

Renfrew County Catholic District School Board Director's Annual Report 2010–2011



Message from the Director of Education

I am very pleased to present this Annual Report outlining the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board's activities and accomplishments for the 2010–2011 school year.

The theme chosen by the board for 2010–2011 was “stewardship” of all personal and material resources that we have received from God. According to our Vision Statement, we are called as a Catholic community to “claim our role as global stewards cherishing the environment and all life in it.”

In broad terms, we are stewards, not only of our physical environment, but of the learning environment in our schools, the spiritual and emotional well-being, as well as the health and security, of our students and ourselves.

The board's goal is to encourage the academic success, spiritual growth, physical and emotional wellness of our students in a respectful and safe environment. We also

work to build awareness in our students of their roles and responsibilities in the world around us.

On an academic level, our students' success levels in the EQAO provincial assessments speak for themselves. In the most recent results, our students exceeded the provincial average in all six elementary categories. At the secondary level in mathematics, our students either surpassed or met the provincial average.

Educators across the board worked on several strategies during the year to improve the learning environment for students, particularly in the areas of literacy and numeracy. We also provided programs in various learning environments, a student re-engagement initiative and a focused intervention by a Safe Schools Coordinator.

We also expanded the Full-Day Kindergarten program. Four of our elementary schools now provide Full-Day Early Learning while three schools have introduced Full-Day Every Day Kindergarten.

We were delighted with the establishment of a Parent Involvement Committee, which will increase parent engagement in our schools and be of immense benefit to our students. We also are working on a parent engagement project for our Aboriginal students. We have introduced a Native Studies program at Bishop Smith Catholic High School in Pembroke and a Native Language Program at the elementary level at St. James Catholic School in Eganville.

We are proud to have a total of four schools outfitted with solar panels. These solar projects and other new technology provide excellent learning environments for our students.

Looking back on the board's accomplishments over the past year, I am gratified by the efficient and respectful use that we have made of our personal and material resources.

I also am confident that our efforts will pay off. Our students will become “global stewards cherishing the environment and all life in it.”

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.*

Catholicity

As trustees, administrators, principals and teachers, we have a shared vision to provide a Catholic education that will nurture our students and make a contribution to our community. During the past school year, our learning and activities—professional learning communities, leadership team meetings and guest speakers—supported an overall theme of “stewardship” of all resources.



Women religious were recognized at Christian Community Day at Bishop Smith Catholic High School in Pembroke in April.

Stewards of Catholic education

School board trustees provide a link between the community and the school board. In addition to carrying out the regular responsibilities of operating a school system that meets the diverse needs of students in their communities, Catholic school board trustees are committed to ensuring that the mission of Catholic education is fulfilled.

Father Ryan Holly, guest speaker at the RCCDSB Annual Trustee Retreat, reminds us, in the gospel of St. Luke, of the words of our Lord, who said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be expected.”

Father Holly writes, “This framework should always be in the forefront of our decision-making and acting as persons entrusted with Catholic education. While no system could ever replace the intrinsic right and duty of parents to be the first teachers of the faith to their children, those involved in Catholic education are to always be faithful stewards of Catholic teaching and lived practice. While often tasked with making decisions about the needs of our system, both at present and in the future, we can strengthen our stewardship by seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the wisdom of what the Church teaches and believes, and how our decisions today will call us to greater authenticity as Catholic educators who are believers in the Lord.”

Meet the RCCDSB leadership team



Administrative team: Darryl Denyes, Manager of IT Services; Marian Neeson, Manager of Human Resources Services; Ivan Johnson, Manager of Plant Services; Michele Arbour, Director of Education; Jaimie Perry, Superintendent of Educational Services; Mary Lynn Schauer, Superintendent of Business Services; Peter Adam, Superintendent of Educational Services.



Trustees: Laura Hayashi, Student Representative from Bishop Smith Catholic High School in Pembroke; Zachary McIntyre, Student Representative from St. Joseph’s Catholic High School in Renfrew; Marlene Borutski, Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards Township, Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan Township, Madawaska Valley Township; Judy Ellis, First Nations Trustee; David Howard, Deep River, Laurentian Hills, Head, Clara & Maria Township, Petawawa; Anne Smith, Renfrew, Horton Township, Whitewater Region Township, and Andy Bray, Arnprior, McNab/Braeside Township, Greater Madawaska Township. Seated: Bob Schreader, Chair, Pembroke; and Bob Michaud, Vice-Chair, Laurentian Valley Township, North Algona Wilberforce Township, Admaston/Bromley Township, Bonnechere Valley Township.

About us

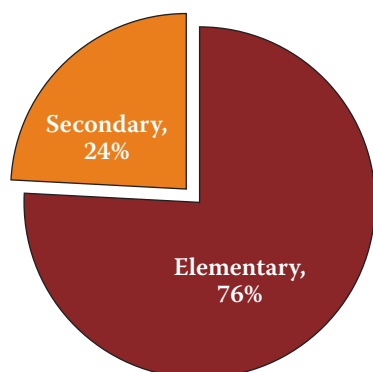
The RCCDSB community

The Renfrew County Catholic District School Board encompasses 20 English elementary and two English secondary schools in 16 communities in a largely rural region.

The proportion of English learners (those whose first language spoken at home is other than English) in our diverse population is not large enough to report their achievements separately.

Our board's percentage of self-identified First Nation, Aboriginal, Métis and Inuit pupils remains constant at about 3% of the student population.

Our student population



Our enrolment as of October 31, 2011, totals 4,652 students:

	Students	%	FTE
Elementary	3,540	76%	3,214.50
Secondary	1,112	24%	1,088.00
Total	4,652	100%	4,302.50

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.

Employees

- Approximately 575 permanent staff
- Approximately 300 occasional staff

Annual expenditures

- \$58.7 million

Full-day, early learning program (ELKP)

RCCDSB currently offers full-day early learning at four schools located in different areas of the county. The full-day early learning program is a play-based learning program where teachers and early childhood educators work together throughout the day to help children learn. This program is being phased in over five years and will be fully implemented in all schools by 2015–2016.

School	Number of students enrolled
St. John Bosco Catholic School, Barry's Bay	24 students
Holy Name Catholic School, Pembroke	26 students
St. Mary's Catholic School, Deep River	44 students
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School, Renfrew	74 students

Full-day every day kindergarten

The RCCDSB currently funds full-day every day kindergarten at three schools in the county. Full-day every day kindergarten provides students with the opportunity to attend school every day.

- St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, Petawawa
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, Pembroke
- Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, Westmeath

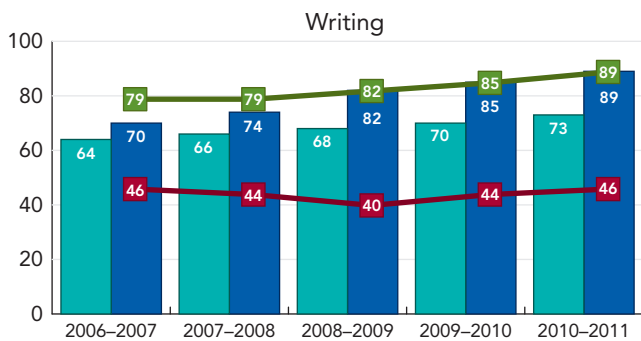
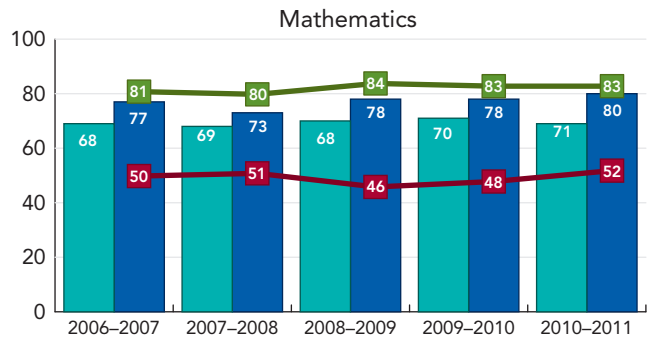
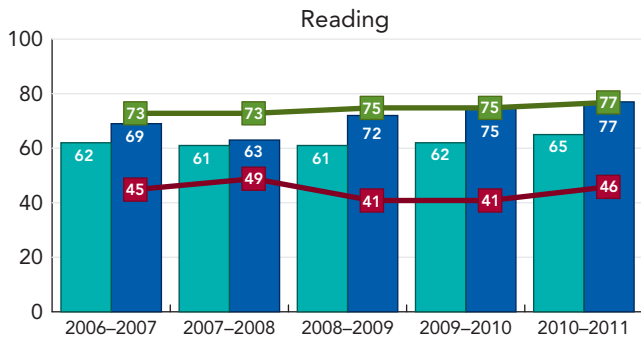
Primary class size report

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

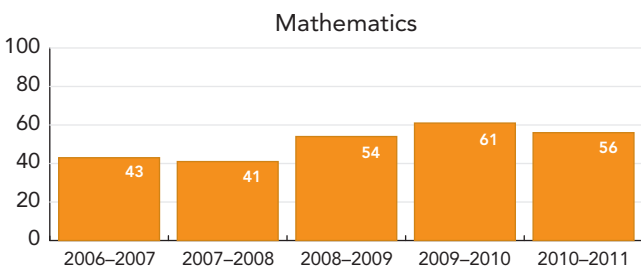
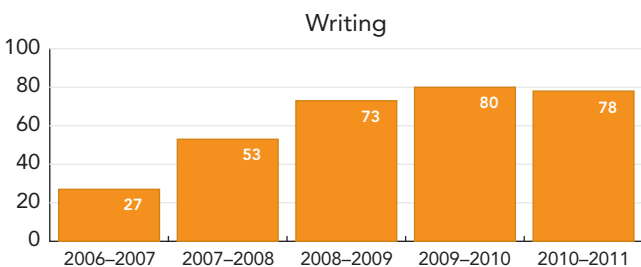
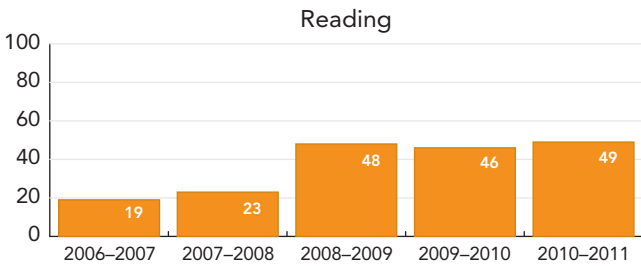
Grade 3



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

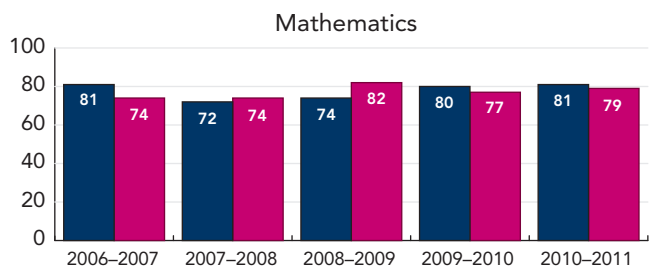
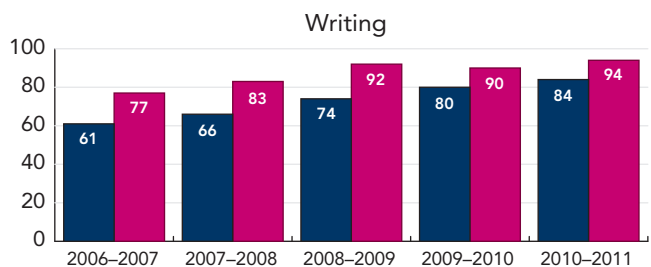
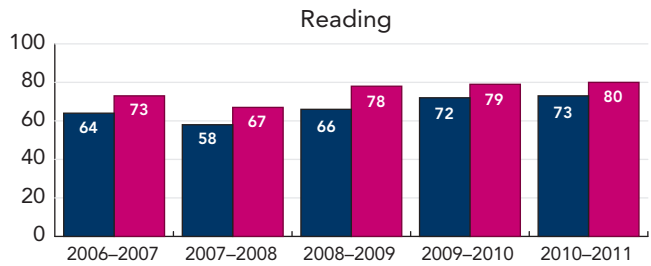
Special Education results

■ Board Special Education students



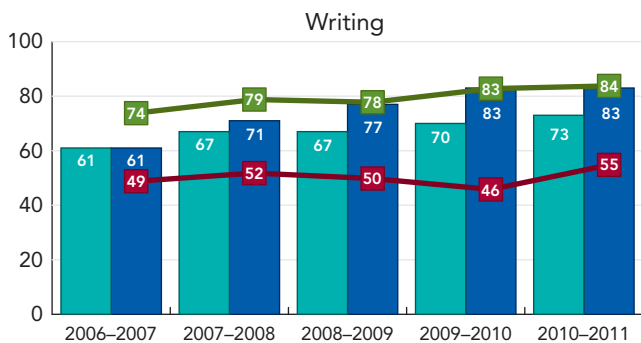
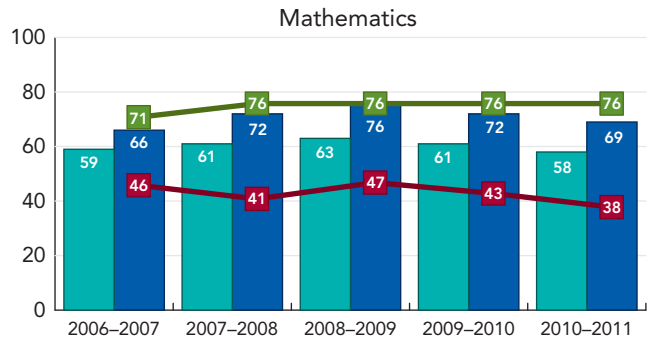
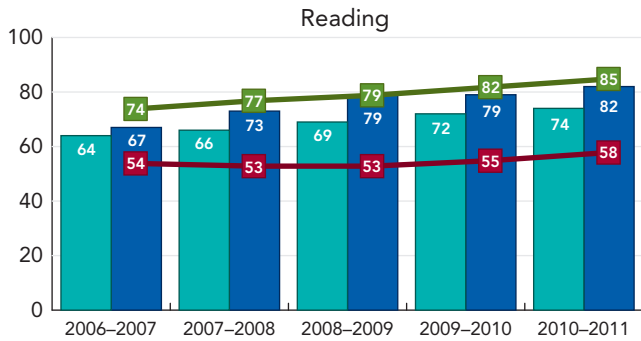
Results by Gender

■ Male students
■ Female students



EQAO standardized test results

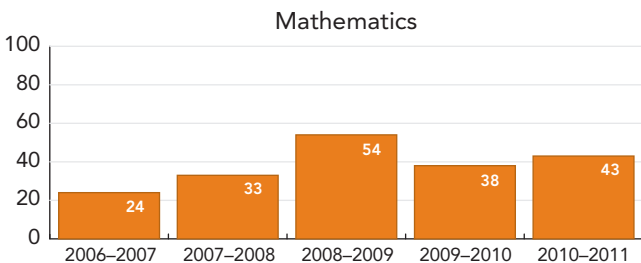
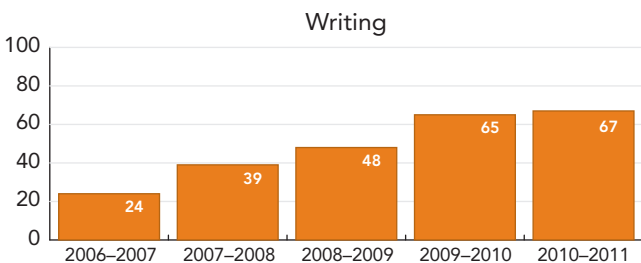
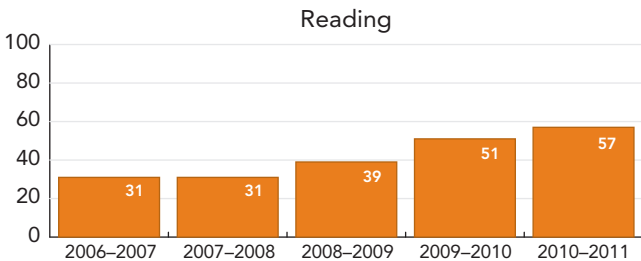
Grade 6



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

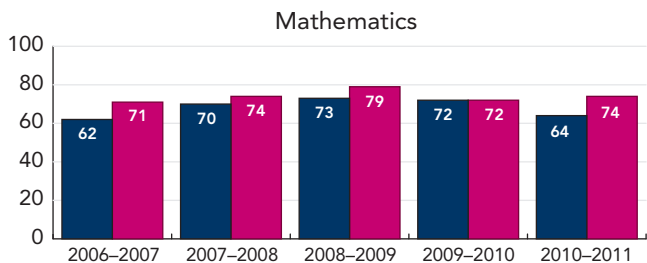
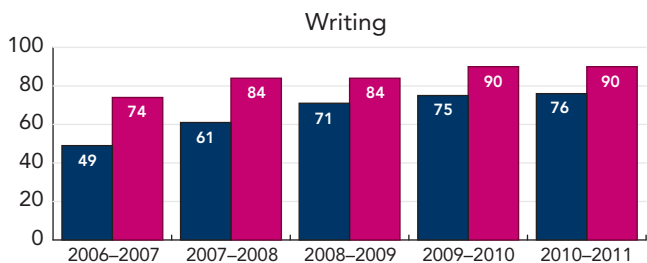
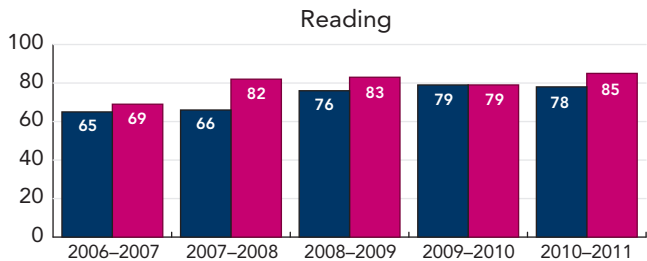
Special Education results

■ Board Special Education students



Results by Gender

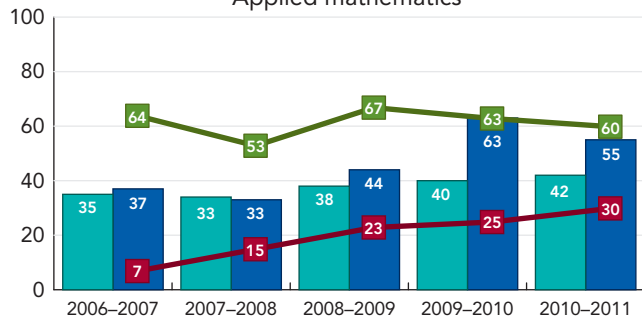
■ Male students
■ Female students



EQAO standardized test results

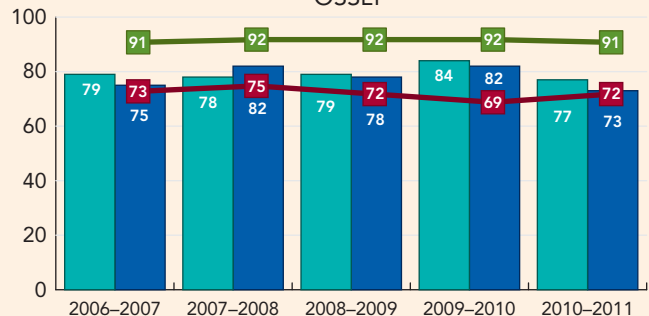
Grade 9

Applied mathematics

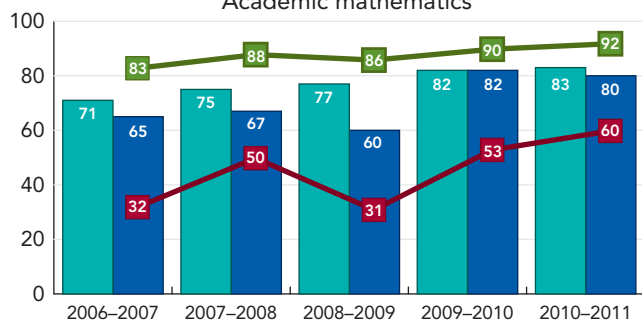


Grade 10

OSSLT



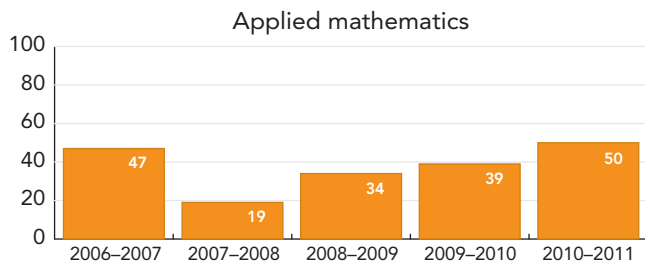
Academic mathematics



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

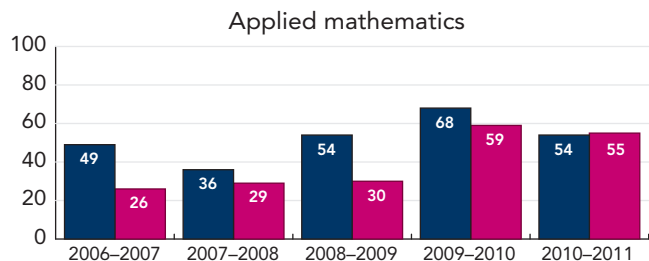
Special Education results

Board Special Education students

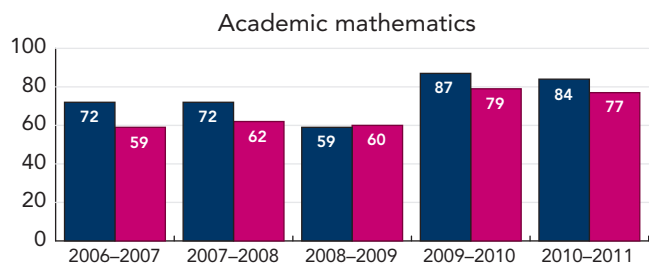
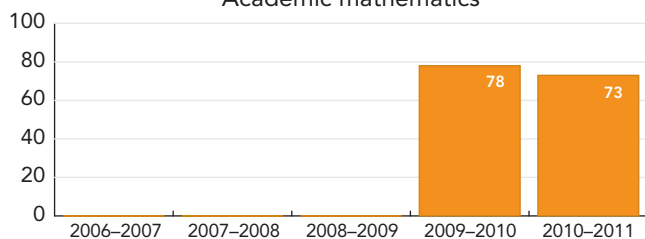


Results by Gender

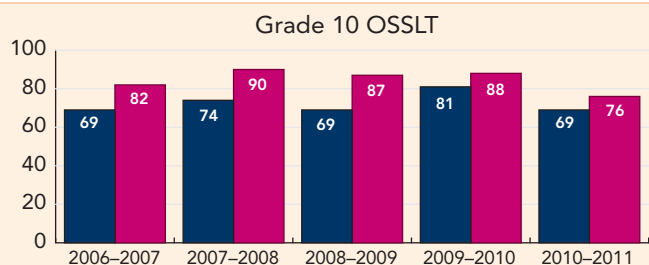
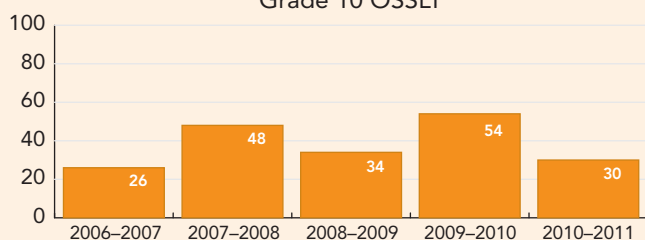
Male students
Female students



Academic mathematics



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:

The most recent EQAO assessments confirm our academic success, with results surpassing the provincial averages in all elementary categories.

We attribute these positive results to the careful planning and dedicated efforts to enhance the learning environment.

Elementary quick facts:				
		Reading	Writing	Math
Grade 3	Board	77%	89%	80%
	Province	65%	73%	69%
Grade 6	Board	82%	83%	69%
	Province	74%	73%	58%

Our Grade 6 students have surpassed the Ministry's target of 75% by 2012 for reading and writing for three consecutive years. We are on track to achieve the target for math as well with a focus on teaching initiatives to improve student learning and achievement in mathematics.

During the 2010–2011 school year, intermediate teachers invested more time into building knowledge around current thinking on mathematics education. Teachers continued to explore and apply the big ideas of Dr. Marian Small, a long-time professor of mathematics and former Dean of Education in New Brunswick. Dr. Small's thinking and research is about teaching math through big ideas, open questioning and parallel tasks with a view to empowering teachers to differentiate instruction and engage learners. Strategies were further explored during professional learning communities where teachers collaborated in order to improve their practice.

Collaborative Inquiry for Learning Mathematics (CIL-M) promotes job-embedded professional learning for teachers. It integrates new knowledge and understanding of student learning and classroom instruction into teachers' existing knowledge of professional practice.

In Renfrew County Catholic Schools, this inquiry involves teachers co-planning and co-teaching lessons in math problem solving. The three-part problem-solving lesson is organized around before (activation of prior knowledge and experiences pertinent to the day's problem), during (problem) and after (consolidation and practice) activities. During the 2010–2011 school year, junior grade teachers from four Renfrew County Catholic elementary schools were involved in this initiative. This current school year, 2011–2012, the Collaborative Inquiry in Mathematics initiative has expanded to include some junior grade teachers from all Renfrew County Catholic elementary schools.

Secondary quick facts:

- 76.7% of our secondary students have completed 16 credits at the end of their second year of high school
- Our Grade 9 EQAO assessments show 55% of our students achieving Level 3 or 4 in applied math—well above the provincial average of 42%
- 80% of our students in academic math achieved Level 3 or 4, compared to the provincial average of 83%

	Academic	Applied
Board	82	63
Province	82	40

Highlights of our year

- Randy Bissonnette, Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Pembroke was named one of Canada's Outstanding Principals of the Year for 2011



- Ten student projects in the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board received SpeakUp funding grants totalling \$8,000 from the Ontario government
- Three RCCDSB students (Brad Lair, Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Julia Rowat, St. Joseph's Catholic High School, and Katie Brooks, RCCDSB Student Trustee) attended the first Catholic Student Leadership Conference, *Lighting the Way*, in Niagara Falls to participate in student-led sessions to discuss Catholic education
- Bishop Smith Catholic High School student Rebeccah Sandrelli captured a Bronze Medal in the Senior Category and the Canadian Stockholm Junior Water Prize at the Canada Wide Science Fair in Toronto in May
- St. Michael's Catholic School student Alexandria Schraenkler also won a Bronze Medal in the Junior Category at the Canada Wide Science Fair in Toronto in May for her project "Does the water quality affect the rising of yeast?"

Improving our outcomes

At RCCDSB, we have implemented a number of specific measures to improve outcomes for students with low levels of achievement and for schools with low performance:

- Credit rescue and credit recovery: e.g., summer school program
- Student Success Teams: monitoring and interventions
- Focused DART support for literacy and numeracy
- Guidance support and modified timetables
- Tutors in the classroom program.

We also provide programs for students who are unable to attend regular school:

- Alternate School sites in Pembroke and Renfrew (185 total credits earned in 2010–2011)
- Home instruction (for medically fragile) (44 total credits in 2010–2011)
- Young Parent Support Program (45 total credits including two graduates in 2010–2011)
- Student Re-engagement Initiative (five students returned to earn credits, two graduated)
- Focused intervention from Safe Schools Coordinator to sustain the academic plan for success for suspended students.

Our accomplishments in improving student learning and achievement through special education programs and services include:

- Assistive Technology—focused use for students with special education needs has increased student achievement
- Precise teaching strategies that accurately target learning deficits have built greater capacity for future learning
- SERT interventions focused on self-advocacy and independence have improved achievement and personal growth for LD students.



Notable accomplishments

Student, parent and community engagement

- A Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) was formed to enhance parent involvement and advocacy with representatives from across our county to be a voice on behalf of schools at the board level. Special guest speaker, His Excellency Bishop Mulhall, was invited to a special event to promote PIC and gave a presentation about the importance of home, school and parish
- Community Use of Schools initiative to build and maintain strong ties between school, home, parish and our communities by encouraging community use of school facilities.

Student safety and health

- Lead-up to ISO—scrutinized vendors to ensure nutritious options that will encourage healthy eating habits of students
- Inspection of buildings before school year began to verify student and staff safety in the physical environment
- Restorative Justice—Safe Schools Coordinator trained in restorative practices to work with teachers throughout the board and lead healing circles in classrooms to address issues such as bullying and build relationships.

Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy

Implementation of the strategy has been supported through ongoing education about all aspects of the policy for board office personnel, administration and teachers. Various RCCDSB leaders (e.g., trustees, Safe Schools Coordinator, guidance staff, principals and students) have attended an OESC symposium and/or training sessions. Religious accommodation follows the guidelines listed and our religious special assignment teacher passes on new information that is filtered down from Catholic organizations.

Parent engagement initiatives by the board and PIC to engage diverse communities to support student achievement and well-being include fostering relationships in the community with parishes, school councils, Aboriginal groups and youth organizations (i.e., Phoenix Centre, Family and Children's Services, Community Care Access Centre), as well as ongoing relationships with SEAC and PIC at the board level.

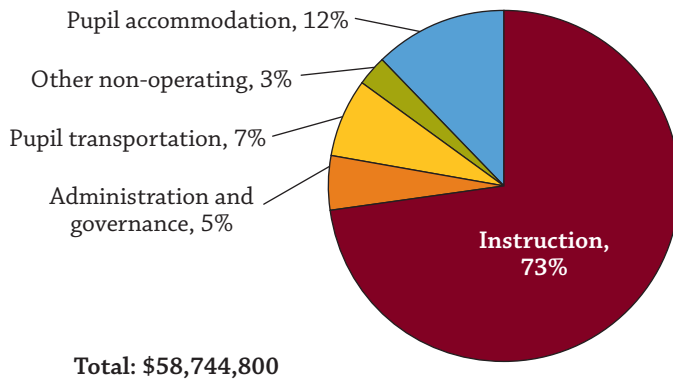
The principles of the policy have been incorporated into board and school improvement plans as they are developed. Principals and the Program Team continue to promote inclusive and equitable teaching strategies amongst teaching staff (i.e., differentiated instruction, inclusive special education model, Aboriginal education programs and services). Monitoring our progress to embed the principles in all aspects of school/board improvement planning will be carried out through:

- school reviews of classroom strategies to promote school-wide equity and inclusive education policies and practices with the support of principals and program teams
- inclusive and equitable teaching strategies amongst teaching staff (differentiated instruction, inclusive special education model, Aboriginal Ed. programs and services). Tell It-From Me surveys have been completed in four schools and the schools worked in partnership with the Safe Schools Coordinator.

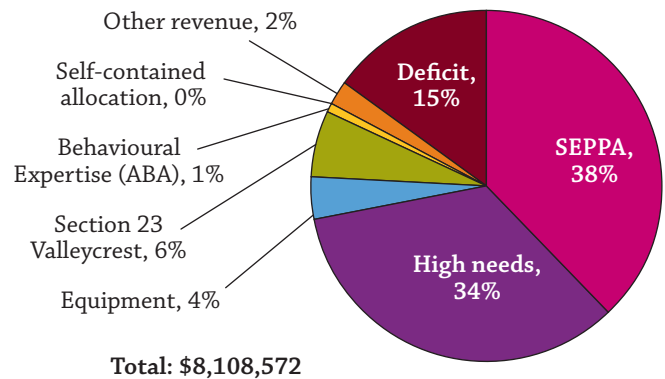
Financial stewardship

2011–2012 budget

Expenditure by category



Special Education Revenues



2010–2011 highlights

The RCCDSB presented a balanced budget for 2010–2011 that met the needs of all students in the system and provided a high quality of education.

Programs

A number of exciting programs that reflect the board's commitment to excellence and the province's mandate to increase student achievement and close gaps in achievement were:

- More than \$178,000 for the School Effectiveness Strategy to enhance pupils' literacy and numeracy skills
- Almost \$90,000 to continue the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program to strengthen ties between high school and the trades
- \$80,000 to continue Tutors in the Classroom to provide extra coaching and support to students.

Technology

Projects to upgrade our technology infrastructure encompassed:

- \$100,000 to build on E-Learning technology in the classroom and provide online homework support
- Purchase of interactive Smart boards for classrooms
- Wireless internet capability to 10 elementary schools to expand student horizons and develop a high-tech learning community.

Physical resources

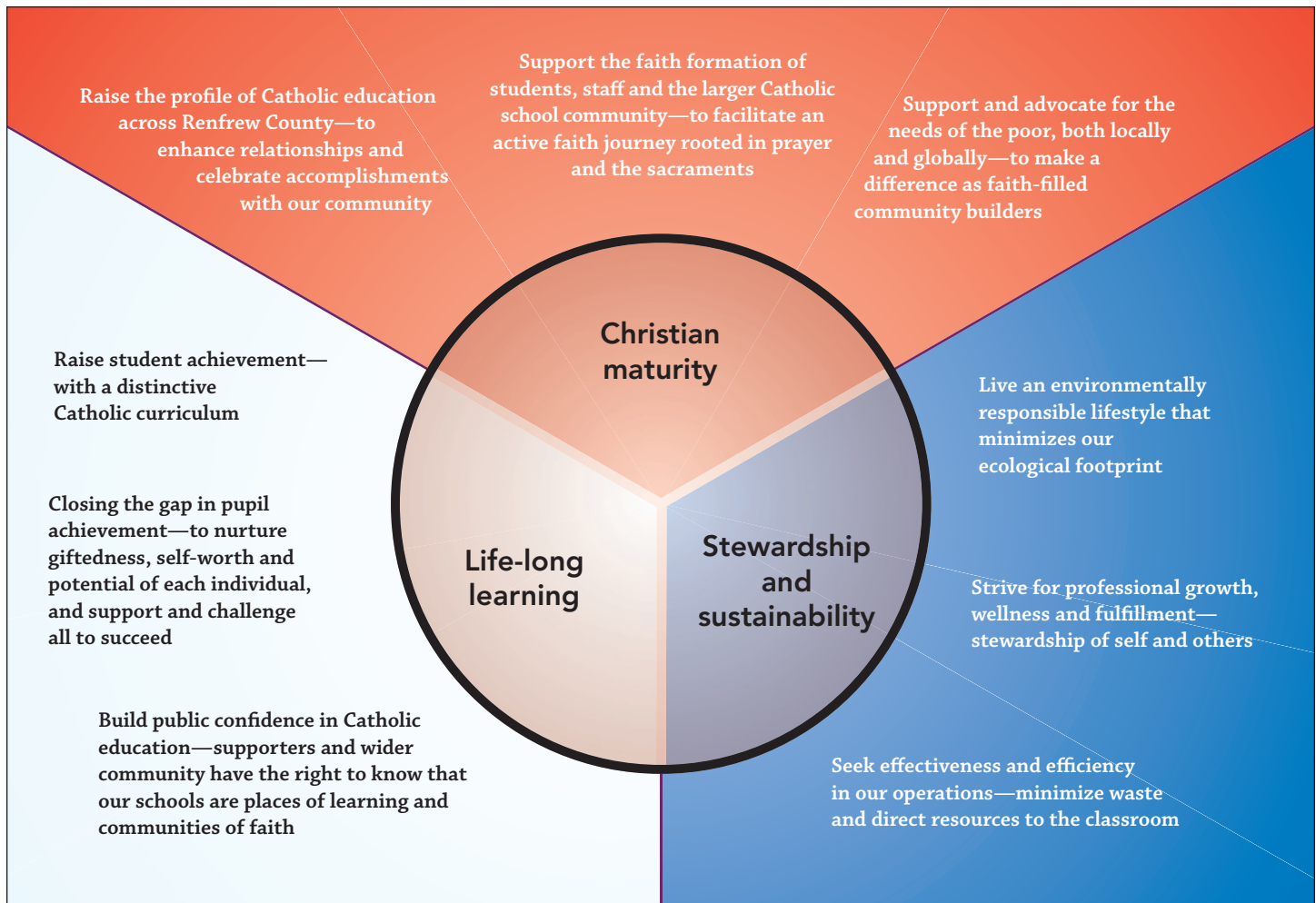
Infrastructure spending to increase the safety, efficiency and energy savings of our schools and to enhance our learning environments included:

- More than \$3.7 million in infrastructure improvements leading to energy savings at 15 schools throughout the board (lighting retrofits, occupancy sensors, Building Automation Systems)
- \$340,000 in provincial funding through the Renewable Energy Funding program for solar panels at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Pembroke, Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School in Petawawa and St. Joseph Catholic High School in Renfrew
- Parking lot improvements and paving at Bishop Smith Catholic High School in Pembroke
- Replacement gymnasium floor at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Pembroke.



Our journey

The Renfrew County Catholic District School Board has developed a strategic plan that encompasses three fundamental aspects: Christian maturity, life-long learning, and stewardship and sustainability. The RCCDSB strategic plan can be accessed at: <http://rccdsb.edu.on.ca/files/2011/10/Strategic-Plan-2011-2012.pdf>



First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework

In accordance with Ontario's FNMI framework, several initiatives have been undertaken by our board to empower and improve outcomes of our Aboriginal students:

- Work is ongoing on the parent engagement program to encourage parents to become interested and involved
- An Aboriginal Success Teacher and a Native Liaison Counsellor provided intervention, advice and counselling for students and parents about school issues
- Native Language program provided instruction in Algonquin language, culture, and history for Grades 1 through 8
- Introduced teachers to tool kits and resources to help integrate Aboriginal culture and history into the daily classroom curriculum
- A Native Studies program that was introduced at Bishop Smith Catholic High School in Pembroke was prepared for introduction at St. Joseph's Catholic High School in Renfrew for 2011–2012
- Resource people provided inservice for teacher representatives from each school across the board

