



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DSBN continues to have high success rates on Literacy Test

The results of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test that was administered in March 2006 were released today by the Education Quality and Accountability Office. District School Board of Niagara students who completed the assessment performed well again this year. Eighty three percent of first-time eligible students passed the test compared to the provincial average of 84 percent. Compared to the previous year, most schools maintained a high success rate and some schools showed a modest increase. Participation rates increased overall indicating that schools are continuing to provide more students with adequate preparation to participate by their second year of secondary school.

"We are encouraged by the results and will continue to focus on working together to implement strategies that we know have been successful in many of our schools." said Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education. " We need to sharpen the focus and ensure that we can help every single student be successful."

Schools attribute their success to the work of Literacy Teams, which include teachers from all subject areas working together to include activities to reinforce reading and writing skills across the curriculum. Some schools have included activities such as Drop Everything and Read, that encourage students to enjoy reading for pleasure. Others have worked hard to motivate students to attend more regularly in order to be more successful.

Schools will examine the detailed information provided by EQAO in order to determine specific areas for focus and set goals for the coming year. Individual student results will be sent home later this month.

The OSSLT was administered in March 2006 to 3500 students in Grade 10 in 22 secondary schools in the DSBN. Successful completion of the test is one of 32 requirements for students to be granted an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Changes in the test this year included shortening the time of administration from two half days to one half day, and blending together reading and writing results to provide a single success rate.

With the involvement of teachers from across Ontario, the OSSLT is designed, administered and marked by the Education Quality and Accountability Office, an arm's length agency of the Ministry of Education. More information about EQAO as well as school by school results are available on their website at www.eqao.com

- 30 -

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