



# From the Director's Desk....

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## Provincial, National, and International Assessments

October 30, 2018

Ontario's K-12 education system ranks as one of the highest performing educational jurisdictions in the world. The 2015 *Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)* results for Ontario's 15 year-old students in science, reading, and math were compiled by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) and reported on December 6, 2016<sup>1</sup>. Fifteen-year-old students from 72 education systems (jurisdictions) from around the world, including all 10 Canadian provinces, participated in this international assessment. Ontario student achievement matched the Canadian average in science and reading, but was just below the national average in math.

The summary of results for Ontario students is listed below:

**SCIENCE** - The average Ontario **science** score was 524 in 2015, compared to 527 in 2012.

- Students from six jurisdictions (Singapore, Alberta, British Columbia, Japan, Quebec and Estonia) had science results that were statistically higher than Ontario's.<sup>2</sup>
- Ontario students matched the Canadian average for both the test overall and all the science subskills evaluated.
- As in all Canadian provinces, no gender differences in overall science were observed in Ontario.
- Students in Ontario's English-language school system achieved higher science scores (526) than students in the French-language school system (486).

**READING** - The average Ontario **reading** score was 527 in 2015, compared to 528 in 2012.

- In 2015, no jurisdictions had results statistically higher than Ontario's.
- Ontario students' reading achievement matched the Canadian average.
- As in all Canadian provinces, girls in Ontario performed significantly better (542) than boys (512) on the reading assessment.
- Students in Ontario's English-language school system achieved higher reading scores (529) than students in the French-language school system (476).

**MATHEMATICS** - After a decline in **math** between 2003 and 2012, the performance of Ontario students remained stable over the 2012 to 2015 period.

- In 2015, students from 11 jurisdictions (Singapore, Hong Kong–China, Quebec, Macao–China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, BSJG–China, Korea, Switzerland, Estonia and Canada) performed better than Ontario's in math.
- Among Canadian provinces, only Quebec had results statistically higher than Ontario's. Ontario students performed just below the Canadian students' average, and they are still among the top 25% of participating jurisdictions.
- In Ontario, as well as in Canada overall and in four other provinces, boys performed significantly better (514) than girls (505) in mathematics.
- Students in Ontario's English- and French-language school systems achieved the same in mathematics.

The Ontario government is refocusing math instruction on the fundamentals (number sense and numeration) in response to declining provincial results. For more information on changes in mathematics instruction, please refer to 'From the Director's Desk – Changes in Mathematics Instruction'.

Bluewater District School Board remains committed to its vision of *Preparing Our Students Today for the World of Tomorrow*.

### Contact information

For further information, please contact Alana Murray, Director of Education.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.eqao.com/en/about\\_eqao/media\\_room/Pages/2015-ontario-results-PISA.aspx](http://www.eqao.com/en/about_eqao/media_room/Pages/2015-ontario-results-PISA.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/national-international-assessments/PISA/Communication%20Documents/PISA-highlights-ontario-results-2015.pdf>