanese AB (SL)	5.47	5.20	30
Visual Arts A (SL)	4.21	4.48	28

HL - Higher Level

SL - Standard Level

The 2003 district averages are higher than world averages for all of these courses except for Visual Arts A. District students also wrote examinations in the following courses: German AB (SL), Spanish AB (SL), Mandarin AB (SL), German B (SL), French AB (SL), Physics (HL),

Chemistry (HL), Computing Science (SL), Visual Arts (HL) Music Composition (SL), Music Solo Performance (SL), Music Group Performance (SL), Theatre Arts (HL), Dance (HL) and Dance (SL). The number of students participating in any of these examinations ranged from a high of 20 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 2003, 120 out of 127 (94.5%) district I.B. diploma candidates were successful in obtaining their diploma. This represents an increase in the number of diploma candidates relative to 2002 when there were only 114 diploma candidates. The percentage of candidates successfully achieving diplomas was identical to the previous year.

Appendix I provides longitudinal data from 1998-2003 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. For some courses, however, there does appear to be a tendency for the district average to be getting closer to the world average. This is especially apparent for History (HL) and somewhat apparent for Chemistry (SL) and French (SL).). This tendency may be due to the increased number of district students from a wider variety of schools challenging IB examinations.

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 2003.

AM:fm

APPENDIX I - Comparison of District and World Averages on I. B. Examinations: 1998-2003

APPENDIX II - I.B. Examination Averages for District Schools: May 2003