

Report of the 1999-2000 Provincial Grade 3 & Grade 6 Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics

Glad Park Public School

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

ABOUT THE GRADE 3 & GRADE 6 ASSESSMENTS

The *Grade 3 and Grade 6 Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics* are conducted annually in every publicly funded Ontario elementary school under the auspices of the province's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). The assessments are based on *The Ontario Curriculum: Grades 1-8* and measure how well students have met the provincial expectations in reading, writing and mathematics. The students' work was marked according to four levels of achievement based on the expectations in the provincial curriculum. In the *Ontario Curriculum*, Level 3 represents the expected standard for Grade 3 and Grade 6 and identifies a high level of achievement of the provincial expectations. The work students produced during the assessment was marked by teams of specially trained classroom teachers and principals.

The assessments took place over a period of five days from May 8 to 26, 2000. For 2 1/2 hours each day, students participated in brief introductory activities with their classmates and teacher and then worked independently to read and respond to passages, to write responses and to solve mathematical problems. The use of real-world problems required students to use factual knowledge to apply, organize and communicate what they know and can do. The Grade 3 assessment was based on the concept of *Change* and the Grade 6 assessment was based on *Perspectives*.

The results of these assessments should be used to improve learning and teaching, not to rank schools. Rankings tell us nothing about why scores are high or low. They invite simplistic and misleading comparisons which ignore the particular circumstances that affect achievement in each school and they also distract people from addressing the critical issues of how to improve learning for all students.

CONTEXT FOR THE SCHOOL

Glad Park Public School is presently a school of 448 students. At the time of the assessment there were 398 students with 40 of these students in grade 3 and 58 students in grade 6. At the grade 3 level, 5% of the students were exempt from the assessment. A significant number of grade 6 students (16%) were exempt from the assessment. These students are identified as exceptional pupils whose skills are well below the expected grade level.

The Glad Park Public School community is represented by families from both urban and rural settings in approximately equal proportions. The predominant language for all students at Glad Park Public School is English. Approximately 15% of the student population is receiving special education support with an additional 5% of the student population receiving some form of remedial programming in mathematics or language.

The focus of the school for the past three years has been in literacy and numeracy. Last year a greater emphasis was also placed on the implementation of the science curriculum. Programs presently in place to support this focus include Reading Recovery, reading intervention and reading partner programs. The Interactions math program is in full implementation from kindergarten through grade eight. Last year 95% of the teaching staff was trained in the First Steps Writing program. The E.Q.A.O. assessment results as well as other school-generated data confirm the effectiveness of our program. Glad Park Public School students, in both grade 3 and grade 6, performed well above the provincial averages and at or above school board averages on the E.Q.A.O. assessment.

Generally, students at both grade 3 and grade 6 performed better at writing and mathematics than at reading. Although the scores in reading were good, a review should take place to look at, explain and address this discrepancy.

Parents at Glad Park Public School play an integral role in the success of the students. Parents, grandparents, and community volunteers provide support in many areas. The School Council is very supportive of the school's curriculum focus and the various programs implemented by the school.

GRADE 6 RESULTS

Glad Park Public School

DEMOGRAPHICS

58 Students in Grade 6

0% In English as a Second Language Program

16% Exempted in all three subjects

22% Receiving Special Education support

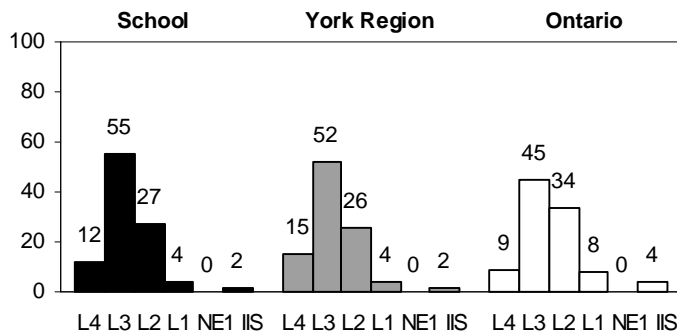
OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT IN READING, WRITING AND MATHEMATICS

- L4 (Level 4) - Always or almost always** demonstrates expected knowledge, understanding and application of skills
- L3 (Level 3) - Usually** demonstrates expected knowledge, understanding and application of skills (the expected standard within the *Ontario Curriculum*)
- L2 (Level 2) - Sometimes** demonstrates expected knowledge, understanding and application of skills
- L1 (Level 1) - Sometimes** demonstrates expected knowledge, understanding or application of skills **in limited ways**

- NE1 (Not Enough Evidence for Level 1)** - Answered enough questions but did not produce enough evidence to receive a Level 1
- IIS (Insufficient Information to Score)** - Did not answer enough questions in any sections
- ND (No Data)** - % of students who did not complete any work during the assessment
- EX (Exemptions)** - % of students for whom exemptions were permitted according to EQAO guidelines

READING

Percentage of Participating Students at Each Level



Percentage of Participating Students at Levels 3 & 4 ^a

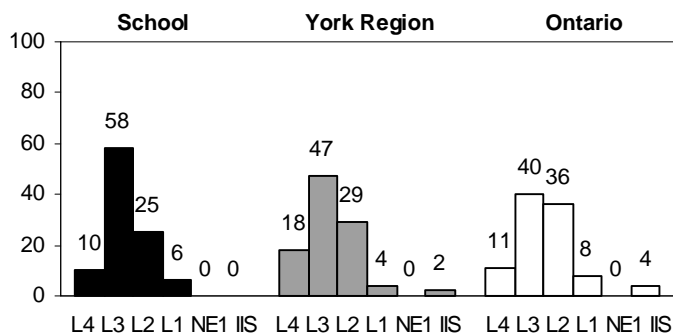
School	67
York Region	67
Ontario	54

Percentage of **All** Students at Each Level

	L4	L3	L2	L1	NE1	IIS	ND	EX
School	10	47	22	3	0	2	0	16
York Region	14	50	25	4	0	2	0	5
Ontario	8	43	32	8	0	4	0	5

WRITING

Percentage of Participating Students at Each Level



Percentage of Participating Students at Levels 3 & 4 ^a

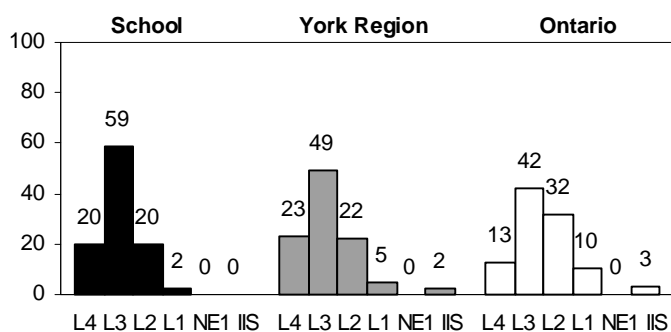
School	69
York Region	64
Ontario	51

Percentage of **All** Students at Each Level

	L4	L3	L2	L1	NE1	IIS	ND	EX
School	9	48	21	5	0	0	0	17
York Region	17	44	27	4	0	2	0	5
Ontario	10	38	34	8	0	4	0	5

MATHEMATICS

Percentage of Participating Students at Each Level



Percentage of Participating Students at Levels 3 & 4 ^a

School	78
York Region	71
Ontario	55

Percentage of **All** Students at Each Level

	L4	L3	L2	L1	NE1	IIS	ND	EX
School	16	47	16	2	0	0	0	21
York Region	22	46	21	4	0	2	0	5
Ontario	12	40	30	9	0	3	0	5

^a: Due to rounding, the percentage at Levels 3 & 4 may not equal the sum of the percentages at each of Level 3 & 4 in the bar charts.

NEXT STEPS

Glad Park Public School continues to be committed to the development and enhancement of student achievement. In conjunction with staff and the parent community through the school council, the focus of the school in the past year has been on literacy, numeracy, writing and science. High proportions of the students are functioning at or above the Ministry standards (level 3 and 4). In grade 3 the reading, writing and mathematics scores indicate that 66% (reading), 73% (writing) and 86% (mathematics) of the students are at level 3 and 4. In grade 6, the reading, writing and mathematics scores indicate that 67% (reading), 68% (writing), and 78% (mathematics) of the students are at or above the standard (level 3 and 4). These results are significantly higher than the provincial averages and either at or above school board averages. While these results are very encouraging, we must continue to address the needs of the students who are near the standards (level 2) in all areas.

The school plan for continuous improvement does focus on objectives and strategies for the further development of the reading, writing and mathematics curriculum. Additional plans and strategies will be considered to raise levels and scores so that they are more in line with the higher scores in mathematics. The Reading Recovery program, Reading Academy, Reading Literacy and Guided Reading at the primary division are all in place and will continue. Most of the teachers at Glad Park were trained in the "First Steps" writing programs and are implementing this program in the classroom. This year the Jolly Phonics program will be implemented at the kindergarten level to help develop early reading skills. The Interactions math program is in the fourth year of implementation at Glad Park Public School from kindergarten to grade 8. Additional resources will be put in place to enhance the mathematics program beginning at the intermediate level, and extended to the primary and junior divisions by next year. These resources will supplement the present Interactions program. Continued emphasis will be placed on problem solving, geometry, spatial sense and communication of required knowledge. Through the implementation of the science curriculum, students will learn to read and understand material of a technical nature.

Throughout the year in-service sessions for the staff will continue in all areas of the curriculum. Through these sessions, staff will solidify their skills to assist students in acquiring the required elements of the curriculum.

During the 2000-2001 academic year, key personnel at the school will undergo extensive training in assessment of student performance. The following year an extensive training program and in-service will take place for the staff to develop skills in assessment and classroom application.

In previous years, specific reading programs were introduced to bring the school and home together in further developing reading skills for all students at Glad Park Public School. These initiatives will continue with a focus to increase the amount of reading that takes place in the home for students at all levels.

The staff will meet to discuss the results of the E.Q.A.O. assessment and other school data. Implications for program development and issues related to levels of instruction will be considered. Revisions to the school plan will be made, where required, to meet the continuing needs of the students. Such revisions will be discussed with the school council and the action plan for improvement will be shared with the parent community early in the new year.

For further information about this report please contact:

Principal: Walter Chewchuck
Glad Park Public School
300 Glad Park Ave.
Stouffville, Ontario
L4A 1E5
(905)642-0224

