

Renfrew County Catholic District School Board Director's Annual Report 2009–2010



Message from the Director of Education

It is my great pleasure to present this Annual Report outlining the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board's achievements and activities in the 2009–2010 school year.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of our community of schools during this past year in our shared journey of commitment to our Catholic faith, life-long learning and environmental stewardship.

Although the statistics and tables support our multi-year plan, the real story of our school board is revealed in the individual successes of our students and their growth within our community. Our students are our future. We are dedicated to their continued spiritual growth, their academic success, and their emotional and physical wellness.

As you read this report, I know you will join me in celebrating our students' achievements as well as their contributions to our community as a whole.

Our schools' academic results in the past year have met or surpassed the provincial average in eight out of nine categories and approach the provincial average in the ninth achievement indicator.

We have also introduced new technology in our classrooms to enhance our students' learning experience. As well, our schools have taken a leadership role in environmental stewardship by building green energy projects. Not only do these programs provide new learning opportunities, but they build awareness of each student's responsibility and role in the world around us.

We are also very proud of our students' contributions to our local children in need through the Child Poverty Action Network. They engaged in numerous local fundraising activities, extended their support to the disaster victims in Haiti, and continued our commitment to help those in need in the Dominican Republic.

Our schools also have initiated new programs to involve parents more fully in their children's education, to improve graduation outcomes, encourage student leadership, and develop health and wellness of all members of our community.

Our Catholic community of schools is empowered by our shared faith, and our shared commitment to academic excellence. We are enriched and strengthened by the devotion of each member of our community—not only our students, teachers, principals, trustees, administrative and support staff, but our parents, our priests, and the wider community of organizations and individuals who support us. I must take this opportunity now to recognize everyone who shared in this past year's journey.

Michele Arbour
Director of Education



Our Mission Statement: *Inspired by our rich heritage and challenged by the struggles of our past, we are an inclusive Catholic educational community called to express our mission as Church to pass on the Good News of Jesus Christ, to make it relevant in the world today, and to be the hope for the future.*

Leadership

Throughout the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board, our trustees, principals and teachers are committed to ongoing development of their leadership knowledge and skills with the end goal of improving our system and the Catholic education we provide to our students.



Sister Clare Fitzgerald

This past year, for example, Sister Clare Fitzgerald was invited to speak to the RCCDSB leadership team and the trustees February 5–6, on the topic of faith formation. Sr. Clare is an international lecturer on the value of Catholic education and founder of the Catholic School Leadership Program at Boston College. Her keynote address both inspired and challenged us, as stewards of a faith-based system.

Celebration

Over the past year, schools and individuals in the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board have been honoured for their achievements. Some of those recognized include:

- John XXIII Catholic School in Arnprior and Cathedral Catholic School in Pembroke—Improvement in Academics
- Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School, Renfrew—Determination in Academic Achievement
- Julie Moon, Teacher, Bishop Smith Catholic High School—Baillie Award for excellence in secondary school teaching from Queen's University
- Tony Cosentino, Religious Education and Family Life Resource Teacher—Archbishop Philip Pocock Award for outstanding contributions in the field of Catholic religious education.

The hard work and dedication of our principals and teachers are evident from these accolades. They, in turn, give credit to partnerships forged with the community as a whole, including home and parish support.

Meet the RCCDSB leadership team



Trustees, seated: **Bob Michaud**, Laurentian Valley Township, North Algona Wilberforce Township, Admaston/Bromley Township, Bonnechere Valley Township; **Chair Bob Schreder**, Pembroke; **Judy Ellis**, Vice-Chair/First Nations Trustee. **Standing:** **Katie Brooks**, Pupil Representative, Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Pembroke; **Dustin Garron**, Pupil Representative, St. Joseph's Catholic High School, Renfrew; **Marlene Borutski**, Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards Township, Brudenell Lyndoch Raglan Township, Madawaska Valley Township; **Anne Smith**, Renfrew, Horton Township, Whitewater Region Township; **Andrew Bray**, Arnprior, McNab/Braeside Township, Great Madawaska Township; and **Dave Howard**, Deep River, Laurentian Hills, Head, Clara & Maria Township, Petawawa.



Administrative team, seated: Director of Education **Michele Arbour**; Superintendent of Business Services **Mary Lynn Schauer**. **Standing,** Executive Assistant to the Director **Nancy Levasseur**; Manager of IT Services **Darryl Denyes**; Manager of Plant Services **Ivan Johnson**; Superintendent of Educational Services **Jaimie Perry**; Assistant to the Director of Education **Peter Adam**; and Manager of Human Resources Services **Marian Neeson**.

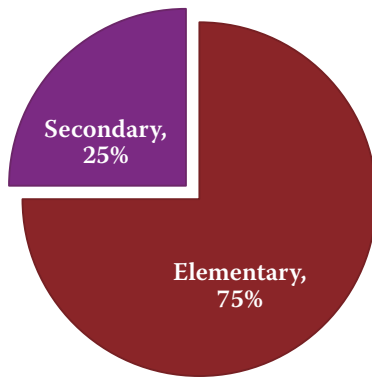
About us

The RCCDSB community

The Renfrew County Catholic District School Board comprises 22 schools: 20 English elementary and 2 English secondary in 16 mostly rural communities.

Our diverse student population does not include a large enough number of English learners—those whose first language at home is other than English—to report their achievements separately. In our second year of the Aboriginal self-identification project, the board's percentage of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students remains steady at about 3%.

Our student population



Our enrolment as of October 31, 2010, totals 4,664 students:

	Students	%	FTE
Elementary	3,485	75%	3,220.50
Secondary	1,179	25%	1,153.25
Total	4,664	100%	4,373.75

RCCDSB's vital statistics

Number of Students: Approximately 4,700

Schools and Facilities:

- 20 Elementary Schools
- 2 Secondary Schools
- 2 Alternative Secondary Sites
- 1 Young Parent Support Program
- 3 Section 23 Valleycrest/New Horizons Classrooms

Communities

Our district covers a wide geographical area of more than 7,851 square kilometres from Deep River in the north to Arnprior in the south to Pembroke in the east and Barry's Bay in the west. The Board operates 22 schools in 16 communities.

Employees

- Approximately 600 permanent staff
- Approximately 300 occasional staff

Annual Expenditures

- \$54.5 million

Full-day early learning

RCCDSB currently offers full-day early learning at three schools located in different areas of the county:

School	Number of students enrolled
St. John Bosco Catholic School, Barry's Bay	24
Holy Name Catholic School, Pembroke	28
St. Mary's Catholic School, Deep River	39



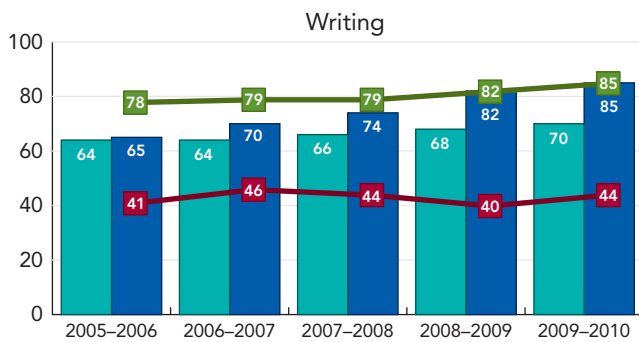
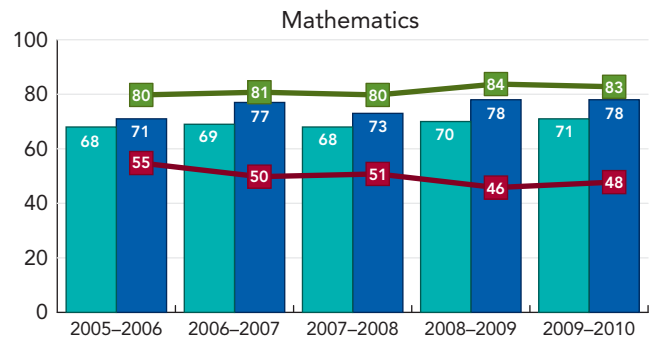
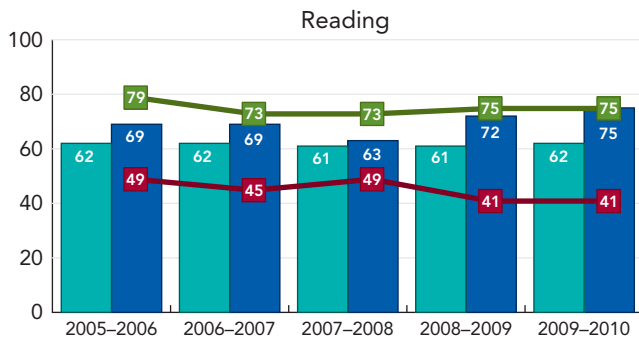
Primary class size report

All Ministry of Education targets have been met for primary class size.

	Ministry Target	Board Actual	Achieved
Percentage of Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes with 23 students or fewer	100%	100%	✓
Percentage of Grade 3/4 combined classes with 23 students or fewer	100%	100%	✓
Percentage of Primary classes Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 with 20 students or fewer	90%	90%	✓

EQAO standardized test results

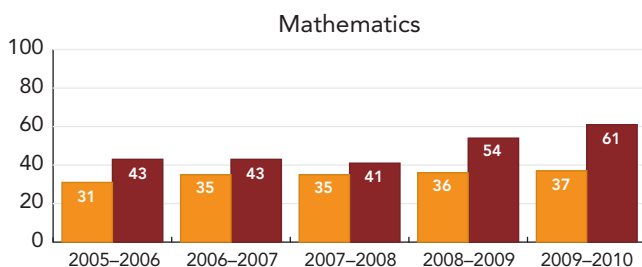
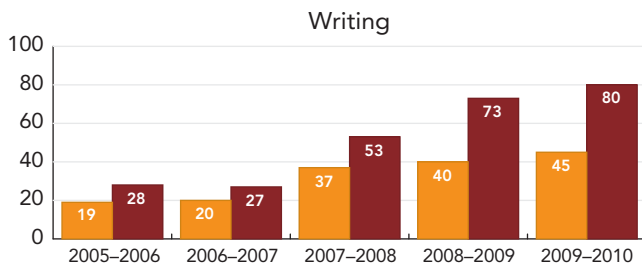
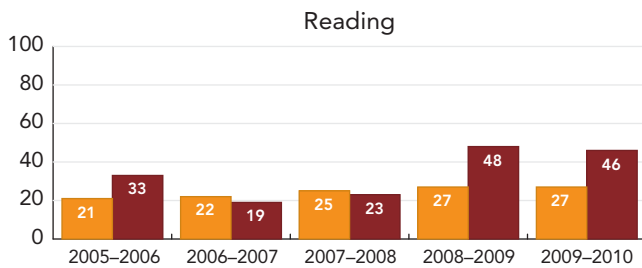
Grade 3



- Highest English-Language Board Level results
- Lowest English-Language Board Level results
- Province
- Board

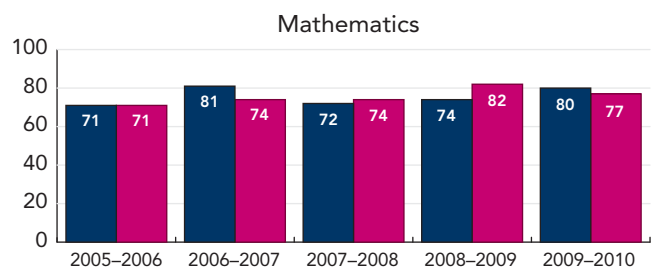
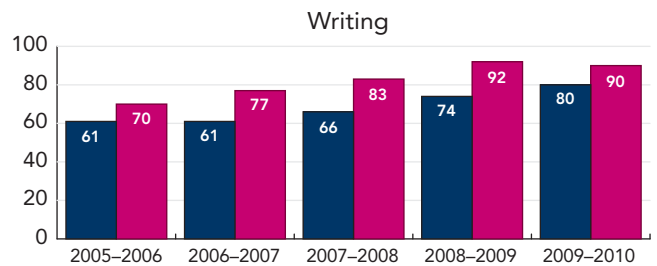
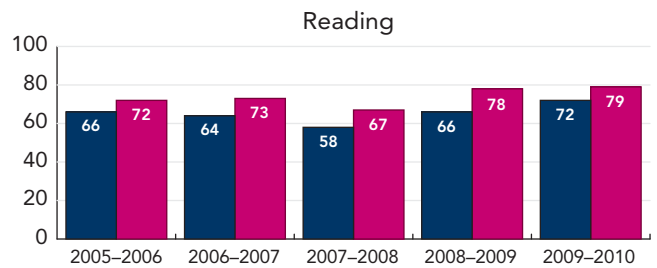
Special Education results

- Province Special Education students
- Board Special Education students



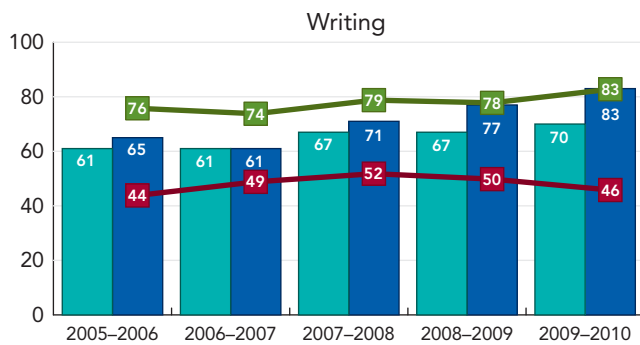
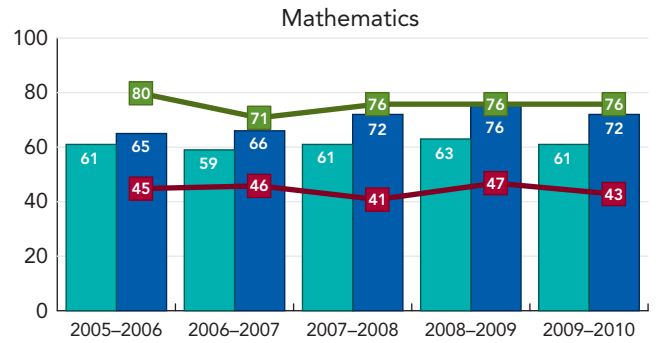
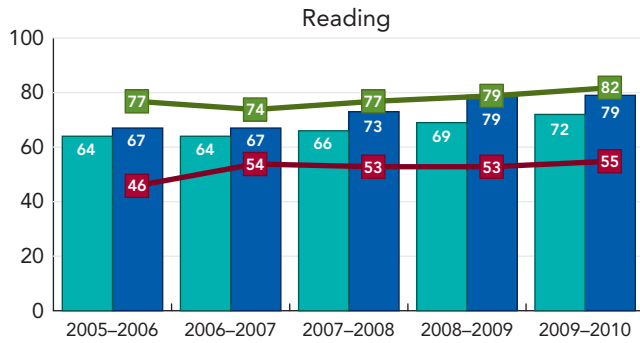
Results by Gender

- Male students
- Female students



EQAO standardized test results

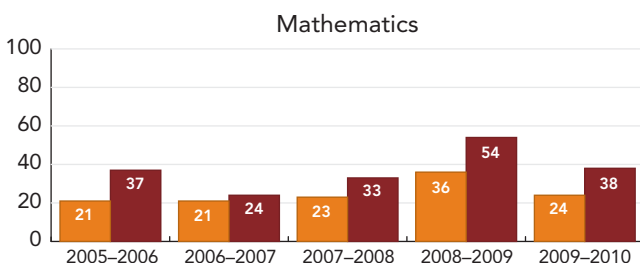
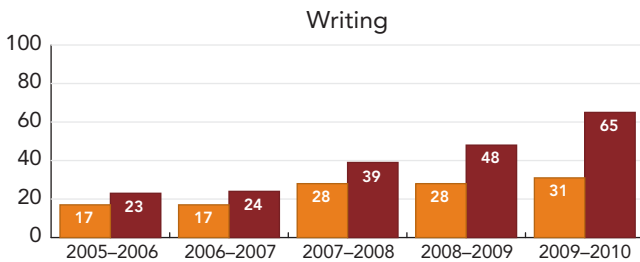
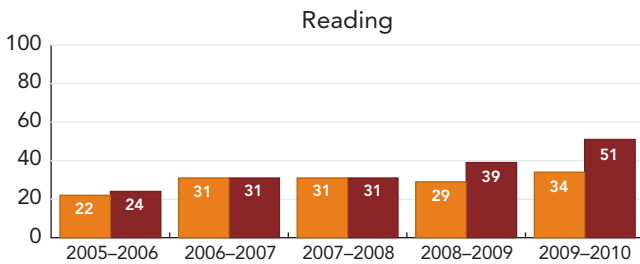
Grade 6



- Highest English-Language Board Level results
- Lowest English-Language Board Level results
- █ Province
- █ Board

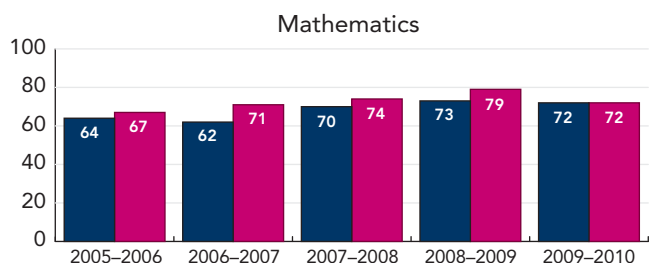
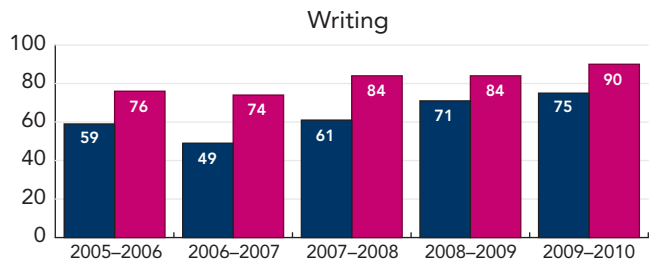
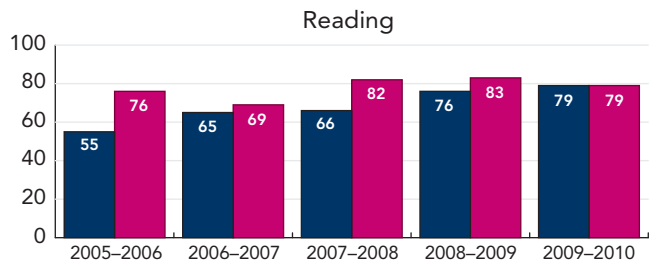
Special Education results

- █ Province Special Education students
- █ Board Special Education students



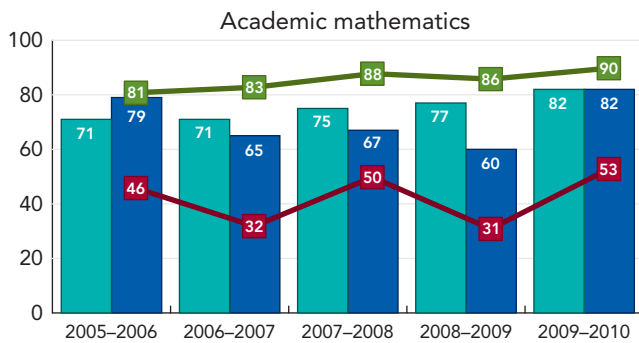
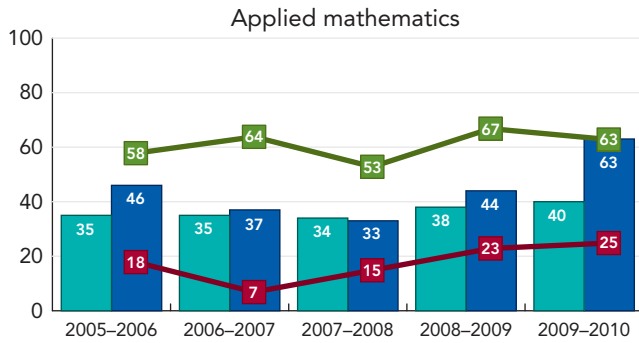
Results by Gender

- █ Male students
- █ Female students



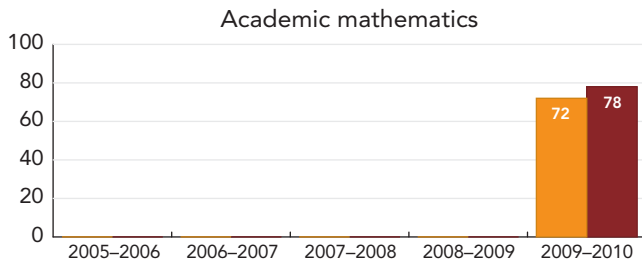
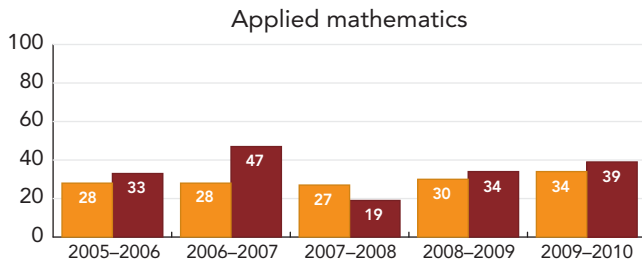
EQAO standardized test results

Grade 9

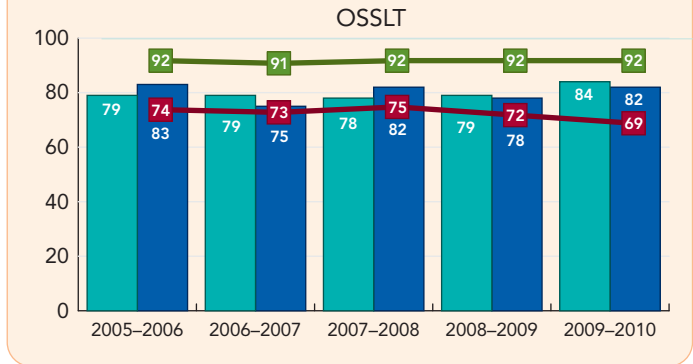


Special Education results

- Province Special Education students
- Board Special Education students



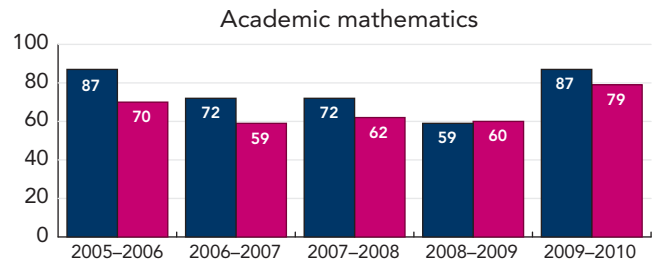
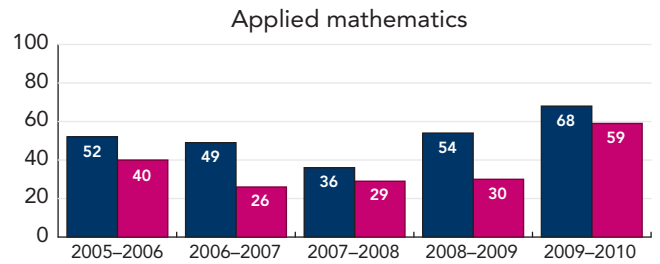
Grade 10



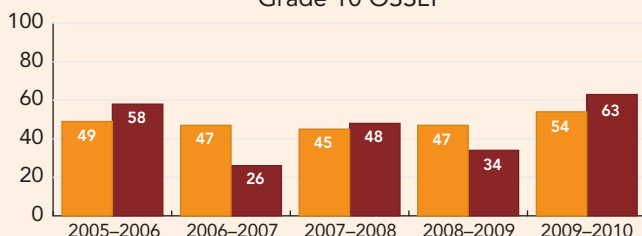
- Highest English-Language Board Level results
- Lowest English-Language Board Level results
- Province
- Board

Results by Gender

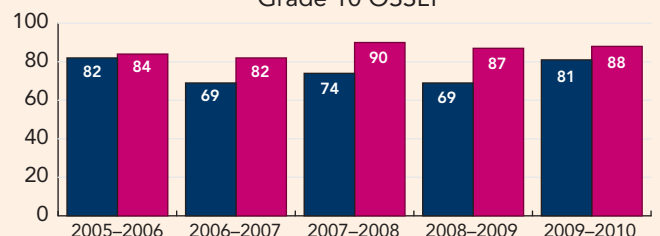
- Male students
- Female students



Grade 10 OSSLT



Grade 10 OSSLT



Academic achievements

Our students' results in the most recent EQAO tests demonstrate that we have exceeded the provincial average in all six elementary categories.

New programs, current research and pedagogy, as well as new technologies enhance the learning experience of students.

Elementary quick facts:

		Reading	Writing	Math
Grade 3	Board	75	85	78
	Province	62	70	71
Grade 6	Board	79	83	72
	Province	72	70	61

RCCDSB Grade 6 EQAO assessments have shown a steady incline over the past several years. We have surpassed the provincial goal of 75% in writing and reading by 2011 for two consecutive years, and are on target to reach 75% in math by 2011.

Secondary quick facts:

- At the secondary level, 90% of our students have eight credits by the end of Grade 9, and 78% of students in our board have 16+ credits by the end of Grade 10, as compared to a 71% provincial average.
- We have always enjoyed notable results in our applied Grade 9 EQAO assessments. This year, 63% of students in our applied classes achieved Level 3 or 4—compared with the 40% provincial average.
- In academic math, 82% of our students achieved Level 3 or 4—matching the provincial results. This represents a more than 20% improvement, which is attributed to targeted initiatives in intermediate mathematics. Teachers were involved in mathematics professional learning communities, a book study and differentiated instruction. A focus for Professional Learning Communities included Big Ideas, Open Questioning, and Parallel Tasks.

	Academic	Applied
Board	82	63
Province	82	40



Notable accomplishments

Music specialist program: All RCCDSB students from JK to Grade 8 received instruction from one of two music specialists who followed the provincial curriculum for music in The Arts Curriculum 2009. The program offered a wide variety—choral singing, musical instruments (i.e., recorder, ukulele), theory and music appreciation.

Science and technology: The benefits of a solar energy system installed at Bishop Smith Catholic High School included production of green energy, income from energy fed into the grid, and new technology integrated into the curriculum. The project created the opportunity for an Energy specialist high skills major opportunity.

Safe School Special Assignment Teacher: Dedicated resource to encourage positive school culture and restorative justice practices.

E-Learning pilot project: An innovative e-learning pilot project to support mathematics instruction for Grade 7–10 students.

Summer school expansion: A robust summer program providing summer instruction for Grade 1–10 students to boost literacy and numeracy skills and support credit recovery.

OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program): Focused on students interested in pursuing trades and apprenticeships.

Minister of Education's Student Advisory Council: Student representation on the 60-member provincial committee. A wonderful leadership opportunity for students to share their thoughts in groups sessions as well as one-on-one discussions with the Minister of Education and her staff.

Improved outcomes for all

A variety of interventions to improve individual outcomes have been implemented, including:

- credit rescue and credit recovery (Student Success Teams in each high school actively support students who are at risk of not succeeding)
- transition planning for Grades 7, 8 and 9
- student success teacher support
- summer school programs
- tutors in the classroom program
- EA support
- individualized timetables
- a dedicated teacher of Aboriginal success to support First Nation, Métis and Inuit students in literacy and numeracy.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test score met the provincial average. Further disaggregation of data indicates a gender gap in achievement which is being addressed through a number of strategies including:

- a gender-specific class pilot with gap training in boys' literacy for teachers
- resource material specifically addressing boys' learning
- SMART goal development by all secondary program leaders and departments
- cross-curricular literacy sessions for all Grade 9 and 10 students.

Success for all

Schools requiring support for success have been assessed and addressed with measures such as:

- smaller class sizes
- additional EA and support staff
- system program team support for classrooms
- additional resources.

Interventions

Supports for students who require additional interventions include:

- alternate school program
- YPSP (Young Parent Support Program)
- student counselling
- home instruction (medically fragile)
- school-based social workers.



More ways to graduate

In the RCCDSB there are, indeed, “more ways to graduate”, including:

- expanded cooperative learning programs (e.g., military co-op, paid co-op, and summer co-op)
- dual credits are available for some programs (students get a high school credit and a college credit concurrently)
- specialist high skills majors (SHSMs) are expanded to include Health and Wellness, Transportation, Energy and Hospitality and Tourism.



Equity and inclusion

The RCCDSB is committed to nurturing the giftedness, self-worth and potential of each individual within its Catholic community. The Equity and Inclusion Policy and Procedure, as well as the Religious Accommodation Guidelines have been developed using approved provincial guidelines with input from the Institute of Catholic Education (ICE), the Diocese and local stakeholders. Policies were reviewed for compliance. Guidelines were implemented and shared with the broader community in September 2010.

Monitoring

A process to monitor the effectiveness and progress of the policies included the following strategies:

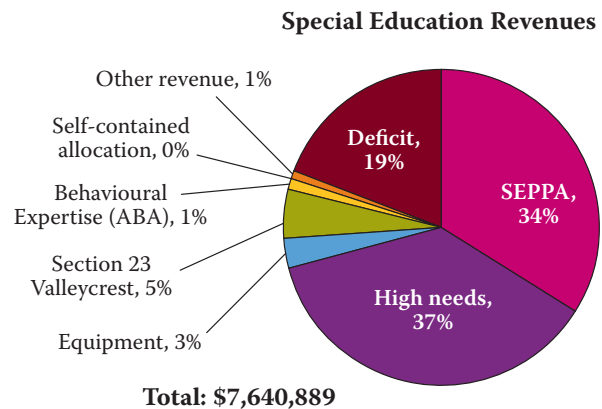
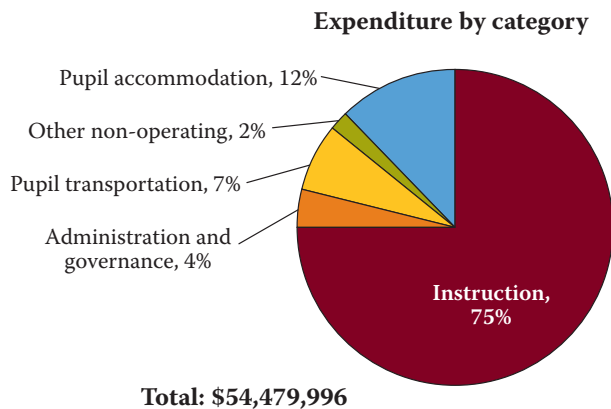
- collection of information to gauge the effects of policy implementation
- review and evaluation of policies and practices to identify systemic bias or barriers
- review of classroom strategies that promote equity and inclusivity
- investigation of any claims of discrimination and/or racism
- mechanisms for input to the Board.

Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework

Progress has been made towards the implementation of the Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework in the RCCDSB. Deliverables from the FNMI Framework are incorporated into the Board multi-year plan.

Financial stewardship

2010–2011 budget



2009–2010 budget

The 2009–2010 RCCDSB budget was balanced based on its commitment to continue valuable initiatives for student achievement in safe and comfortable environments.

Programs

Provincial funding contributed to programs to increase student achievement:

- More than \$173,000 for the School Effectiveness Strategy to help Renfrew County's Catholic students meet or exceed provincial achievement targets
- A 50/50 matched fund for the Tutors in the Classroom program
- Close to \$90,000 to continue the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program for careers in the trades

Physical resources

Exterior and interior enhancements to school buildings were carried out with various Ministry of Education funding programs:

- \$60,000 in upgrades to kindergarten classrooms at Holy Name Catholic School in Pembroke, St. John Bosco Catholic School in Barry's Bay and St. Mary's Catholic School in Deep River for the new early learning program
- \$180,000 was directed to Bishop Smith Catholic High School to lead the way as stewards of the environment with a solar energy project. The system of 40 panels on the roof and 10 on the front wall was completed over the summer and has been connected to the grid. You can visit <http://www.bschs.solarvu.net/green/solarVu.php?ac=bschs> to check output and revenue
- More than \$450,000 for a major upgrade of the science lab at Bishop Smith Catholic High School—it is now a state-of-the-art laboratory!
- Almost \$196,000 to complete the multi-year window upgrade project at Bishop Smith Catholic High School
- Roof restorations were completed at St. Michael's Catholic School in Douglas, St. Casimir's Catholic School in Round Lake, and at Bishop Smith Catholic High School in Pembroke.

Technology

- Bells, horns and strobes have been installed at Bishop Smith Catholic High School to enhance accessibility for the visually or hearing impaired
- A telephone system, paging intercom to each classroom and programmable bell timer were installed at St. Joseph's Catholic School in Calabogie
- \$100,000 of provincial funding supporting a new E-Learning initiative

A new school building for St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, in Petawawa, has been awarded, and construction is underway. The design will incorporate energy-efficient construction, building controls, solar water heating and other footprint-reducing features that support our vision statement to cherish the environment.



Future home of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, Petawawa

Our journey

The Renfrew County Catholic District School Board has developed a strategic plan that encompasses three fundamental aspects:

1. Christian maturity
2. Life-long learning
3. Stewardship and sustainability

The RCCDSB strategic multi-year plan can be viewed at: <http://rccdsb.edu.on.ca/files/2011/01/Strategic-Plan-FINAL.pdf>

