

**Ministry of Education**

Minister

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Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

Édifce Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



May 8, 2017

Dear colleagues:

As you may know, earlier today, May 8, 2017, I announced the [province-wide 2016 high school graduation rate](#).

I am very pleased to see that Ontario's high school students are graduating in record numbers, and that they are graduating with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed now and in the future.

Here are the latest provincial graduation results:

- In 2016, the five-year graduation rate increased to 86.5 per cent. That's up one percentage point over last year, and more than 18 percentage points compared to 2004.
- Last year's four-year graduation rate is also good news. It was up by more than a percentage point to 79.6 per cent. That represents an increase of more than 23 percentage points since 2004.

Ontario's strong provincial graduation rate is a testament to the hard work of students, and the support of their parents -- along with the dedication and collaborative professionalism of educators and staff across the province.

Not only are we celebrating the efforts of teachers, administrators, and support staff who have enabled our students to succeed, but we are also taking this opportunity to highlight our students' significant progress.

This year, along with publishing [board-by-board graduation rates](#) on the Ministry of Education website, we are also sharing the three-year trend for each board's graduation rates. This is a part of a commitment we made to ensure that parents are well informed about how students and boards are doing across the province.

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I am very proud of the efforts that Ontario's publicly funded education sector has made to support students to graduate. In fact, our province is a leader when it comes to student achievement. Our students continue to perform better than most on international assessments in reading, science and mathematics.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing commitment to prepare our students for a productive and successful future, and please share my gratitude with your colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH' with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Mitzie Hunter, MBA  
Minister