

# News Release Communiqué



Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

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## **MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT CONGRATULATES SCHOOL BOARDS ON EXCELLENT ACHIEVEMENT IN READING, WRITING AND MATH**

*More Than Half Of Ontario's Boards Show Improvement In Every Area Over Last Year*

QUEEN'S PARK – School boards are making good progress in helping their students improve their skills in literacy and numeracy, said Education Minister Sandra Pupatello today.

Since last year, many school boards have seen improvement in their Grade 3 and Grade 6 students' reading, writing and math tests, administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). For example, 83 per cent of boards improved their Grade 3 reading scores, 63 per cent improved Grade 6 reading scores, and other assessment areas improved to varying degrees.

"I'm really pleased with these results," said Pupatello. "This clearly shows we're on the right track to reach every student. Congratulations to the students and their teachers and principals for their hard work. They should all be very proud of their achievement.

Double the number of schools in Ontario are achieving at or above the provincial standard since the McGuinty government came to office in 2003. Nearly 900 schools, or one-quarter of elementary schools in Ontario, had at least 75 per cent of students achieving at the provincial standard in Grade 6 reading in 2005-06. In 2002-03, fewer than 450 schools met the provincial standard in reading.

The government has set a target of 75 per cent of students meeting or exceeding the provincial standard in reading, writing and math by 2008. EQAO test scores from the 2005-06 school year show that overall, 64 per cent of Ontario Grade 3 and 6 students are meeting or exceeding the provincial standards in reading, writing and math. This accounts for a 10 percentage point increase from 54 per cent in 2002-03, the year before the government assumed office.

The goal of 75 per cent of students meeting the provincial standard by 2008 has already been exceeded by French-language students in Grade 6 mathematics.

"Achievement in literacy and numeracy in the early grades is more likely to lead students to greater academic success so they will graduate from high school and build successful careers," said Pupatello.

Achievement by English language learners (ESL students) in Grade 3 and Grade 6 improved dramatically this year in reading, writing and mathematics, closing the gap with students whose first language is English. Compared to 2002-03, this year's results show a 17 percentage point improvement in each of reading and writing and a 13 percentage point improvement in mathematics for Grade 3 students. At the Grade 6 level, scores increased 13 percentage points in reading, 15 percentage points in writing and 11 percentage points in mathematics, compared to 2002-03.

Grade 6 EQAO reading results and progress in Grade 6 EQAO reading results are two of the eight indicators that show Ontario boards' progress in reaching every student and helping them succeed. The board progress reports will be updated shortly with the new 2005-06 data from EQAO and are available at [www.ontario.ca/schoolboardprogress](http://www.ontario.ca/schoolboardprogress).

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