



Media Release

For Immediate Release
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Grand Erie's EQAO Results Demonstrate Progress; Align with Goals of Multi-Year Plan

Brantford Ont. – The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) issued the 2017-18 results of its Primary (Grades 1-3) and Junior (Grades 4-6) assessments in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics; Grade 9 Academic and Applied Mathematic assessments, as well as the Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) on Wednesday.

Grand Erie students demonstrated progress in the assessments, with improvements seen in Grade 9 Academic Mathematics (up three per cent) as well as Primary Reading (up four per cent), Junior Reading (up three per cent), Junior Writing (up three per cent) and Primary Writing (up two percent). Additionally, Grand Erie's Grade 9 Applied Mathematics is still above the provincial level and Primary Math remained consistent with last year's results.

"Our EQAO results show us that we're making progress," said Linda De Vos, Superintendent of Education, responsible for the elementary school program. "They also show us that we have more work to do. We know this. That's why we're focused on increasing staff understanding of effective instruction and assessment in literacy and numeracy. It's why, through our Multi-Year Plan, we're devoted to increasing student understanding of effective learning strategies and how to use them."

Approved in 2016, Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan provides a new strategic direction to guide the work that the school board is doing. At the centre of this plan is *Success for Every Student*. Grand Erie is focused on creating a culture of high expectations, while focusing on students and staff. The six indicators of the Multi-Year Plan include: Achievement, Well-Being, Equity, Environment, Technology and Community.

Grand Erie's EQAO results generally aligned with provincial trends. In Grade 9 Applied Mathematics, Grand Erie students performed two per cent higher than the province – 47 per cent to 45 per cent. These results were higher than the province for the third straight year.

"It's important to remember that EQAO results are a snapshot of achievement at one particular time," said Denise Martins, Superintendent of Education, responsible for the secondary school program. "They do not necessarily reflect all of the learning taking place in schools, nor do they paint the full picture of all of the programs and offerings Grand Erie schools provide to students of all grades."

EQAO assessments of Primary and Junior Reading, Writing and Mathematics, are administered annually to measure how well students have met provincial expectations. Each assessment covers the cumulative knowledge and skills students are expected to have acquired by the end of Grade 3 and Grade 6.

The purpose of the Grade 9 assessments are to evaluate the level at which students are meeting yearly curriculum expectations in Academic or Applied Mathematics.

The OSSLT assessment determines whether a student has the literacy (reading and writing) skills required to meet the standard for understanding reading selections and communicating in a variety of writing forms expected by *The Ontario Curriculum* across all subjects. Students must successfully complete the OSSLT to fulfill the literacy requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Grand Erie District School Board represents more than 25,000 students in 58 elementary and 14 secondary schools within the City of Brantford and the counties of Brant, Haldimand, and Norfolk. With a dedicated staff of more than 2,000, Grand Erie is committed to its goal of *Success for Every Student*.

For more information on EQAO results, please visit: www.eqao.com

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