



MEDIA RELEASE

Upper Grand District School Board

For Immediate Release

Date: September 14, 2011

PRIMARY AND JUNIOR (GRADE 3 AND 6) EQAO RESULTS RELEASED

GUELPH, Ontario – The provincial Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) today released board-level results for Grade 3 and 6 assessments of reading, writing and math conducted in May and June 2011. In the Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) the strongest improvement was in Grade 3 Writing, where the number of students passing the test jumped 7% to 73%.

“The results show that our strategies for improving student literacy among our youngest students are working,” said board chair Bob Borden. “We know that when kids do well in the primary grades they are more likely to succeed in later grades. It’s so important to have this strong foundation.”

“We are pleased with the positive growth in literacy, as demonstrated by our cohort data,” said Borden. “Our students who wrote the Grade 3 assessment in 2008 showed improvement in reading and writing when they wrote the Grade 6 assessment in 2011.”

The success in Grade 3 Writing was tempered by a lower score in another area. UGDSB results in Grade 6 Math fell 6% to 53%.

“Since 2009 the provincial results for Grade 6 Math have been in decline, and we’ve been in step with that trend,” said Borden.

“So, yes, we’re a little disappointed, but we appreciate the value in the EQAO evaluations. A preliminary look at our cohort data for mathematics indicates a need for us to focus attention in this area. The significant jump in Grade 3 Writing scores tells us that we can make big strides.”

Steps to improve scores in Grade 6 math are already underway.

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“Last year 20 schools focused their professional learning for teachers on improving the numeracy skills of their students,” said Principal of Program Bonnie Talbot. The commitment to the professional development of teachers in the area of numeracy will be extended to other schools this year.

“As our teachers innovate and adopt more effective strategies for delivering the math curriculum, we should begin to see some improvements year over year,” said Talbot.

The board’s EQAO results in other areas were either the same or slightly down from the previous year. Grade 3 Reading results held steady at 64%, while Grade 3 Math dropped a single digit to 67%. Grade 6 Reading and Writing results were also down a single digit from the previous year, to 73% and 68% respectively.

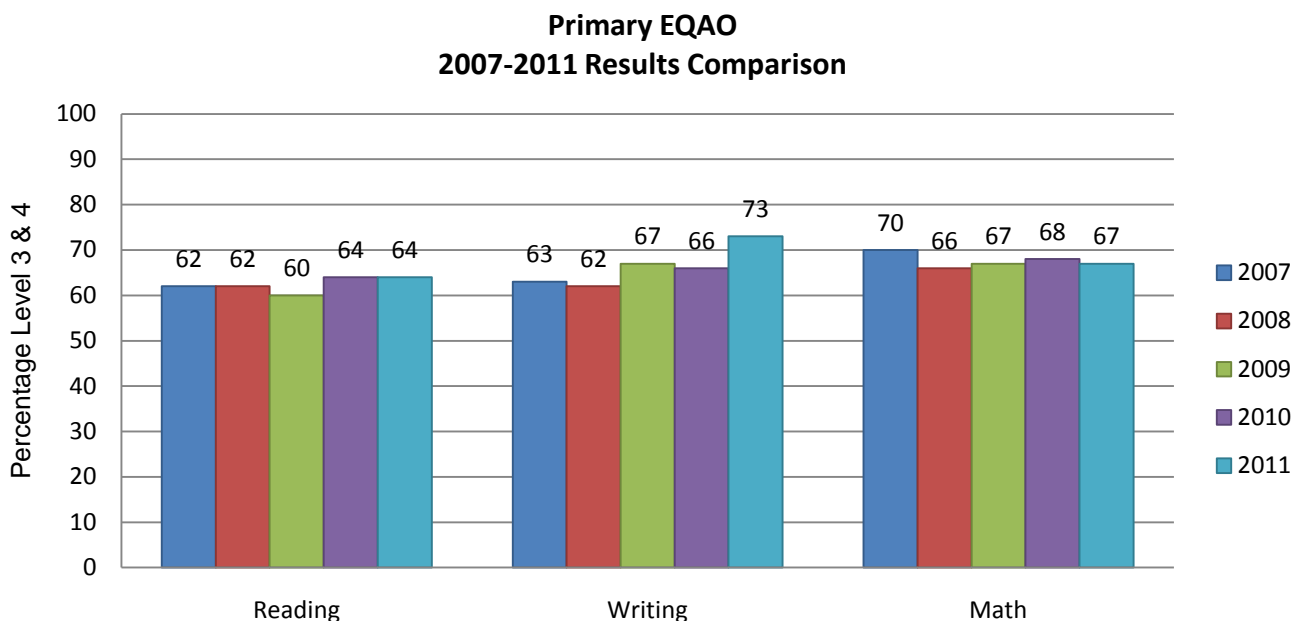
“I know that teachers and staff at every level are doing some excellent work,” said Borden. “The stats may fluctuate, but our commitment to students is unwavering.”

Schools will receive individual student results between September 19 and September 23, at which time reports will be distributed to parents.

EQAO RESULTS COMPARISON – Primary

The board had 59 schools participate in the Primary assessment. There were 2,113 grade 3 students who participated in the test.

The graph below shows the percentage of grade 3 students who achieved a level 3 or 4 on the assessment over the past five years. The percentages represent those students who have attained or exceeded the provincial standard.



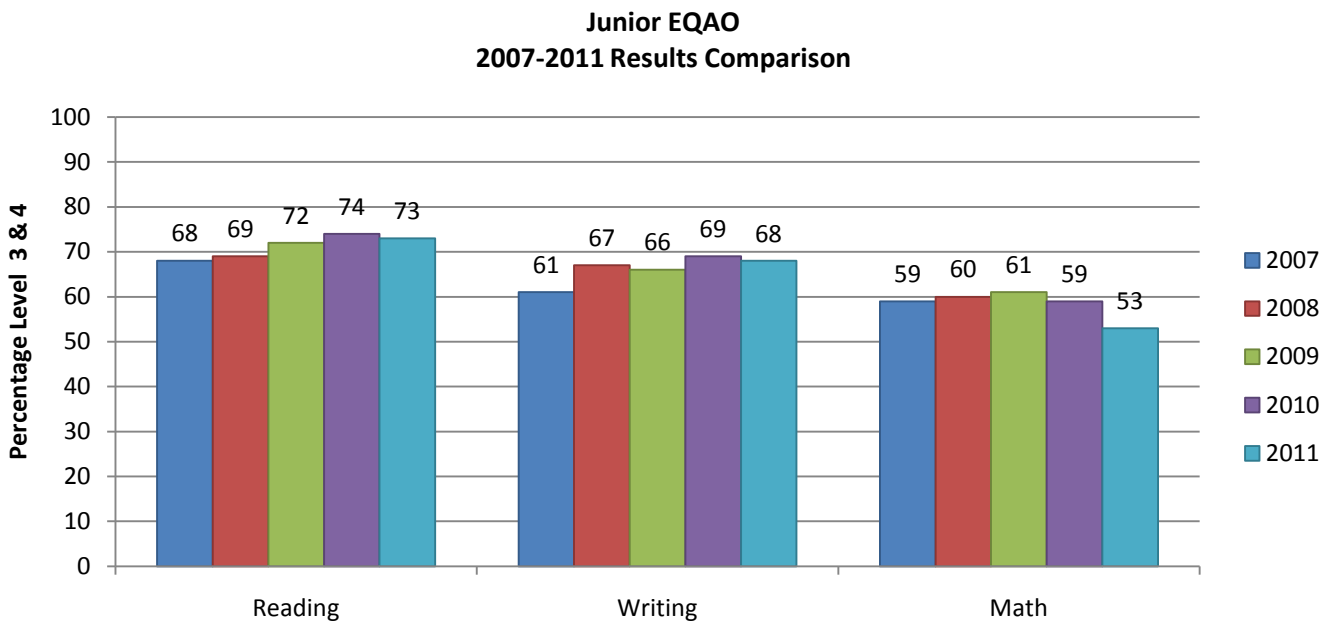
The chart below shows the board results in each of the subject areas in comparison to the provincial results. Once again, each percentage represents the number of students who achieved a level 3 or 4 on the assessment, indicating that they met or exceeded the provincial standard.

	Reading		Writing		Mathematics	
Year of Assessment	UGDSB	Ontario	UGDSB	Ontario	UGDSB	Ontario
2007	62	62	63	64	70	69
2008	62	61	62	66	66	68
2009	60	61	67	68	67	70
2010	64	62	66	70	68	71
2011	64	65	73	73	67	69

EQAO RESULTS COMPARISON – Junior

The board had 59 schools participate in the Junior assessment. In the spring, 2,297 grade 6 students participated in the test.

The graph below shows the percentage of grade 6 students within the board who received a level 3 or 4 on the assessment. Again, this represents students who met or exceeded the provincial standard.



The chart below shows the board results in each of the subject areas in comparison to the provincial results. Once again each of the percentages represents the number of students who achieved a level 3 or 4 on the assessment, indicating that they met or exceeded the provincial standard.

Year of Assessment	Reading		Writing		Mathematics	
	UGDSB	Ontario	UGDSB	Ontario	UGDSB	Ontario
2007	68	64	61	61	59	59
2008	69	66	67	67	60	61
2009	72	69	66	67	61	63
2010	74	72	69	70	59	61
2011	73	74	68	73	53	58

Additional information and school by school results are posted on the board's website at www.ugdsb.on.ca/eqao, and from the EQAO's website at www.eqao.com.

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