



# MEDIA RELEASE

Upper Grand District School Board

---

For Immediate Release

Date: September 14, 2011

## **GRADE 9 MATH EQAO RESULTS EXCEED PROVINCIAL AVERAGES**

GUELPH, Ontario – The provincial Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) today released board-level results for Grade 9 math assessments conducted in January 2011. In the Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) the number of students in the applied program who met provincial standards jumped 5% over the previous year to 52%, a full 10 percentage points higher than the provincial average of 42%. In the academic program, 85% of grade 9 students passed the benchmark for the math curriculum, 2% more than the provincial average of 83%.

“I’m really pleased with this result,” said Board chair Bob Borden. “More grade 9 students are succeeding in math than the previous year, which suggests to me we’re doing something right.”

UGDSB grade 9 students in both the applied and academic programs have consistently exceeded provincial averages for the past 6 years, but teachers and staff from the board’s Program Department are not resting on their laurels. Information from EQAO and other assessment data has driven change in instructional practices.

“We’ve brought in a math coaching initiative that gives Intermediate teachers opportunities to collaborate, co-plan and co-teach lessons,” said Paul Costa, Curriculum Leader for numeracy at secondary schools.

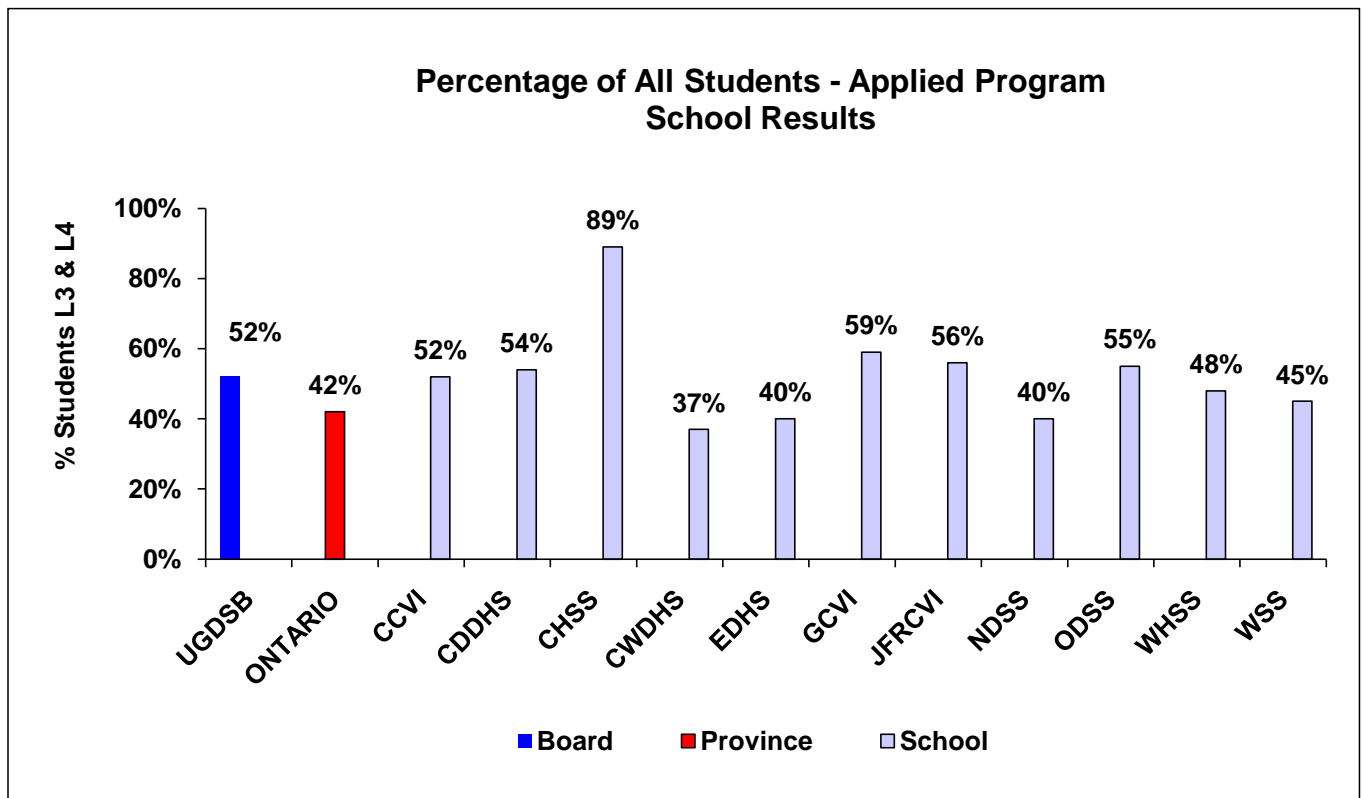
The board has also begun an initiative called “Grade 9 Gap Closing” which provides teachers with resources and strategies to help students catch up on concepts and skills missed in number sense, algebra and geometry.

Bonnie Talbot, Principal of Program, says the strategies are making a difference. “Our teachers may stand alone at the front of the classroom, but behind the scenes there is a lot of teamwork going on.”

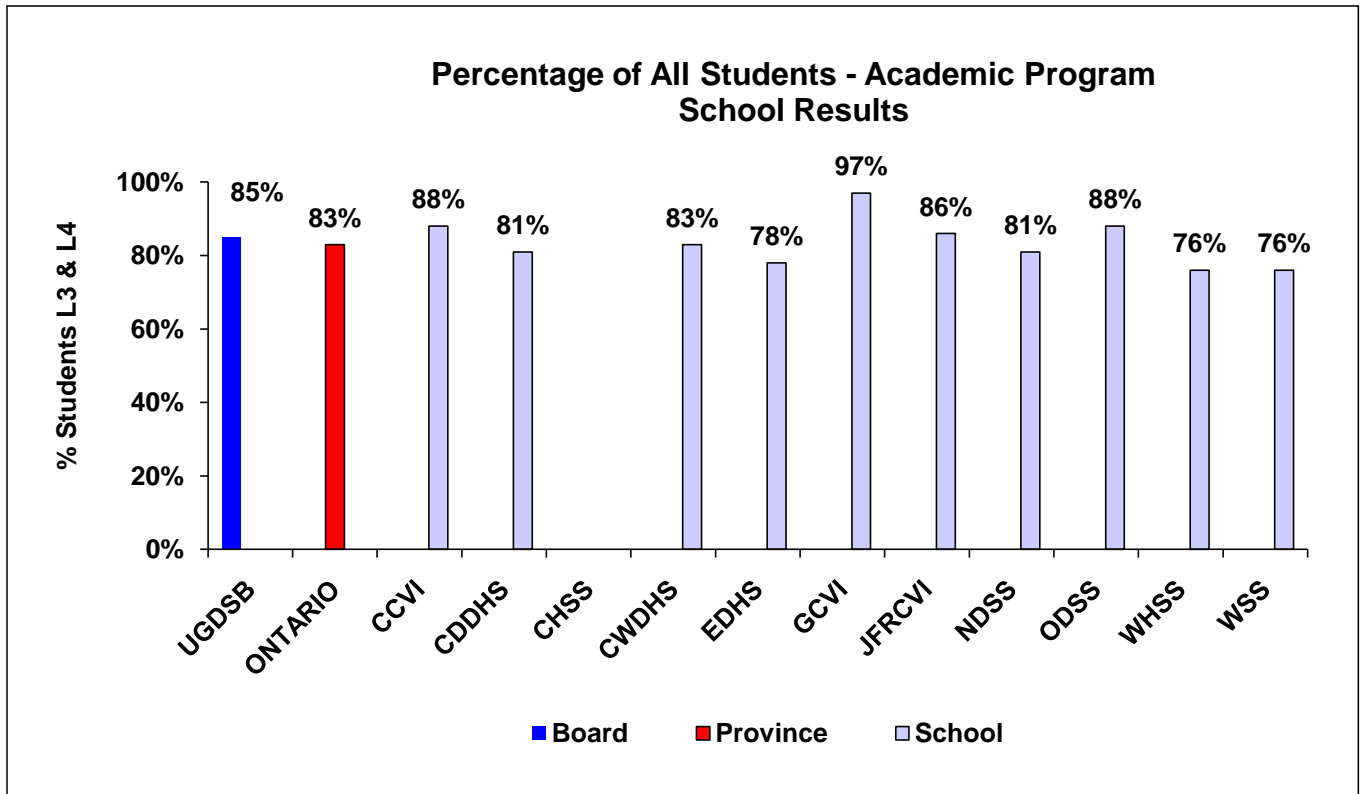
. . . More

Upper Grand was also one of the first boards in the province to participate in “Homework Help”, an interactive website where math students in grades 7 to 10 can get live help during the evening hours from qualified teachers. Based on a successful pilot, the Ontario Ministry of Education decided to roll out the site to all boards in the province this fall.

Below is a graph which shows the percentage of students in the Applied Program who achieved levels 3 and 4 in the Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics:



The graph below shows the percentage of students in the Academic Program who achieved levels 3 and 4 in the Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics:



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

**For more information:**

Maggie McFadzen, Communications Officer  
519-822-4420 ext. 725  
maggie.mcfadzen@ugdsb.on.ca

Mark Weidmark, Administrative Officer - Communications  
519-822-4420 ext. 544  
mark.weidmark@ugdsb.on.ca