

September 19, 2007

For Immediate Release

## **DSBN Announces 2007 EQAO Results**

Today, the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) released the province-wide results of the 2007 Primary and Junior Student Assessments in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. The District School Board of Niagara's results have remained at approximately 3-5% below the provincial average.

"While we had hoped that the strategies we have implemented would have shown greater improvement in results, we are confident that through our commitment to literacy and numeracy curricula combined with the tremendous work accomplished by our teachers across our board, future results will improve," said Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education for the District School Board of Niagara. "We will be patient and persistent as we continue to concentrate on implementing evidence-based strategies we know will work," he said.

Amid the understanding at the DSBN that there is room for improvement, there are encouraging signs in the results. The Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics showed significant increases. Thirty-four percent of students enrolled in Grade 9 Applied Mathematics achieved Level 3 & 4, which is the Provincial Standard, an increase of five percent over last year. Students enrolled in Academic Mathematics experienced a modest increase of one percent, however 65 percent of the students tested achieved Level 3 & 4.

"In addition to the performance of Grade 9 students in Applied Mathematics, very positive improvements are evident in some schools where we have introduced strategies such

as Literacy Coaches and Balanced School Day timetables,” observed Ardeth Staz, Superintendent of Student Learning.

Principals, vice-principals and teachers will be taking time to review their school’s results, using the comprehensive data to develop school growth plans for the upcoming year. “This snapshot shows there is still work to be done. We will continue to work together with our teachers toward supporting our students in learning and achieving success,” said Hoshizaki.

Kevin Maves, Chair of the District School Board of Niagara, noted, “Student success is measured in many ways, not just by one assessment. At the DSBN we are proud of the opportunities students have to achieve both academically and in a multitude of other areas such as the Arts, Character Education, Citizenship, Technology and Athletics, to name a few.”

*For more information about the 2007 EQAO results please contact:*  
Ardeth Staz, Superintendent of Student Learning, 905-641-1550 ext. 4105

*Media Inquiries:*  
Kim Yielding, Manager, Communications and Public Relations  
905-641-2929 ext. 4160 / kim.yielding@dsbn.edu.on.ca

# Media Backgrounder

## EQAO Assessment Results, 2006-07

The Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics Primary Division (Grades 1-3) and Junior Division (Grades 4-6) are based on the reading, writing and mathematics expectations in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1–8*. These assessments provide both individual and system data on students' achievement.

### Primary Assessment Results:

	Percentage of students at or above the provincial standard (Level 3 & 4)	
	DSBN	Province
Reading	59	62
Writing	61	64
Mathematics	66	69

### Junior Assessment Results:

	Percentage of students at or above the provincial standard (Level 3 & 4)	
	DSBN	Province
Reading	60	64
Writing	56	61
Mathematics	54	59

The Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics provides individual and system data on students' knowledge and skills, based on the expectations for students in Grade 9 applied and academic programs in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: Mathematics*. All students in these programs are required to participate in the assessment.

### Grade 9 Mathematics Assessment Results:

	Percentage of students at or above the provincial standard (Level 3 & 4)	
	DSBN	Province
Applied	34	35
Academic	65	71