

ESA

Education Services Agreement Progress Report 2023-24



**Mississaugas of the Credit
First Nation Students**





Grand Erie Land Acknowledgement

Grand Erie District School Board recognizes **Six Nations of the Grand River** and **Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation**, as the longstanding peoples of this territory.

We honour, recognize, and respect these communities as well as all **First Nations**, **Métis** and **Inuit Peoples** who reside within Grand Erie District School Board.

We are all stewards of these lands and waters where we now gather, learn and play, and commit to working together in the spirit of Reconciliation.

Executive Summary



The Education Services Agreement for Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) students is an agreement between the Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) and MCFN, that outlines the services, programs and supports that were provided to students from MCFN that attend Grand Erie schools.

This report highlights the work of the 2023-24 school year, specifically related to the progress of these students and the team whose work emerges from this Education Services Agreement.

Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2021-26

The Multi-Year Strategic Plan provides a focused direction for growth and improvement throughout Grand Erie and all levels of the organization. It charts our path and vision for the future. This Multi-Year Strategic Plan includes a greater focus on access to learning, equity and inclusiveness, and a culture of well-being to foster greater student success.

Our goal:

To deepen our system commitment to reconciliation and improve education achievement outcomes for all First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.

How will we achieve this goal?

- Professional development to actively engage in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action
- Promote and participate in reconciliation and community engagement opportunities
- Engage in authentic learning with Indigenous peoples, communities, and perspectives
- Deliver Indigenous courses that allow students to see themselves in their own learning (language, culture etc.)

How will we know we are successful?

- Increased participation in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Additional Qualification courses and in reconciliation events and cultural competency training
- Increased opportunities for staff and students to voice their experiences and perspectives in a variety of communication and learning platforms
- Increased 4- and 5-year graduation rates (Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)) and a decrease in number of early leavers
- Increased Indigenous resources within schools across Grand Erie
- Increased Indigenous language and curriculum offerings across the district

Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

The purpose of Grand Erie's Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) is to promote and improve Indigenous Education (IE) for all students. Membership on this committee includes the MCFN Director of Life-long Learning, Education Pillar Lead and an additional representative.

Moving Forward

Throughout the 2023-24 school year Grand Erie worked to ensure supports have been put into place that align with the Strategic Plan of Learning, Well-Being and Belonging. To support this work, efforts have been made by the Indigenous Education Team and additional Cultural Mentors/Graduation Coaches who are working directly with students, to monitor the progress of students from registration to graduation. Several new initiatives have also been put into place to support students across the district and within communities; these fall within four areas. Included are examples of what is being done within these areas:

Deliver Indigenous courses that allow students to see themselves in their learning

1. Technology to reorganize digital platforms for language development and curriculum support
2. Updating the portal to provide a more prevalent Indigenous presence within Grand Erie
3. Review and unpack new curriculum
4. Extend Indigenous languages course registration across the board through online learning platform

Authentic learning with Indigenous peoples, communities, and perspectives

1. Teacher requests for community support
2. Learning commons development
3. Creation of a dedicated space to support Indigenous students at Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School and Tollgate Technological Skills Centre
4. Learning from the land/land-based learning
5. Indigenous Professional Learning Environment (PLE) in BrightSpace

Professional development to actively engage in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action

1. Professional development
2. Cultural kits - Resource Implementation, Professional Development
3. Speaker series with Indigenous community members

Promote and participate in reconciliation community engagement opportunities

1. Student leadership/engagement (secondary and elementary)
2. Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)
3. Community guest speakers
4. Information sessions, transition planning. For example: EPIC jobs events.



Grand Erie Indigenous students at an EPIC Jobs event



Aanii, Boozhoo!

Tammy Sault ndizhnikaas. Hagersville, Mississaugas of the Credit doonjibaa, shiikahn dodem, Mississauga Anishinaabe ndaaw.

I am humbled and honoured to represent the interests of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation students at the board table. I am entering my second year of this term and have learned so much about how the board works towards Truth and Reconciliation, and supporting our MCFN students who attend GEDSB schools. Our students have a sense of belonging in their schools because of these concerted efforts by the board to hear the students, see the students and embrace them in a warm learning environment.

I was honoured to attend the graduation ceremony for many of our MCFN students as they embark on their learning journey outside of Grand Erie. To see their

secondary education come to fruition is truly amazing for MCFN. Congratulations to our graduates and their families for all the hard work and dedication to reach this incredible milestone.

I look forward to working with Grand Erie to support our MCFN students as they continue to Lead, Learn and Inspire.

Miigwech miinwaa
baamaapii kwaabmin.

Tammy Sault
Grand Erie 2023-24



Tammy Sault
Represents Mississaugas
of the Credit First Nation
Students Under The ESA

ESA Undertakings

Summer Programs

The Grand Erie District School Board Summer School program is open to all Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation students as they finish their grade 7 year. Students can register in the summer school program to get ahead in their credit count or to recover a credit they previously missed in their regular school year. Unfortunately, due to lack of enrollment by the deadline, Summer School courses did not have any in person courses on Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We were unable to host in-person support for those registered online. We hope to grow our summer school opportunities in the coming summers to include more programming and supports. We need students and families to register for Summer School as soon as registration is open to ensure we have sufficient enrolment.

Partnership with MCFN

Grand Erie works with Lloyd S. King Elementary (LSK) administration and staff for an ongoing and strengthened partnership focused on respect and reciprocity leading to:

- smoother transitions of MCFN students from Grade 8 to secondary school and improved student attendance and achievement
- opportunities for co-planning/co-teaching
- inclusion of MCFN school staff in Grand Erie professional development for teachers
- increased involvement of MCFN parents/caregivers in the education of their children

Indigenous Languages

To encourage and support the ongoing commitment to the restoration of Indigenous languages as documented in the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report 2015, Grand Erie has implemented Native Language courses in Anishinaabemowin utilizing the same criteria contained in the current Ministry of Education Native Languages curriculum guidelines. These courses are available to all students of Grand Erie where numbers warrant delivery.

Grand Erie continued to offer an Anishinaabemowin language course through an online platform. We were able to offer this course to all of our Grand Erie students from grades 7 and up. Students in the Nations and New Start programs were also supported with in-person teacher support to assist with their online language course.



Enrolment in Indigenous Language and Indigenous Studies Courses in the 2023-24 School Year

Course Code and Title	Enrolment
LNAAO - Native Languages - Cayuga	62
LNABO - Native Languages - Cayuga	9
LNMAO - Native Languages - Mohawk	34
LNMBO - Native Languages - Mohawk	7
LNOAO - Native Languages - Ojibwe	43
LNOBO - Native Languages - Ojibwe	5
NAA4TY - Aboriginal and Western Perspectives	6
NAC1O - Expressions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Cultures	156
NAC2O - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada	87
NBE3C - English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices	700
NBE3E - English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices	228
NBE3U - English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices	861
NBV3E - World Views and Aspirations of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Communities in Canada	37
Total	2,233

Mississauga of the Credit First Nation students may choose from six (6) Grand Erie secondary schools, listed below, for which bussing is provided by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Students may register at any other Grand Erie secondary school, however transportation is not provided.

McKinnon Park Secondary School

- **Principal:** Rob Malcolm
- **Vice-Principal:** Adriana Potichnyj

Hagersville Secondary School

- **Principal:** Jeff Benner and Jeff Allison
- **Vice-Principal:** Launa Larlee-Dennis/
Andrea Jenkins

Brantford Collegiate Institute & Vocational School

- **Principal:** Mike DeGroote
- **Vice Principal:** Deb Barbon
- **Vice Principal:** Steve Burroughs/Heidi Schleifer

Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School

- **Principal:** Griffin Cobb
- **Vice Principal:** Jason Smith
- **Vice Principal:** Nicola Dean

Tollgate Technological Skills Centre

- **Principal:** Yvan Brochu
- **Vice Principal:** Tracy Hale

Cayuga Secondary School

- **Principal:** Amber Mitchell
- **Vice Principal:** Colin Miller

Transition Activities

The Indigenous Lead and transition teachers together with the Lloyd S. King administrators and staff, participated in the implementation of the Grand Erie Transition Plan in 2023-24.

Collaboratively, the staff jointly planned pathway placements, timetabling, and supports for Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) students entering grade 9.

A designate from the requested secondary school participated in the transition activities accompanied by the school's student success teacher or learning resource teacher.

The following activities were completed in the 2023-24 school year to facilitate successful transition of MCFN students to Grand Erie grade 9 programs.

Secondary School Information and Special Program Information Sessions

Grade 7 and 8 students and their parents/caregivers were invited to attend information events and tours at Grand Erie secondary schools. Other transition programs included the Right Fit at the Gathering Place, the Grand Erie Technology and Experiential Learning Day for grade 8 students, and the Beyond EPIC Jobs Event.

Identification, Placement and Review Committee Meetings (IPRC)

Grand Erie Specialized Services staff participated in transition meetings for grade 8 students to determine placement recommendations and discuss individual transition plans.



Grand Erie – Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Transition Plan 2023-24 for Regular Program Placements

Grand Erie Secondary School Information

Secondary School Information videos were provided to all Grade 8 students at Lloyd S. King Elementary to share with Grade 8 students and parents/caregivers. The video was also posted to the MCFN Education website.

Secondary School information and Special Program information events

All secondary schools facilitated information events for future Grade 9 students and their parents/caregivers.

MCFN families were invited to attend information events at:

- Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School
- Cayuga Secondary School
- Hagersville Secondary School
- McKinnon Park Secondary School
- Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School
- Tollgate Technological Skills Centre

Grade 8 Transition Meetings

Grand Erie staff organized Grade 8 transition meetings with each Grade 8 teacher to discuss the secondary school needs of each student.

Secondary School Registration

A bundled registration package for Brantford Collegiate Institute, Cayuga Secondary, Hagersville Secondary, McKinnon Park, Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Tollgate Technological Skills Centre was created in digital format and delivered to all MCFN schools. Completed registration packages were submitted digitally by Grade 8 teachers on behalf of parents/caregivers. Grand Erie and MCFN staff worked collaboratively to ensure Grade 8 students submitted secondary school registration packages in a timely manner to ensure their programming requests were in place for September.

Grade 8 Parent Meetings

Meetings were offered to each Grade 8 student and parent with staff from their chosen secondary school (Student Success teachers) to discuss student strengths, needs, and interests.

My Blueprint Education and Career Planning resource

Grand Erie transition teachers worked collaboratively with MCFN intermediate teachers and students on orientation activities available on MyBlueprint and Edge Factor education and career planning websites.

Grade 7 & 8 Student Visits to Secondary Schools

Grand Erie secondary schools welcomed future Grade 9 students from MCFN and their parents/caregivers to an orientation day that included school tours, staff and student meet and greets, program information and lunch.

Beyond Epic Jobs Event

Grade 8 Students from both Grand Erie and Lloyd S. King Elementary School (LSK) who would be attending the same secondary school were partnered together to connect online and learn from each other. The goal was to make connections to lower anxiety related to the transition. Prior to meeting in person, the Grand Erie Indigenous Education Team planned online activities for both classes to complete and share together to start to build a sense of community and belonging. A day was planned by the Student Success Team to have all these students meet in person and have a Grand Erie secondary school leadership class engage the students in team-building games. They also shared lunch together. Following this morning event students were bused to The Wayne Gretzky Centre to take part in the Beyond Epic Jobs Event. Beyond Epic Jobs is an interactive event for students that introduces them to the skilled trades.



Grand Erie – Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Transition Plan 2023-24 for Self-contained Special Education Placements

Self-Contained Recommendations Meeting

Grand Erie Program Coordinator for Special Education and MCFN Special Education/Transition Lead and/ or designates reviewed the needs of the students being recommended for self contained placements in Grade 9 to discuss program options. Parents/caregivers were invited to participate.

Self-Contained Program Placements Confirmed

Self-contained program placement options were confirmed by Grand Erie. Conversations with Grade 8 parents/ caregivers occurred to discuss and approve final placement via registration forms.

Parent Meetings

Secondary school staff connected with parents/caregivers of students who registered with their secondary school to discuss individualized transition needs for their students.

Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC)

Secondary school staff participated in IPRC meetings of Grade 8 students who registered at their secondary school.



The Grand Erie Action Plan

Grand Erie's Multi-Year Strategic Plan includes the following priorities around Learning, Well-Being and Belonging:

We build a culture of learning to nurture curiosity and opportunity for each learner;

We build a culture of well-being to support the cognitive, social, emotional and physical needs of each learner;

We build a culture of belonging to support an equitable, inclusive and responsive environment for each learner.

This provides MCFN students with an additional layer of support for their success. The 2023-24 Board Action Plan for Indigenous students provided initiatives that directly impacted MCFN students including:

- Indigenous Student Leadership Initiative
- Transition to secondary school activities for Grade 8 students at all schools
- Professional development activities for educators
- Intermediate graduation coach and elementary Indigenous engagement

Grand Erie has developed a variety of innovative community-based education programs to meet the needs of MCFN students. These programs offered at Grand Erie's Community Based Learning Centre provide for more opportunities in experiential and culturally relevant learning. Grand Erie continues to seek innovative strategies and program delivery models to meet the needs of all learners, including those who may require re-engagement programs and alternative ways to earn secondary school credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

Nations and Newstart

The Nations and Newstart programs provide alternative learning in a community setting for secondary students from MCFN, Six Nations, and surrounding areas. It serves secondary students who prefer smaller and more flexible learning environment.

Program Highlights:

- **Eligible Students:** Grand Erie secondary students in Grades 9-12+, up to age 21 years old.
- **Supported Pathways:** All grades and pathways.
- **Program Details:** Co-op program

Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECPP)

Under the provisions of Section 23 of the Ministry of Education's General Legislative Grant Regulation (Reg. 287/98) educational programs may be provided by District School Boards in collaboration with community partners, for school- aged young people, who for various reasons are unable to attend regular schools. Grand Erie offers two Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECPP) specific to Indigenous students.

Ratiweientehta's – They Are Learning

Grand Erie District School Board has partnered with Ganohkwasra Family Assault Support Services to offer a ECPP classroom out of the Youth Lodge facility. Ganohkwasra provides therapeutic counselling and services while a Grand Erie Teacher provides individualized academic programming.

Program Highlights:

- **Eligible Students:** Students aged 13-21
- **Supported Pathways:** All grades and pathways
- **Program Details:** Students must complete an intake process with Ganohkwasra intake worker. They must have exhausted resources at their home school

Ohahi:yo Program

In partnership with the Ministry of Child and Youth Services – Youth Justice Services Division, Grand Erie employs one (1) itinerant teacher to provide services and supports to First Nation, Métis and Inuit youth who are engaged in some capacity with the youth justice system. Through a holistic approach, students are provided individualized program planning and support toward their full re-engagement into schooling and community.

Program Highlights:

- **Eligible Students:** FNMI self-identified youth 14-21 years old engaged in Youth Justice System
- **Supported Pathway:** All grades and pathways
- **Program Details:** Students must be referred by youth justice connection, such as a Probation Officer



School Within a College (SWAC)

SWAC is a dual credit program that provides senior high school students an opportunity to complete post-secondary credits on a college campus while completing their high school diploma.

SWAC allows eligible students to:

- Attend up to two semesters
- Complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma requirements
- Take up to four college credits, counting towards both high school and college diplomas

Who is eligible?

Students between 17 and 21 years of age, are in the last year of high school and have 20+ high school credits are eligible to register in a SWAC program.

Two SWAC programs

- Conestoga College, Brantford
- Fanshawe College, Simcoe

Day Away Programs

Conestoga College, Brantford

Fanshawe College, Simcoe

Mohawk College, Haldimand

Online Dual Credit Programs

Fanshawe, Simcoe

- Practical Photography (a few students in this course had their pictures in an SCWI Spring Newsletter)
- Introduction to Healthcare Careers
- Marketing & Social Media
- Mohawk, Haldimand - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Perspectives



Adult Dual Credit Programs (students 21 years and older)

- Conestoga College, Brantford
- Fanshawe College, Simcoe
- Mohawk College, Haldimand

Team-Taught Dual Credit Programs

- All secondary schools in Grand Erie have access to team-taught dual credits offered through Conestoga, Fanshawe and Mohawk College

Indigenous Student Leadership Initiative



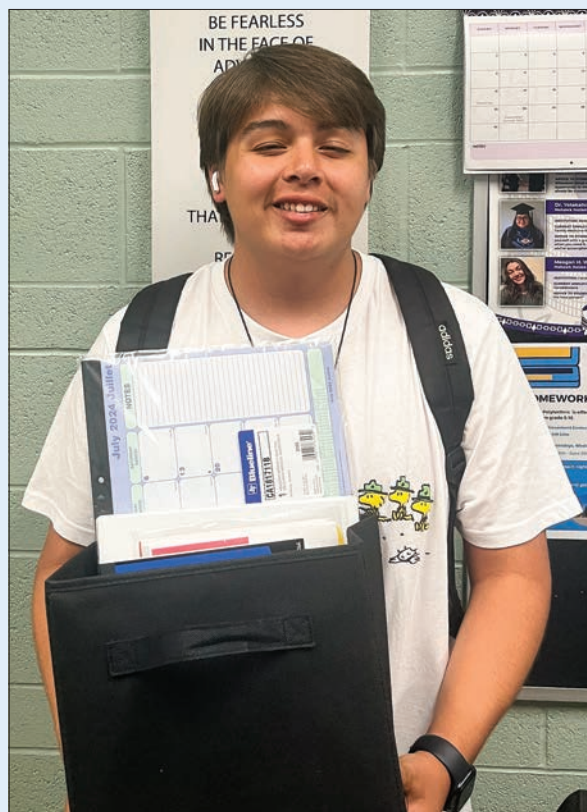
Grand Erie Welcomes Aidyn Lyle Hill as Indigenous Student Trustee for 2024-25

"I am interested in being a student trustee because I want to help Indigenous students voice their concerns, wants, and needs. I have taken on leadership roles here and have been actively engaged in the United Indigenous Student Council meetings, wanting to learn and share my voice. Humility is my basis for my listening and understanding. This is about the voice of not just me but Indigenous students as a whole."



Grand Erie Celebrates Student Success

The Indigenous Education staff coordinated a year-end Pow Wow to "Celebrate Student Success". The Pow Wow included groups from across Turtle Island, dance, singing, food vendors and a performance by recording artist, Logan Staats.



Above: Denver Doxtator is the 2023-24 recipient of the Allyship Award for Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Denver also received a college care package to help him on his post secondary endeavours.

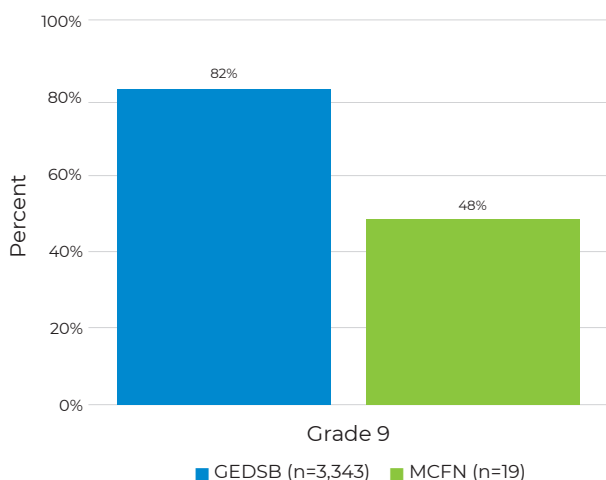
Indigenous Allyship Award

The Indigenous Allyship Award is a donation for a \$1,000 award. Commencing with the 2020-21 graduating class a Grand Erie graduate of Indigenous ancestry will be selected as the recipient of this award on the basis of the strength of character they have shown in successfully obtaining their OSSD. The term Indigenous is inclusive of students who have self-identified as First Nation, Métis and Inuit.

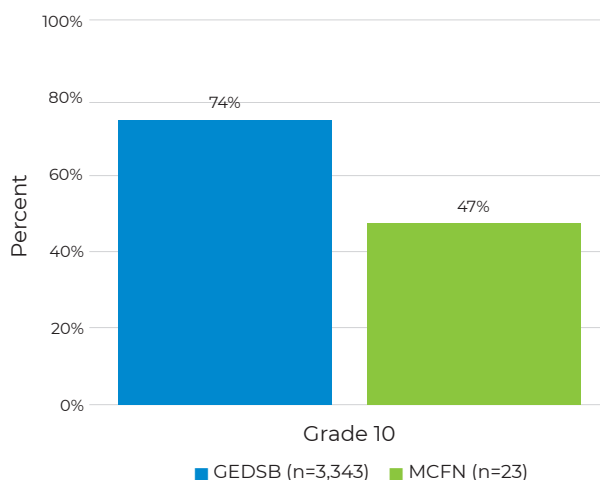
The 2023-24 recipient of the Allyship Award was Denver Doxtator of Hagersville Secondary School. Denver, completed a dual-credit photography course which inspired him to pursue a career in photography. Denver has volunteered at the food bank in Jarvis and at Ganohkwasra's Next Step Housing program.

Credit Accumulation - Two Year Average of Year End Progress

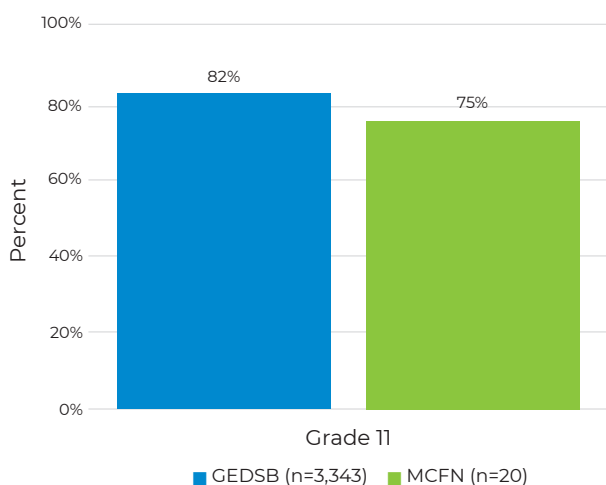
Grade 9 Credits (8+ Credits)



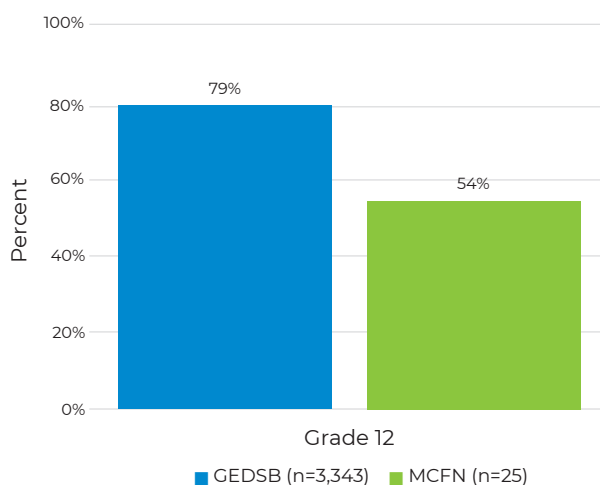
Grade 10 Credits (16+ Credits)



Grade 11 Credits (22+ Credits)



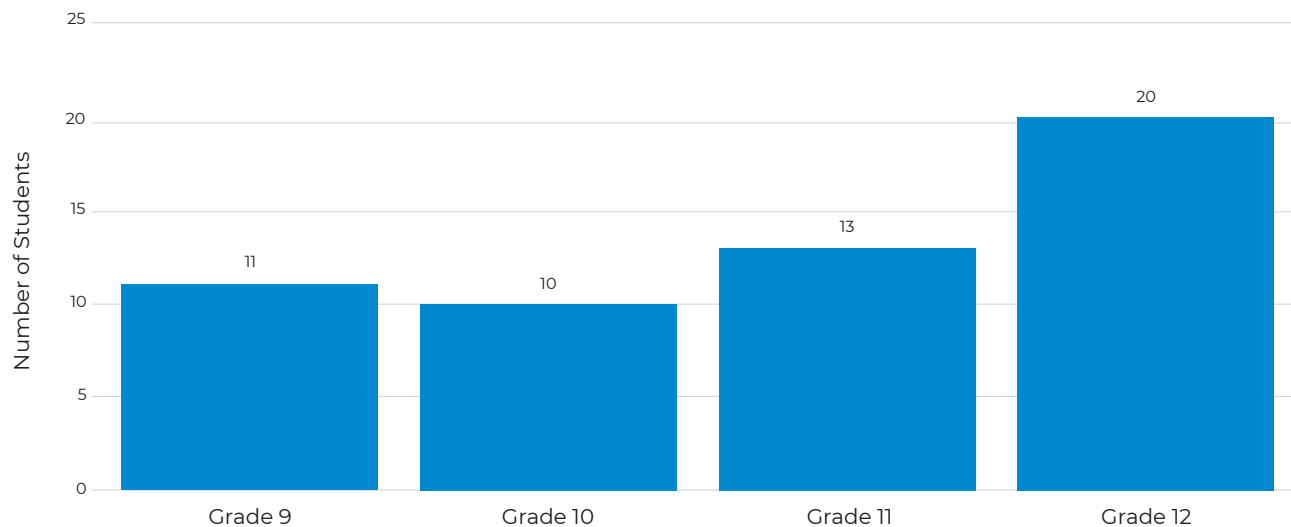
Grade 12 Credits (30+ Credits)



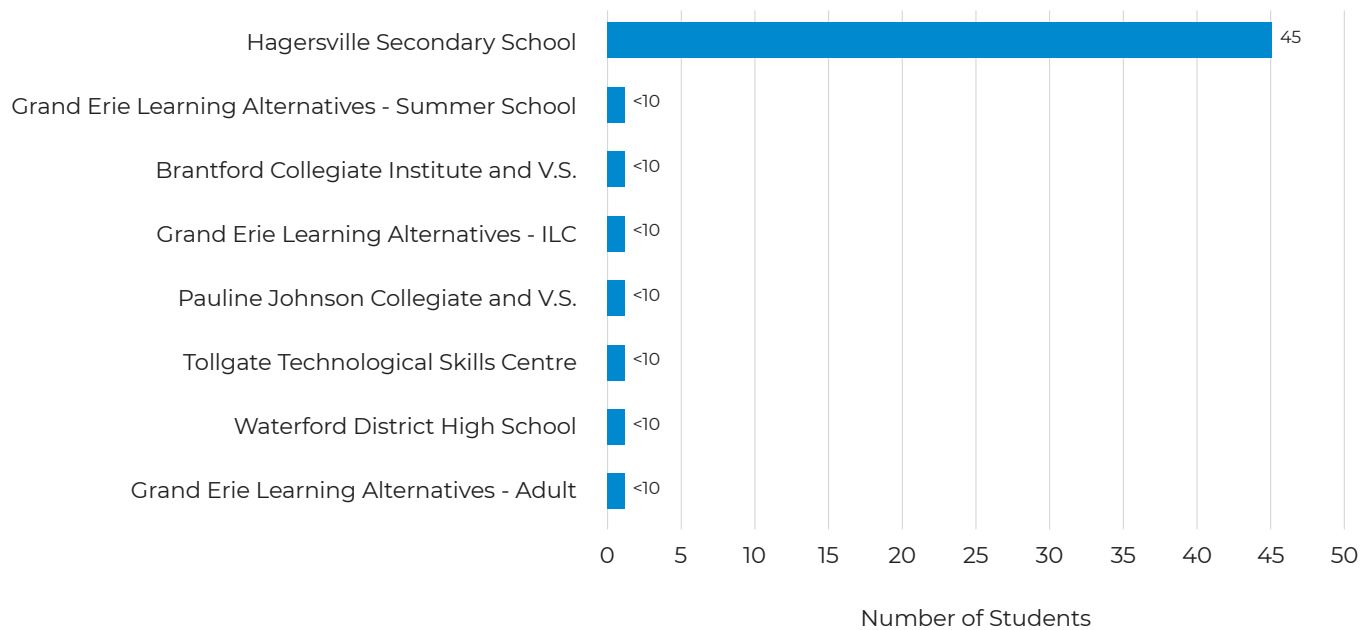
Note: This data represents the proportion of students on track to graduate among students taking a full course load (at least 6 courses).

Credit Accumulation by year and grade cannot be reported because here were fewer than 10 students in each grade who achieved each credit accumulation benchmark.

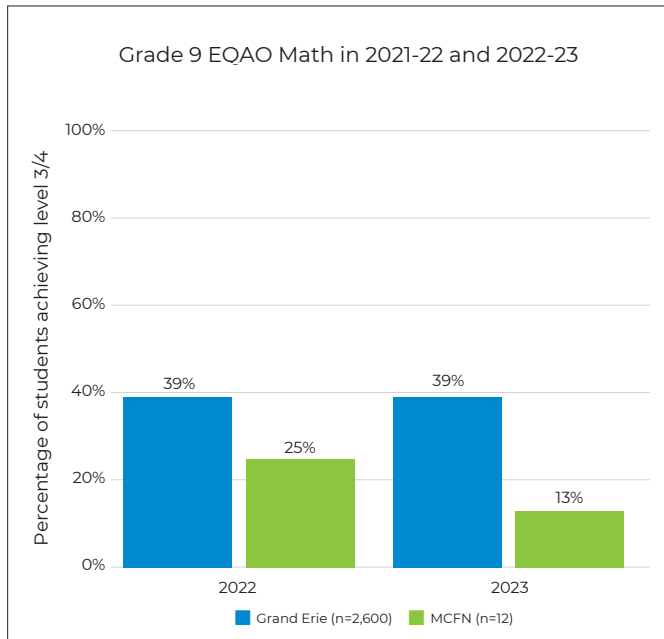
Student Enrolment by Grade



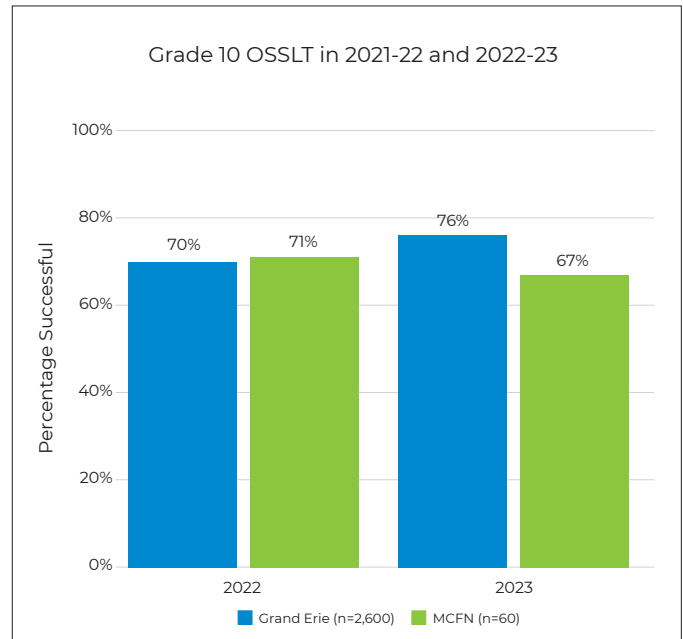
Enrolment by School



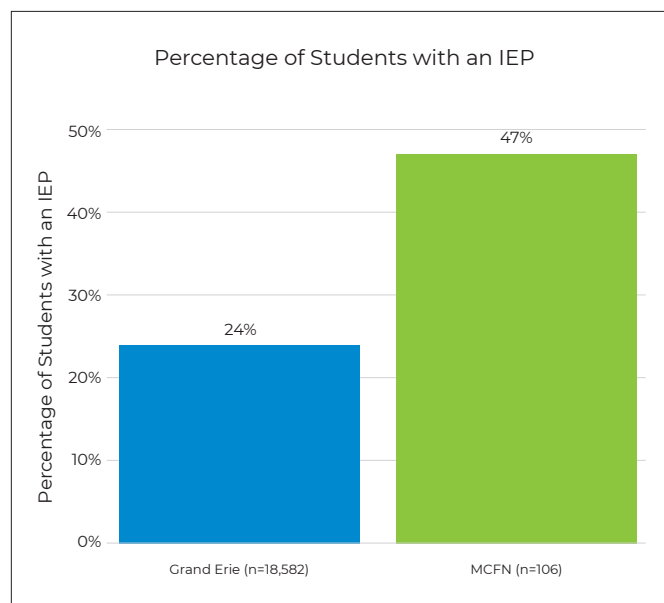
Grade 9 EQAO Math



Grade 10 OSSLT



Individual Education Plan (IEP)





Grand Erie District School Board

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