



School Board Report

First-Time Eligible Students



Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

Board: Waterloo Catholic DSB (67148)

On behalf of EQAO, I am pleased to provide you with the results of the 2015 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

This report includes the 2015 results as well as results for previous years, so you can track progress over time. You'll also find demographic and attitudinal information, which provides context for interpreting the achievement results.

Reading and writing skills are critical to success both in and out of school in the 21st century. It is important for students to make sense of what they read and communicate clearly when they write. The OSSLT assesses whether Ontario students have acquired these fundamental reading and writing skills across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9.

By assessing all students in our education system at key stages in their schooling, EQAO is able to provide reliable and objective data at the individual student, school and board levels. EQAO results alongside board and classroom assessment data have proven effective for monitoring progress and allowing school communities to make evidence-based decisions in their planning.

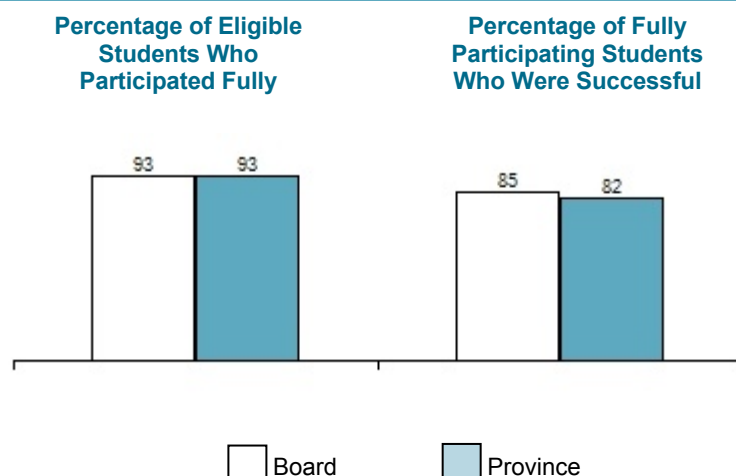
At EQAO, we strongly believe that reliable evidence empowers and guides the judgment and actions of professional educators and school communities. We are pleased to continue our partnership with you as we all work toward helping students reach their full potential. I hope you will find this report to be a rich source of information as you turn knowledge into action for the benefit of your students and community.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rodrigues
Chief Executive Officer
Education Quality and Accountability Office

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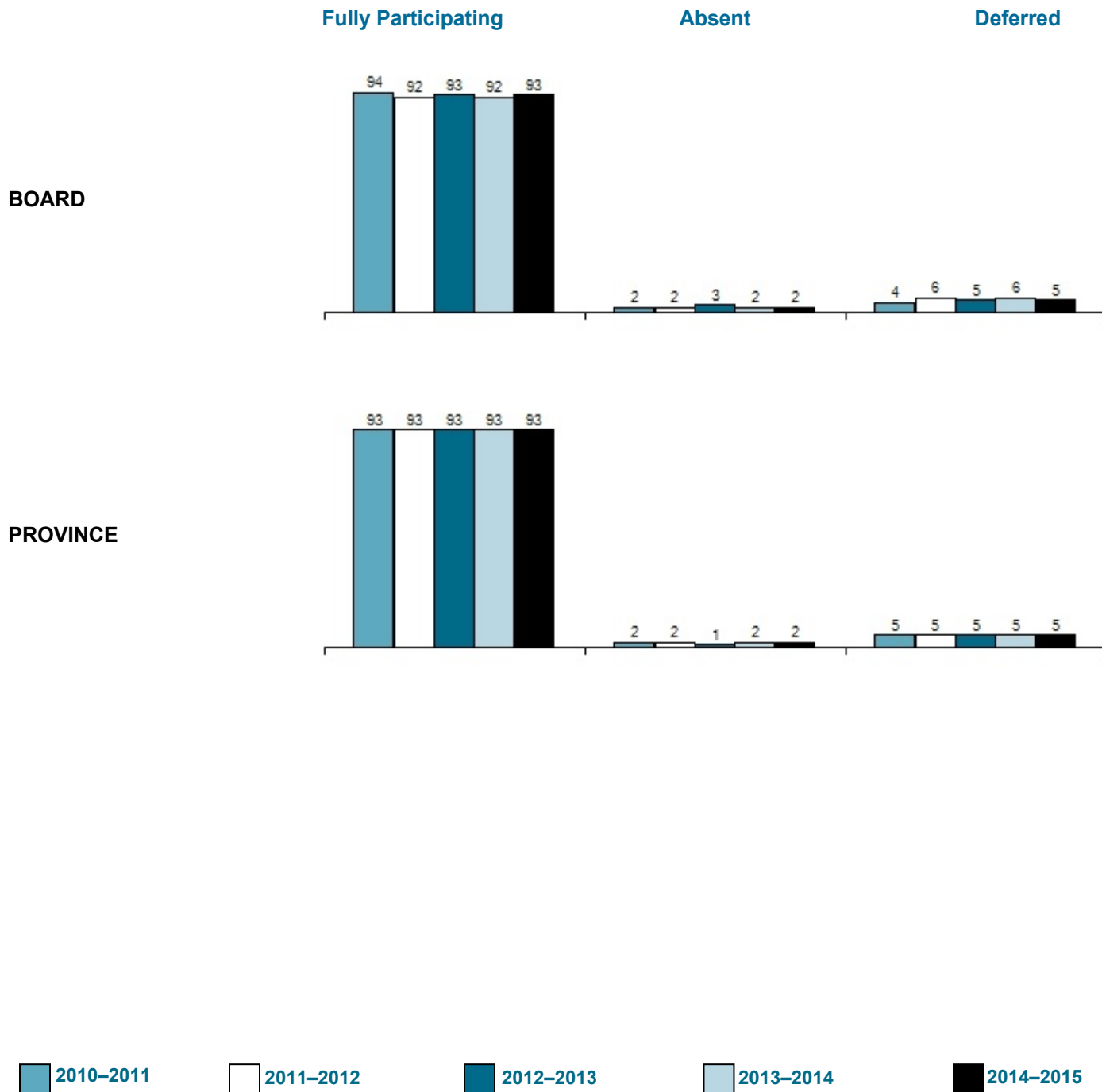
FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS, 2014–2015: PARTICIPATION RATE AND ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS



Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

PARTICIPATION RATES FOR ALL FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS OVER TIME

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS*



Number of First-Time Eligible Students

	<u>2010-2011</u>	<u>2011-2012</u>	<u>2012-2013</u>	<u>2013-2014</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>
Board	1 637	1 625	1 476	1 578	1 501
Province	153 635	147 306	143 358	141 815	137 620

* Percentages in graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

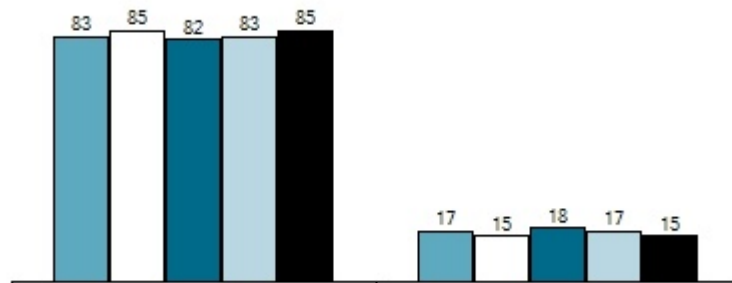
ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR FULLY PARTICIPATING FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS OVER TIME

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS*

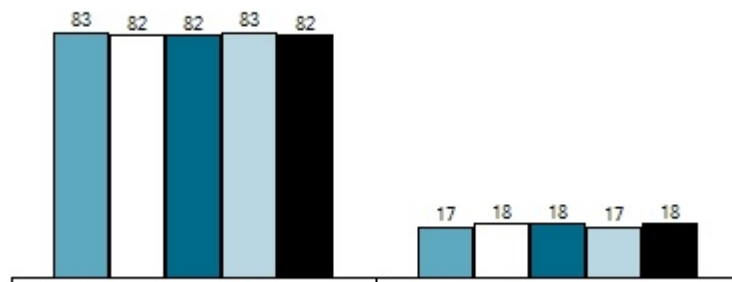
Successful

Not Successful

BOARD



PROVINCE



2010-2011

2011-2012

2012-2013

2013-2014

2014-2015

Number of Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students

	<u>2010-2011</u>	<u>2011-2012</u>	<u>2012-2013</u>	<u>2013-2014</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>
Board	1 542	1 490	1 369	1 445	1 392
Province	143 246	137 002	134 033	131 712	127 867

* Percentages in graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

TIPS

Each board is unique. To appreciate the distinctive character of a board, look at the contextual information to understand the features and characteristics of the community it serves.



This test captures the performance of students at one point in time each year. Consider the results along with other information about students' performance.



Exercise caution when interpreting results for small boards. Results may vary considerably from year to year, and differences may look exaggerated. For example, in a board of 100 students, a difference of 10% represents only ten students.



Trends may be difficult to identify or to interpret. This is especially true in small boards or in schools where there is a high turnover in the student population.



EQAO values students' privacy. Beginning in 2012–2013, results are not reported publicly for schools where fewer than 10 students fully participated because it might be possible to identify individual students. Prior to 2012–2013, results were not reported publicly for schools where fewer than 15 students fully participated.

WHAT IS IN THIS REPORT?

This report shows how well students in this board have met the minimum standard for literacy to the end of Grade 9 as set out in *The Ontario Curriculum*.

This report includes

- results for this board compared to the province;
- a comparison of results of the current and previous administrations of the test to aid in monitoring improvement and
- information about the characteristics of the students who participated.

Specifically, you will find

- summary graphs showing participation and success rates;
- detailed tables and graphs showing results for various groups of students, e.g., by gender, English language learners;
- student questionnaire results and
- an explanation of all terms used in this report.

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

- Examine the contextual information to understand the similarities and differences between the board and the province. Consider the challenges that any differences might present.
- Examine the board results.
 - Are these results consistent with what you would expect?
 - How do these results compare to the provincial results?
 - How do these results compare over time?
 - What influence might students' attitudes have on student performance (refer to the questionnaire results)?
- Speak to the board chair about the goals for improving student performance.

The Education Quality and Accountability Office is an independent agency that gathers information about student achievement through province-wide assessments.

Learn more about us at www.eqao.com.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

Contextual Information

This information provides a context for interpreting the board's results.

	Board		Province	
Enrolment				
Number of first-time eligible students	1 501		137 620	
Number of schools with first-time eligible students	5		786	
Number of students who were exempted	18		1 531	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Participation in the Test				
Of all first-time eligible students, those who participated fully in the assessment	1 392	93%	127 867	93%
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were absent	37	2%	2 603	2%
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were deferred	72	5%	7 150	5%
Gender[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students				
Female	709	47%	67 023	49%
Male	792	53%	70 597	51%
Gender not specified	0	0%	0	0%
Student Status[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students				
English language learners*	80	5%	8 042	6%
English language learners receiving special provisions**	61	4%	4 615	4%
Students with special education needs (excluding gifted)*	334	22%	25 772	19%
Students with special education needs receiving accommodations (excluding gifted)**	251	18%	20 522	16%
Course Type in English[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students				
Academic	1 106	74%	99 813	73%
Applied	323	22%	29 316	21%
Locally developed	56	4%	3 791	3%
ESL/ELD	10	1%	3 513	3%
Other	6	<1%	1 187	1%
Language^{††} Based on Student Questionnaire data				
	Number of Respondents:		121 594	
First language learned at home was other than English	235	17%	27 255	22%
Speak only or mostly English at home	1 072	80%	90 499	74%
Speak another language (or other languages) as often as English at home	192	14%	22 357	18%
Speak only or mostly another language (or other languages) at home	78	6%	7 936	7%

† Contextual data are provided by schools and/or boards through the Student Data Collection process. Some data may be missing because they were not provided by schools or boards.

* See Explanation of Terms.

** Percentages are based on fully participating students.

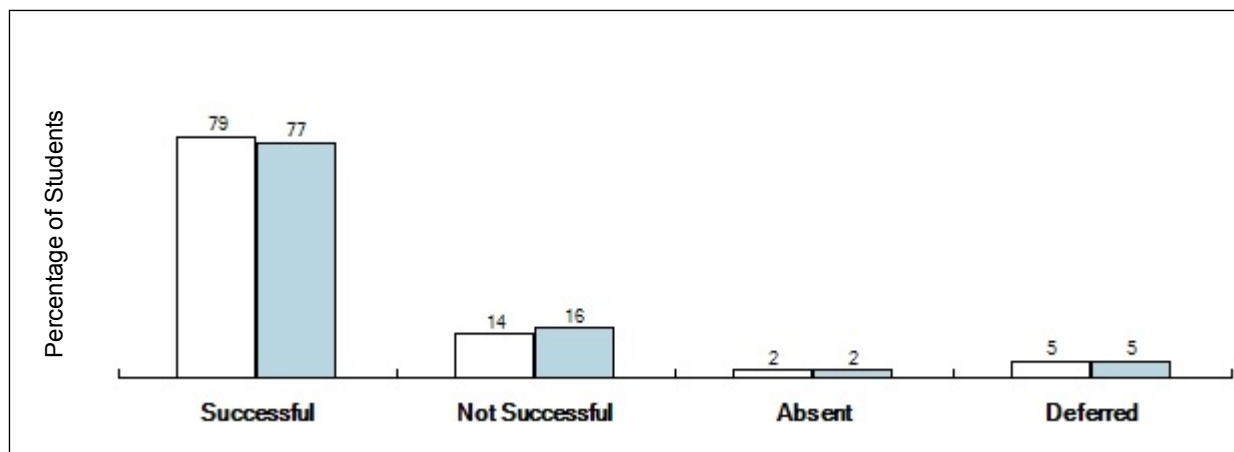
†† Contextual data pertaining to "language" are gathered from the Student Questionnaire completed by students. Some data may be missing because they were not provided by students.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

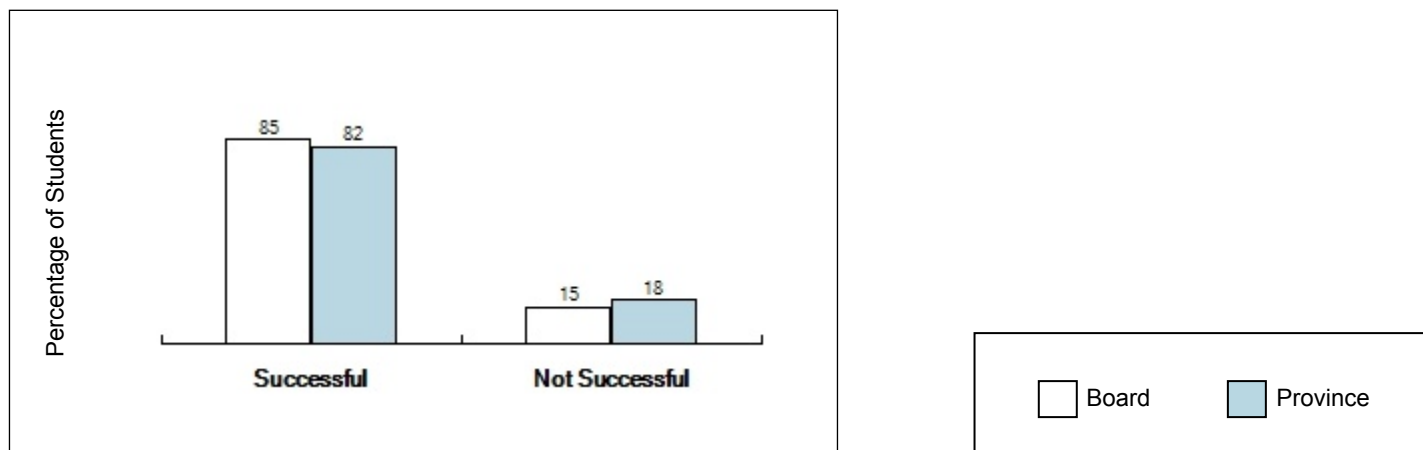
Results for All Students*

	Results for All Students First-Time Eligible Students			
	All		Fully Participating	
	Board # = 1 501	Province # = 137 620	Board # = 1 392	Province # = 127 867
Successful	1 179	79%	85%	82%
Not Successful	213	14%	15%	18%
Fully Participating	1 392	93%	93%	
Absent	37	2%		2%
Deferred	72	5%		5%

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students



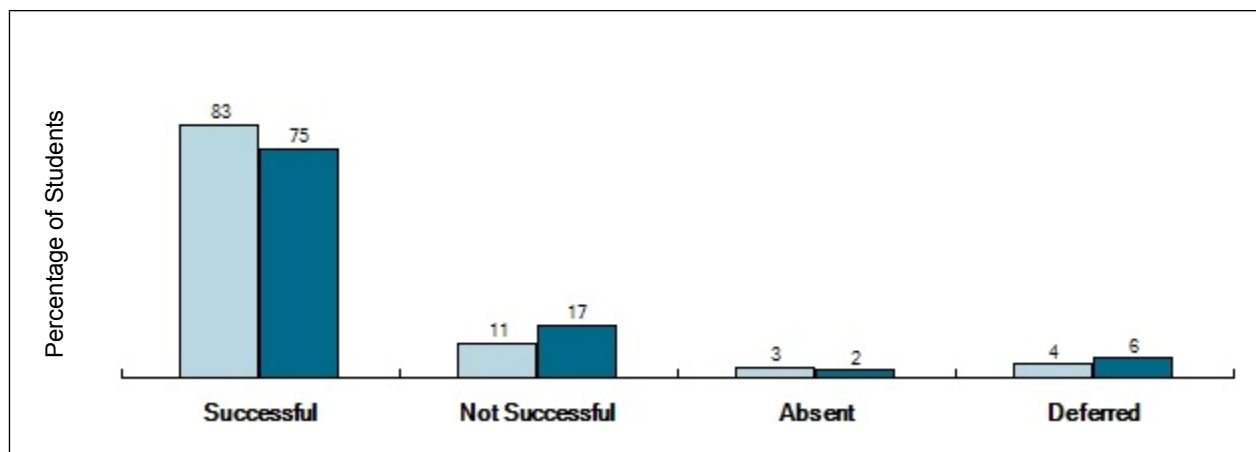
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

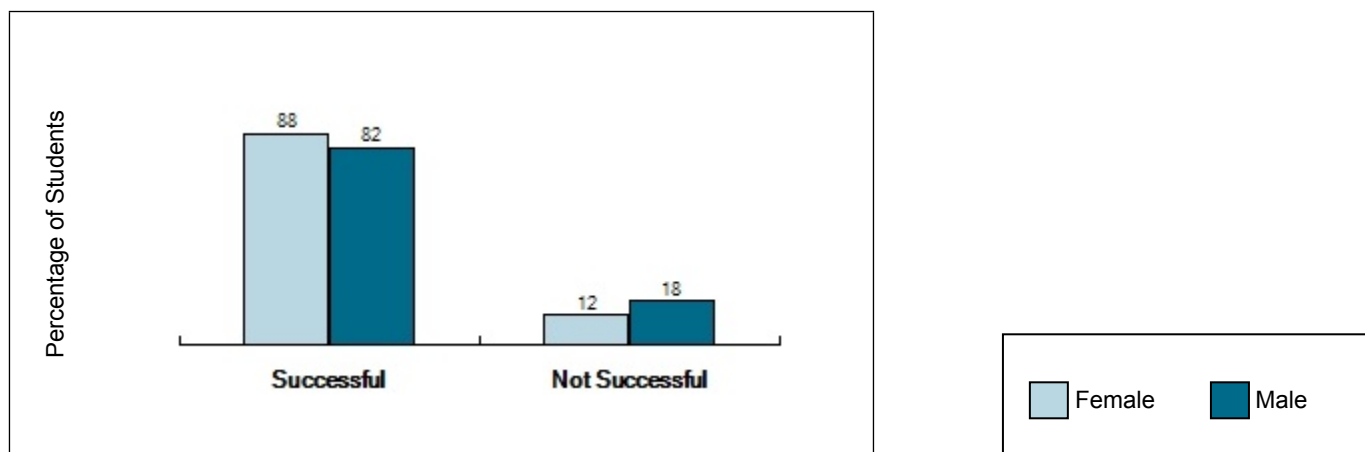
Board Results by Gender*†

Board Results by Gender First-Time Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	Female # = 709		Male # = 792		Female # = 666	Male # = 726
Successful	587	83%	592	75%	88%	82%
Not Successful	79	11%	134	17%	12%	18%
Fully Participating	666	94%	726	92%		
Absent	18	3%	19	2%		
Deferred	25	4%	47	6%		

Board Results for All First-Time Eligible Students by Gender



Board Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students by Gender



* Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

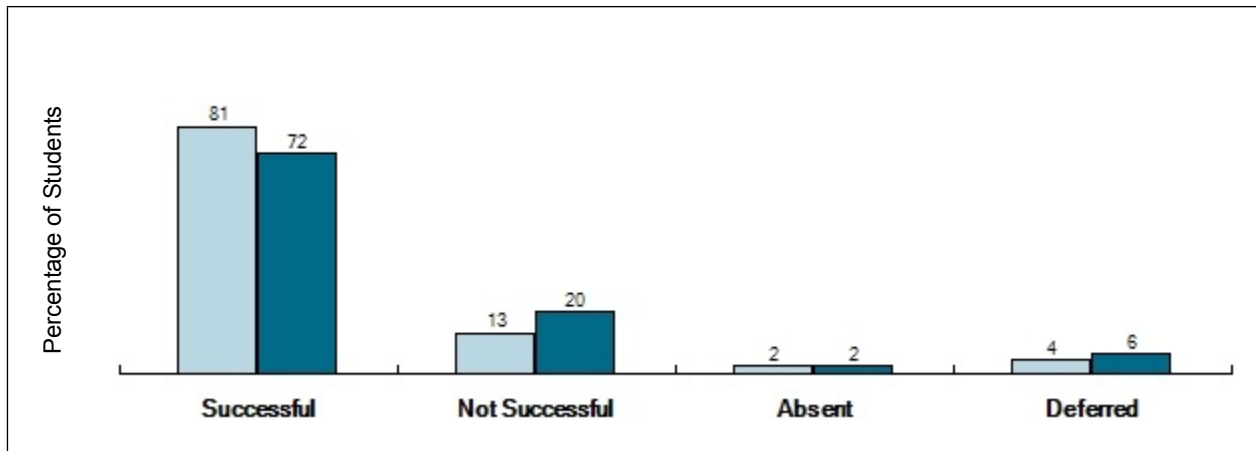
† Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

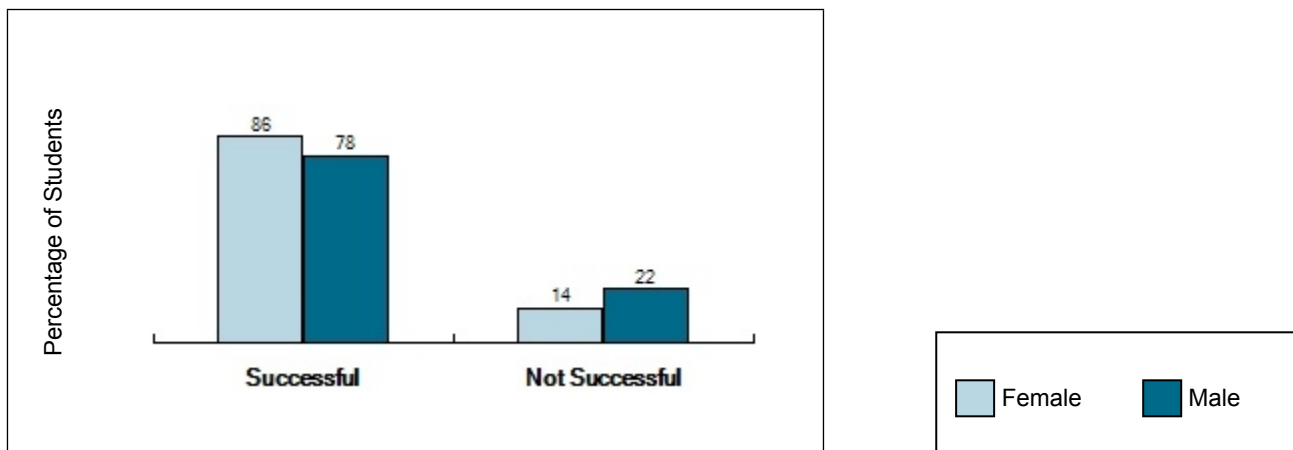
Provincial Results by Gender*†

Provincial Results by Gender First-Time Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	Female # = 67 023		Male # = 70 597		Female # = 62 936	Male # = 64 931
Successful	54 432	81%	50 877	72%	86%	78%
Not Successful	8 504	13%	14 054	20%	14%	22%
Fully Participating	62 936	94%	64 931	92%		
Absent	1 312	2%	1 291	2%		
Deferred	2 775	4%	4 375	6%		

Provincial Results for All First-Time Eligible Students by Gender



Provincial Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students by Gender



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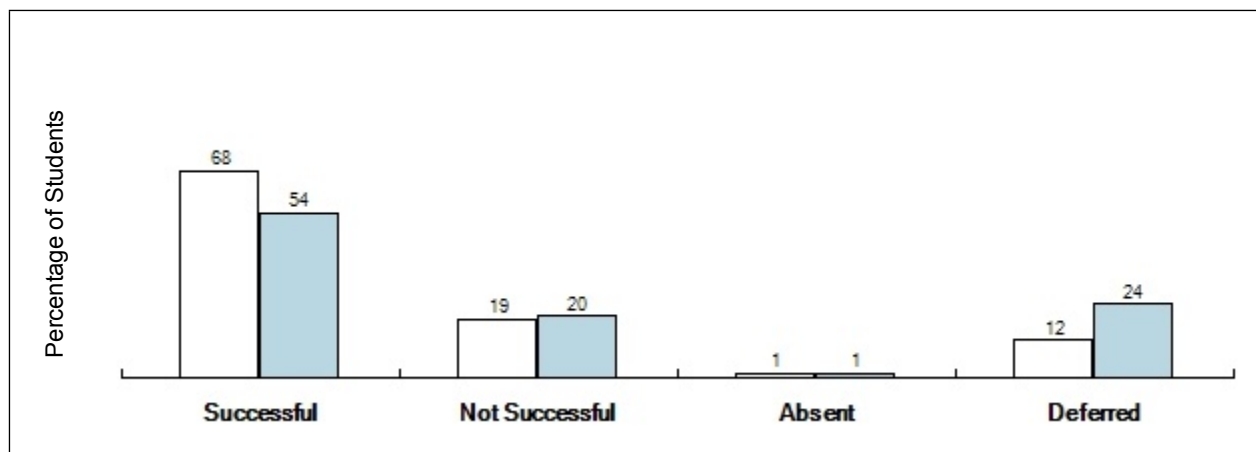
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

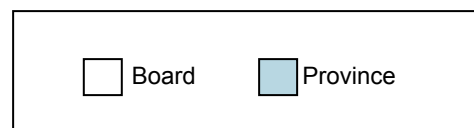
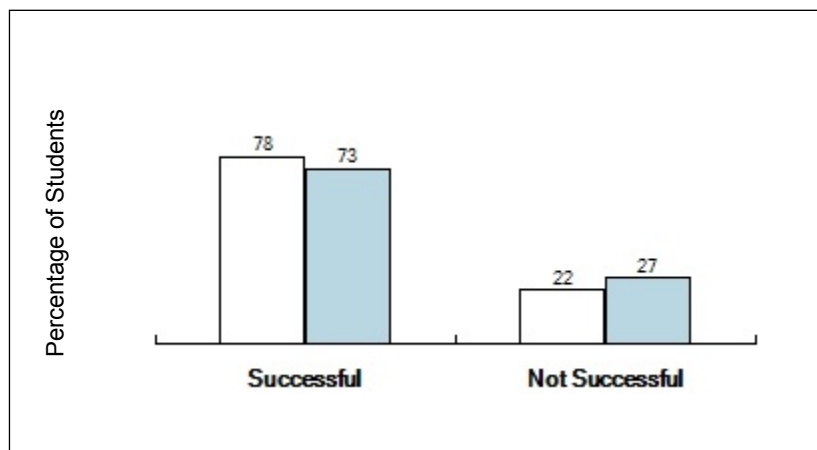
Results for English Language Learners*

	Results for English Language Learners First-Time Eligible Students				
	All		Fully Participating		
	Board # = 80	Province # = 8 042	Board # = 69	Province # = 6 005	
Successful	54	68%	54%	78%	73%
Not Successful	15	19%	20%	22%	27%
Fully Participating	69	86%	75%		
Absent	1	1%	1%		
Deferred	10	12%	24%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible English Language Learners



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible English Language Learners



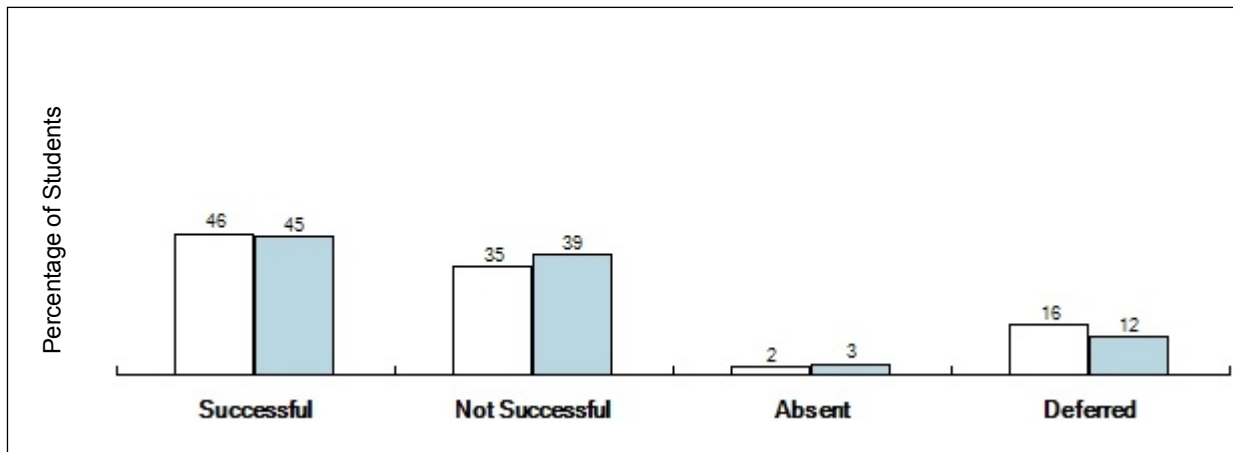
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

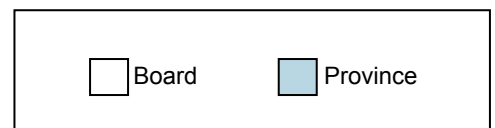
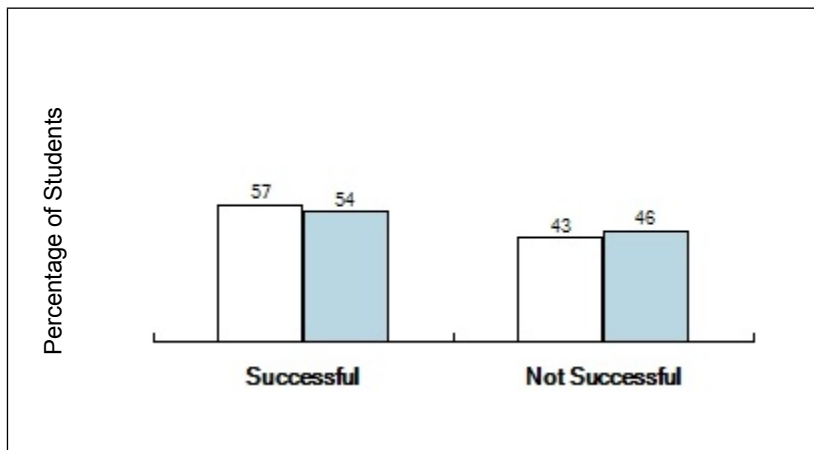
Results for Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted)*

	Results for Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted) First-Time Eligible Students			
	All		Fully Participating	
	Board # = 334	Province # = 25 772	Board # = 271	Province # = 21 869
Successful	154	46%	45%	57%
Not Successful	117	35%	39%	43%
Fully Participating	271	81%	85%	
Absent	8	2%	3%	
Deferred	55	16%	12%	

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted)



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted)



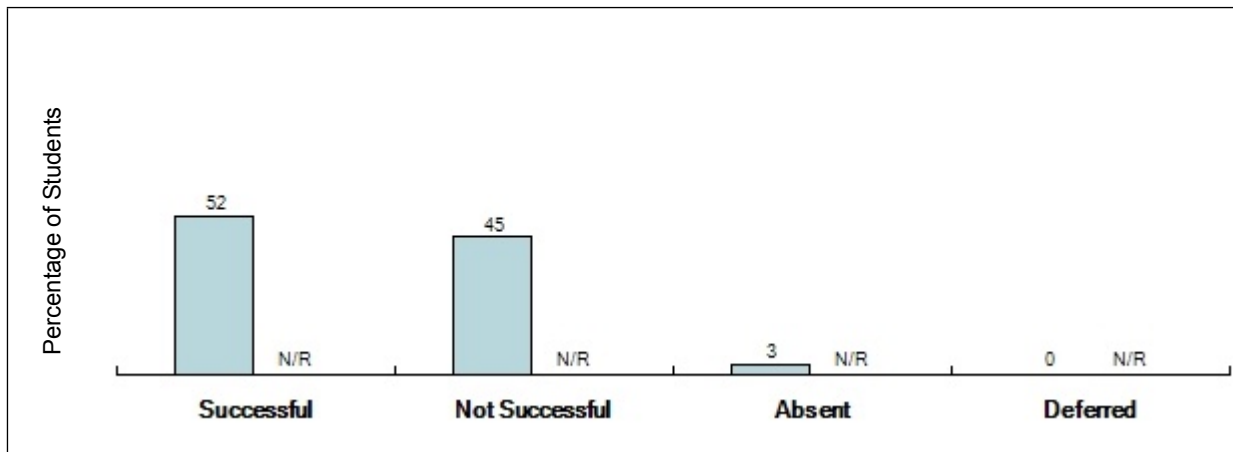
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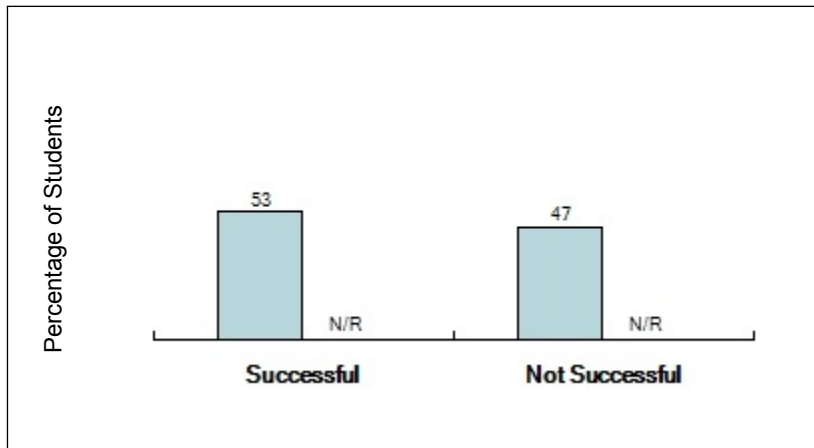
Board Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)*

Board Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted) First-Time Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	IEP Only # = 252		IEP and IPRC # = N/R		IEP Only # = 245	IEP and IPRC # = N/R
Successful	131	52%	N/R	N/R	53%	N/R
Not Successful	114	45%	N/R	N/R	47%	N/R
Fully Participating	245	97%	N/R	N/R		
Absent	7	3%	N/R	N/R		
Deferred	0	0%	N/R	N/R		

Board Results for All First-Time Eligible Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)



Board Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)



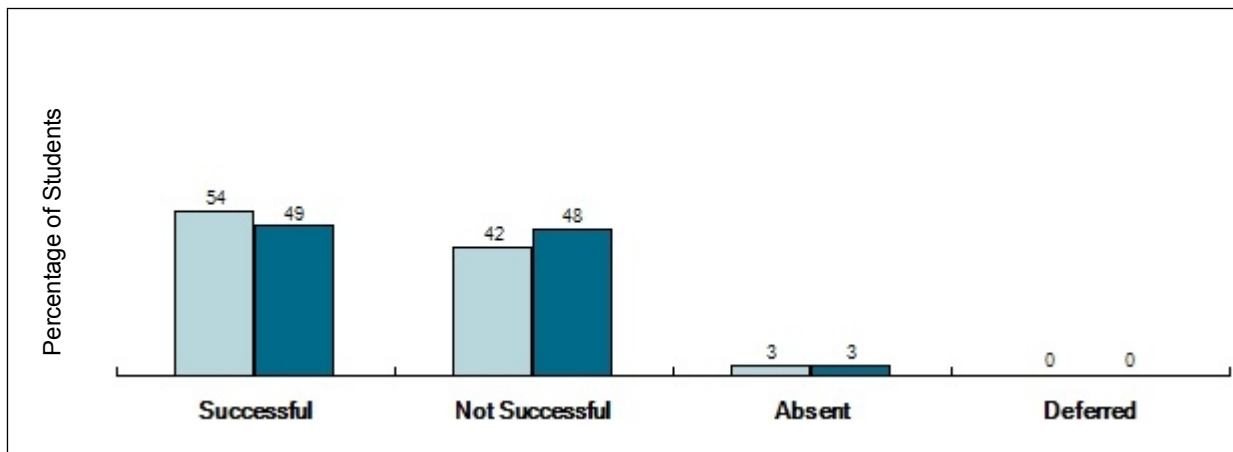
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

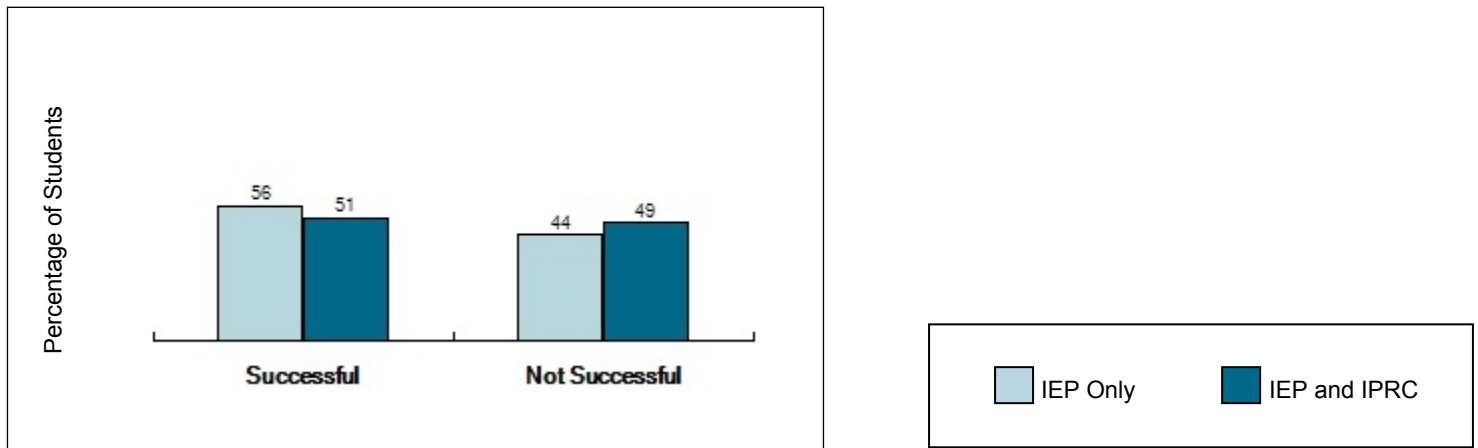
Provincial Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)*

Provincial Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted) First-Time Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	IEP Only # = 9 082		IEP and IPRC # = 12 084		IEP Only # = 8 770	IEP and IPRC # = 11 752
Successful	4 927	54%	5 976	49%	56%	51%
Not Successful	3 843	42%	5 776	48%	44%	49%
Fully Participating	8 770	97%	11 752	97%		
Absent	312	3%	332	3%		
Deferred	0	0%	0	0%		

Provincial Results for All First-Time Eligible Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)



Provincial Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)



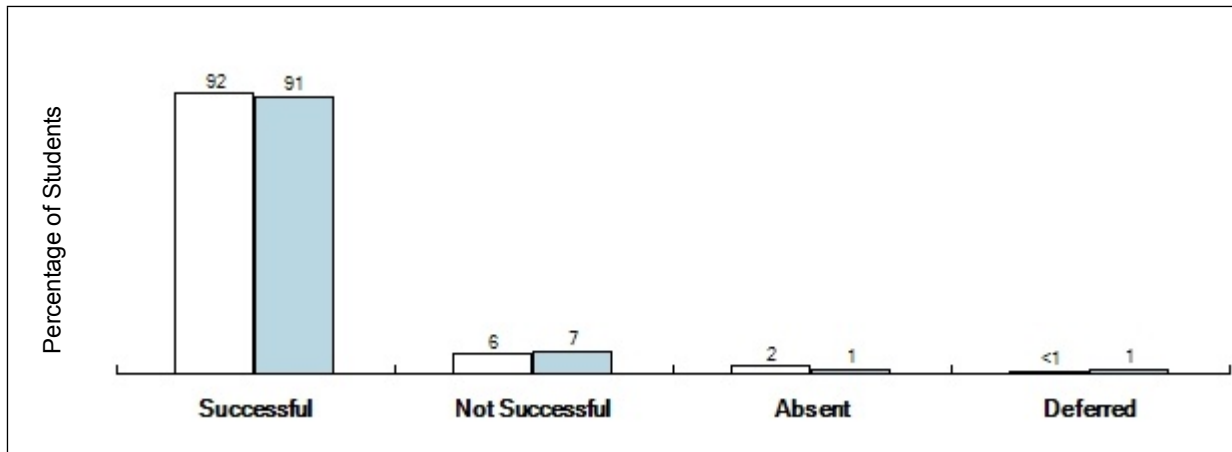
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

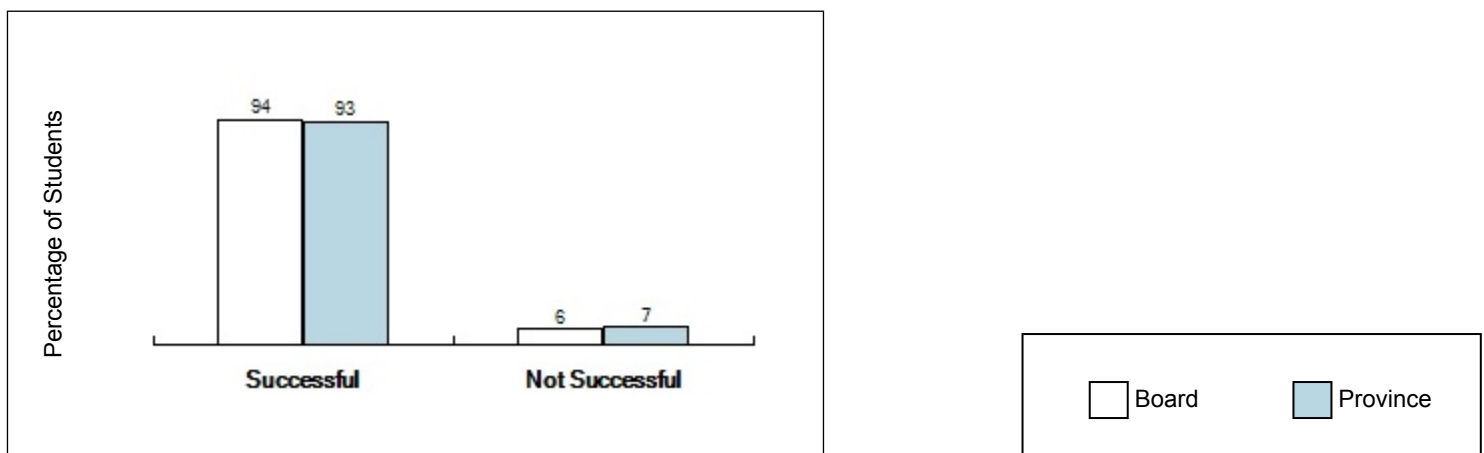
Results for Students Taking Academic English Course*

	Results for Students Taking Academic English Course First-Time Eligible Students				
	All		Fully Participating		
	Board # = 1 106	Province # = 99 813	Board # = 1 083	Province # = 97 615	
Successful	1 015	92%	91%	94%	93%
Not Successful	68	6%	7%	6%	7%
Fully Participating	1 083	98%	98%		
Absent	21	2%	1%		
Deferred	2	<1%	1%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students Taking Academic English Course



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students Taking Academic English Course



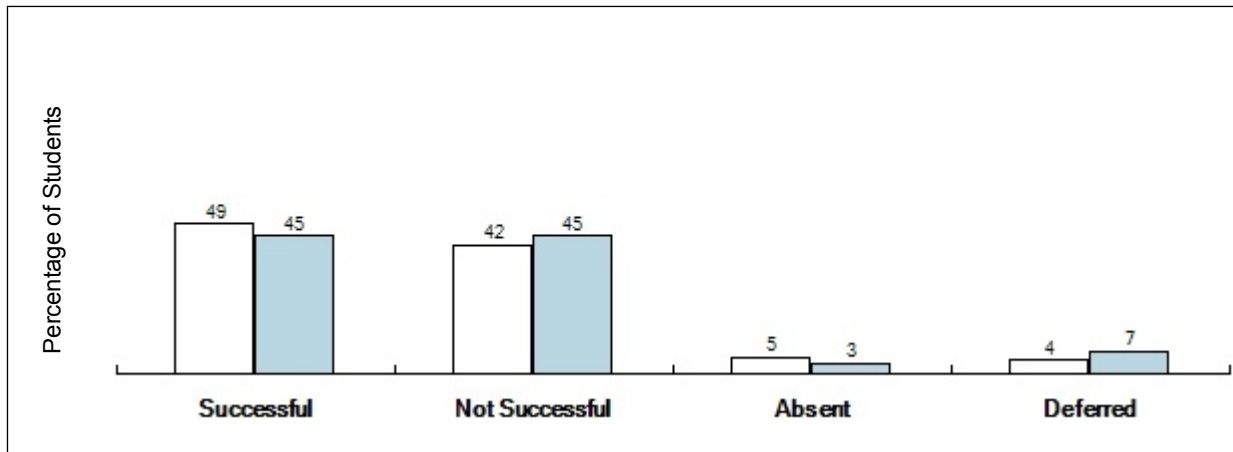
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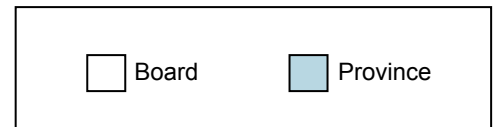
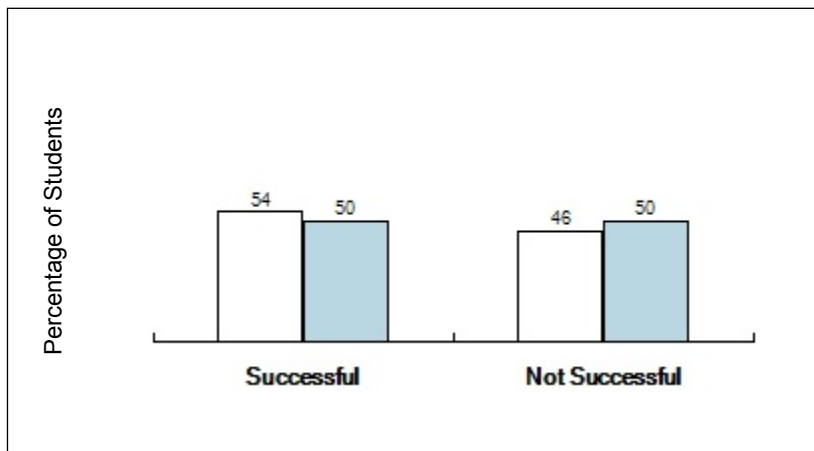
Results for Students Taking Applied English Course*

	Results for Students Taking Applied English Course First-Time Eligible Students			
	All		Fully Participating	
	Board # = 323	Province # = 29 316	Board # = 296	Province # = 26 213
Successful	159	49%	45%	54%
Not Successful	137	42%	45%	50%
Fully Participating	296	92%	89%	
Absent	15	5%	3%	
Deferred	12	4%	7%	

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students Taking Applied English Course



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students Taking Applied English Course



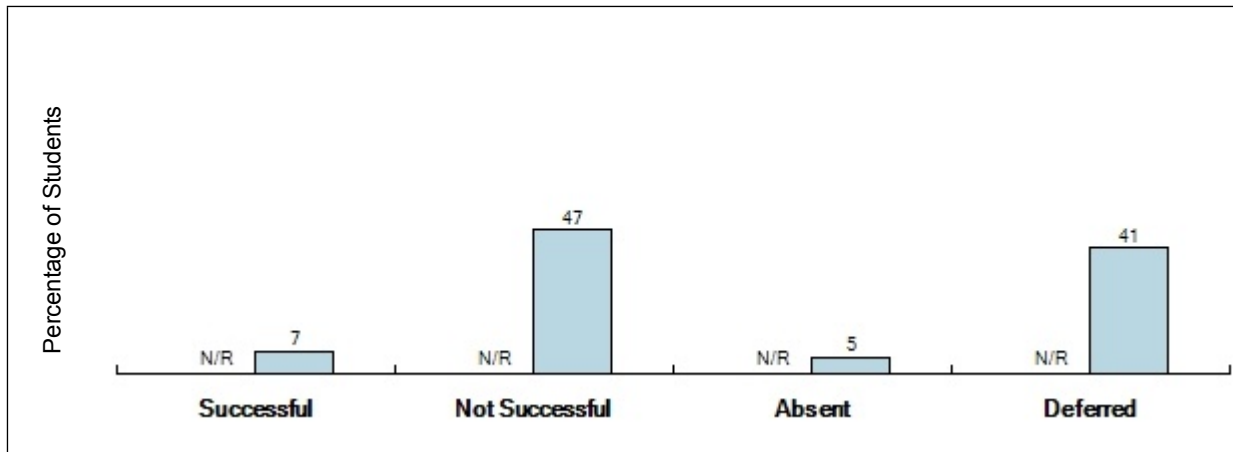
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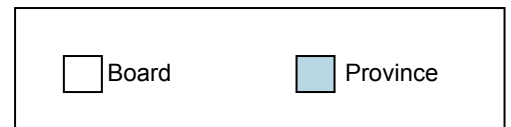
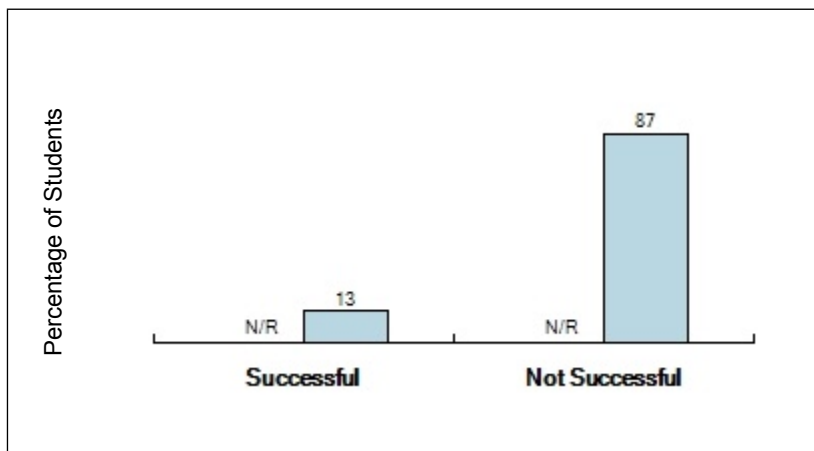
Results for Students Taking Locally Developed English Course*

	Results for Students Taking Locally Developed English Course First-Time Eligible Students			
	All		Fully Participating	
	Board # = N/R	Province # = 3 791	Board # = N/R	Province # = 2 064
Successful	N/R	N/R	N/R	13%
Not Successful	N/R	N/R	N/R	87%
Fully Participating	N/R	N/R	N/R	54%
Absent	N/R	N/R	N/R	5%
Deferred	N/R	N/R	N/R	41%

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students Taking Locally Developed English Course



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students Taking Locally Developed English Course



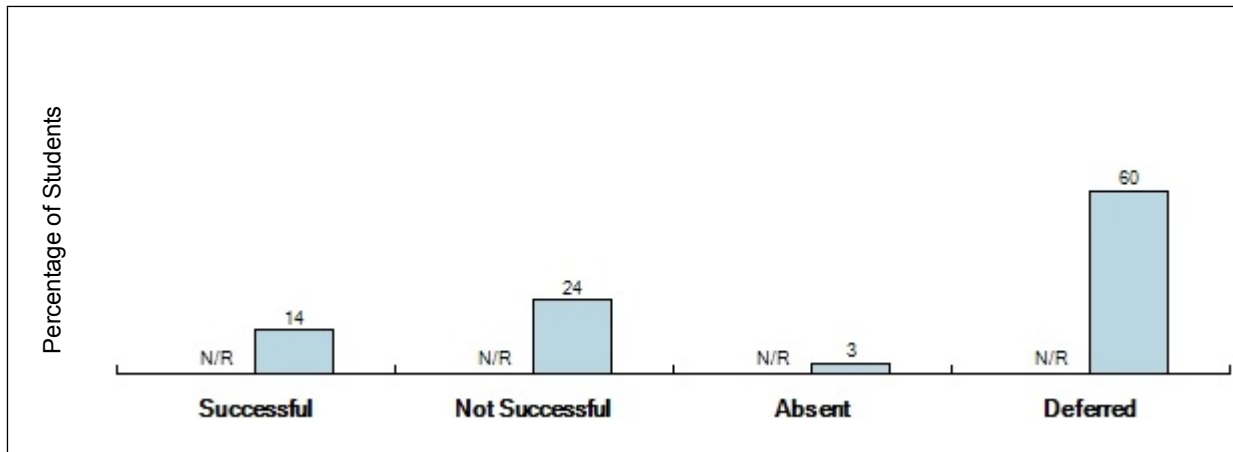
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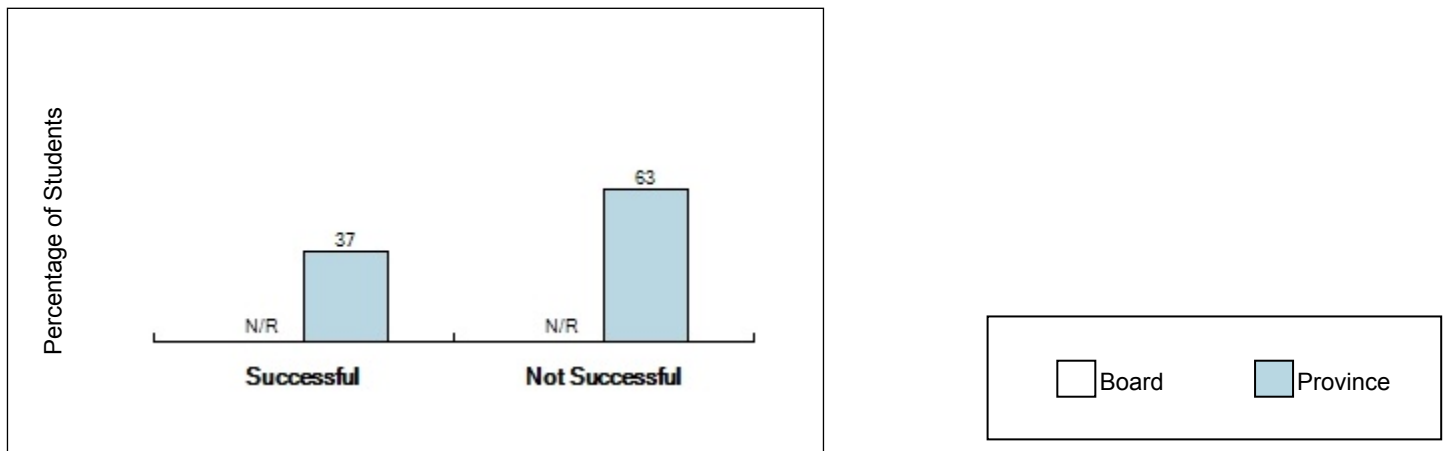
Results for Students Taking ESL/ELD Course*

	Results for Students Taking ESL/ELD Course First-Time Eligible Students			
	All		Fully Participating	
	Board # = N/R	Province # = 3 513	Board # = N/R	Province # = 1 314
Successful	N/R	N/R	N/R	37%
Not Successful	N/R	N/R	N/R	63%
Fully Participating	N/R	N/R	N/R	37%
Absent	N/R	N/R	N/R	3%
Deferred	N/R	N/R	N/R	60%

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students Taking ESL/ELD Course



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students Taking ESL/ELD Course



* Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

Contextual Information over Time

This information provides a context for interpreting the board's results of the current and previous administrations.

	2010–2011	2011–2012	2012–2013	2013–2014	2014–2015
Enrolment					
Number of first-time eligible students	1 637	1 625	1 476	1 578	1 501
Number of schools with first-time eligible students	5	5	5	5	5
Number of students who were exempted	24	21	21	8	18
Participation in the Test					
Of all first-time eligible students, those who participated fully in the assessment	94%	92%	93%	92%	93%
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were absent	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were deferred	4%	6%	5%	6%	5%
Gender† Based on number of first-time eligible students					
Female	48%	51%	50%	47%	47%
Male	52%	49%	50%	53%	53%
Gender not specified	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Student Status† Based on number of first-time eligible students					
English language learners*	2%	2%	3%	6%	5%
English language learners receiving special provisions**	<1%	1%	1%	5%	4%
Students with special education needs (excluding gifted)*	24%	23%	23%	21%	22%
Students with special education needs receiving accommodations (excluding gifted)**	18%	18%	20%	18%	18%
Course Type in English† Based on number of first-time eligible students					
Academic	70%	71%	72%	72%	74%
Applied	25%	23%	24%	22%	22%
Locally developed	3%	4%	2%	3%	4%
ESL/ELD	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Other	1%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%
Language†† Based on Student Questionnaire data					
Number of Respondents:	1 509	1 457	1 328	1 422	1 348
First language learned at home was other than English	18%	17%	18%	20%	17%
Speak only or mostly English at home	79%	79%	78%	76%	80%
Speak another language (or other languages) as often as English at home	14%	15%	15%	17%	14%
Speak only or mostly another language (or other languages) at home	6%	5%	6%	6%	6%

† Contextual data are provided by schools and/or boards through the Student Data Collection process. Some data may be missing because they were not provided by schools or boards.

* See Explanation of Terms.

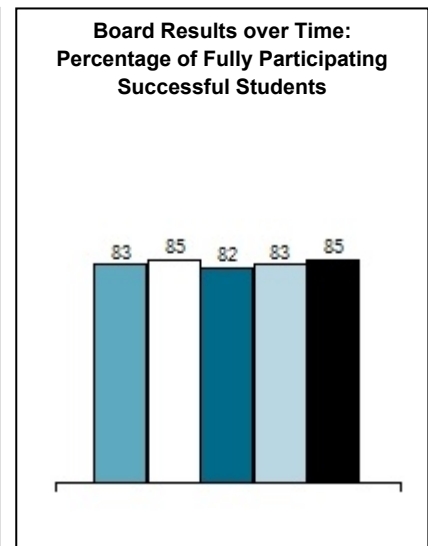
** Percentages are based on fully participating students.

†† Contextual data pertaining to "language" are gathered from the Student Questionnaire completed by students. Some data may be missing because they were not provided by students.

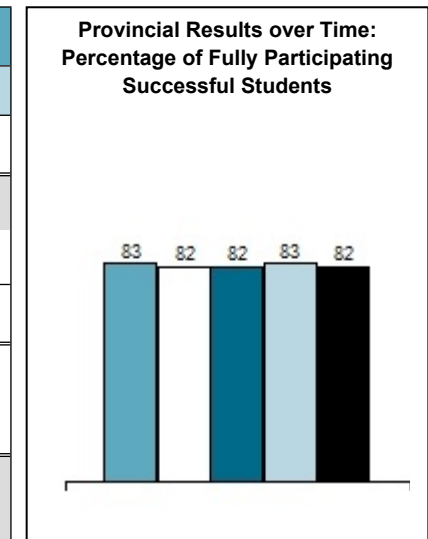
Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

Results over Time, 2010–2011 to 2014–2015

Board Results over Time*										
	2010–2011		2011–2012		2012–2013		2013–2014		2014–2015	
<i>All Students</i>	1 637		1 625		1 476		1 578		1 501	
Successful (all)	1 283	78%	1 266	78%	1 120	76%	1 204	76%	1 179	79%
Not Successful	259	16%	224	14%	249	17%	241	15%	213	14%
Fully Participating	1 542	94%	1 490	92%	1 369	93%	1 445	92%	1 392	93%
Absent	31	2%	36	2%	39	3%	39	2%	37	2%
Deferred	64	4%	99	6%	68	5%	94	6%	72	5%
Fully Participating Successful	1 283	83%	1 266	85%	1 120	82%	1 204	83%	1 179	85%



Provincial Results over Time*										
	2010–2011		2011–2012		2012–2013		2013–2014		2014–2015	
<i>All Students</i>	153 635		147 306		143 358		141 815		137 620	
Successful (all)	118 961	77%	112 717	77%	110 162	77%	108 914	77%	105 309	77%
Not Successful	24 285	16%	24 285	16%	23 871	17%	22 798	16%	22 558	16%
Fully Participating	143 246	93%	137 002	93%	134 033	93%	131 712	93%	127 867	93%
Absent	3 237	2%	2 966	2%	2 059	1%	2 521	2%	2 603	2%
Deferred	7 152	5%	7 338	5%	7 266	5%	7 582	5%	7 150	5%
Fully Participating Successful	118 961	83%	112 717	82%	110 162	82%	108 914	83%	105 309	82%



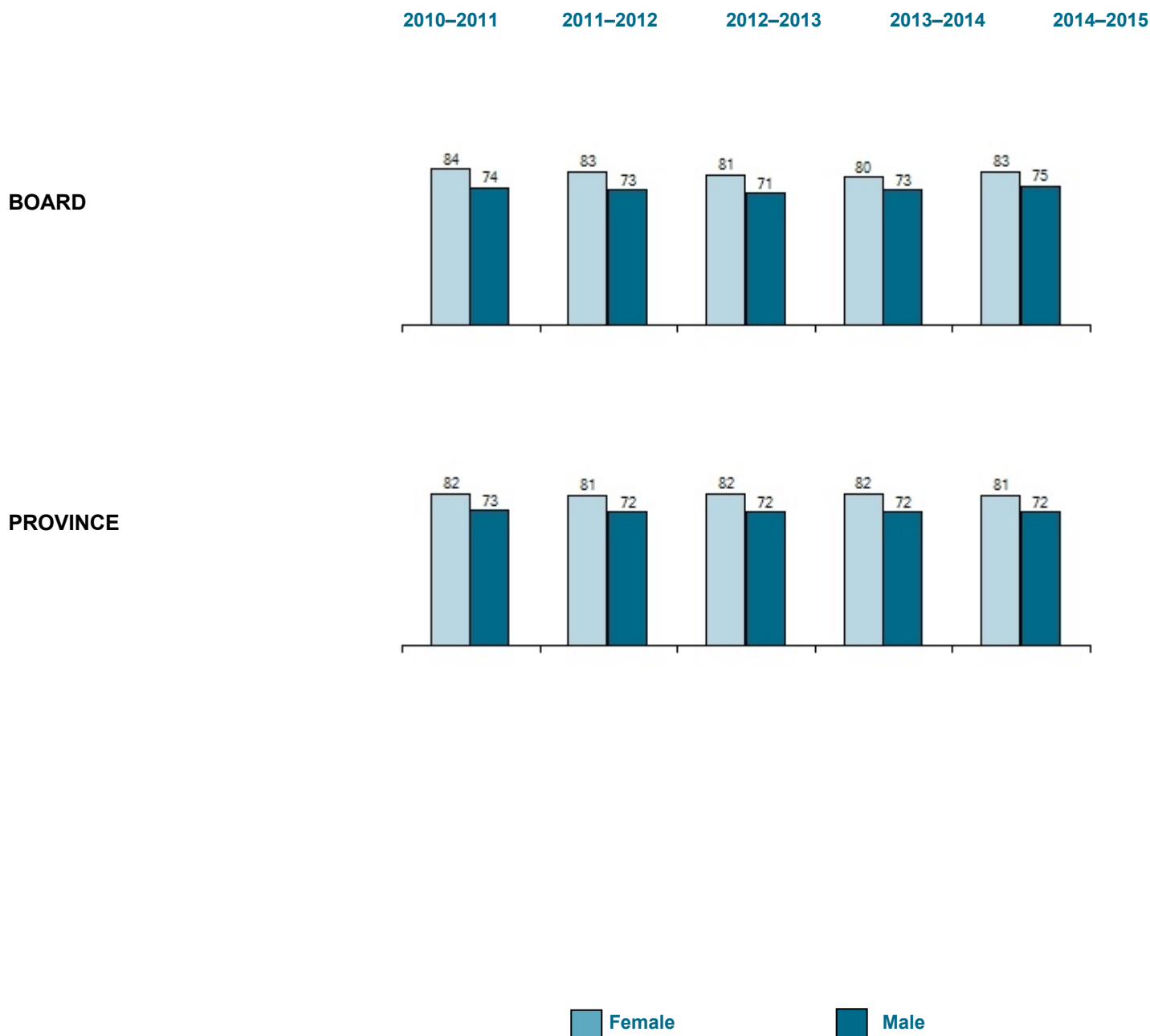
* Percentages in tables may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

■ '11 □ '12 ■ '13 □ '14 ■ '15

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS OVER TIME BY GENDER†

PERCENTAGE OF ALL FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO WERE SUCCESSFUL: ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST



Number of First-Time Eligible Students†

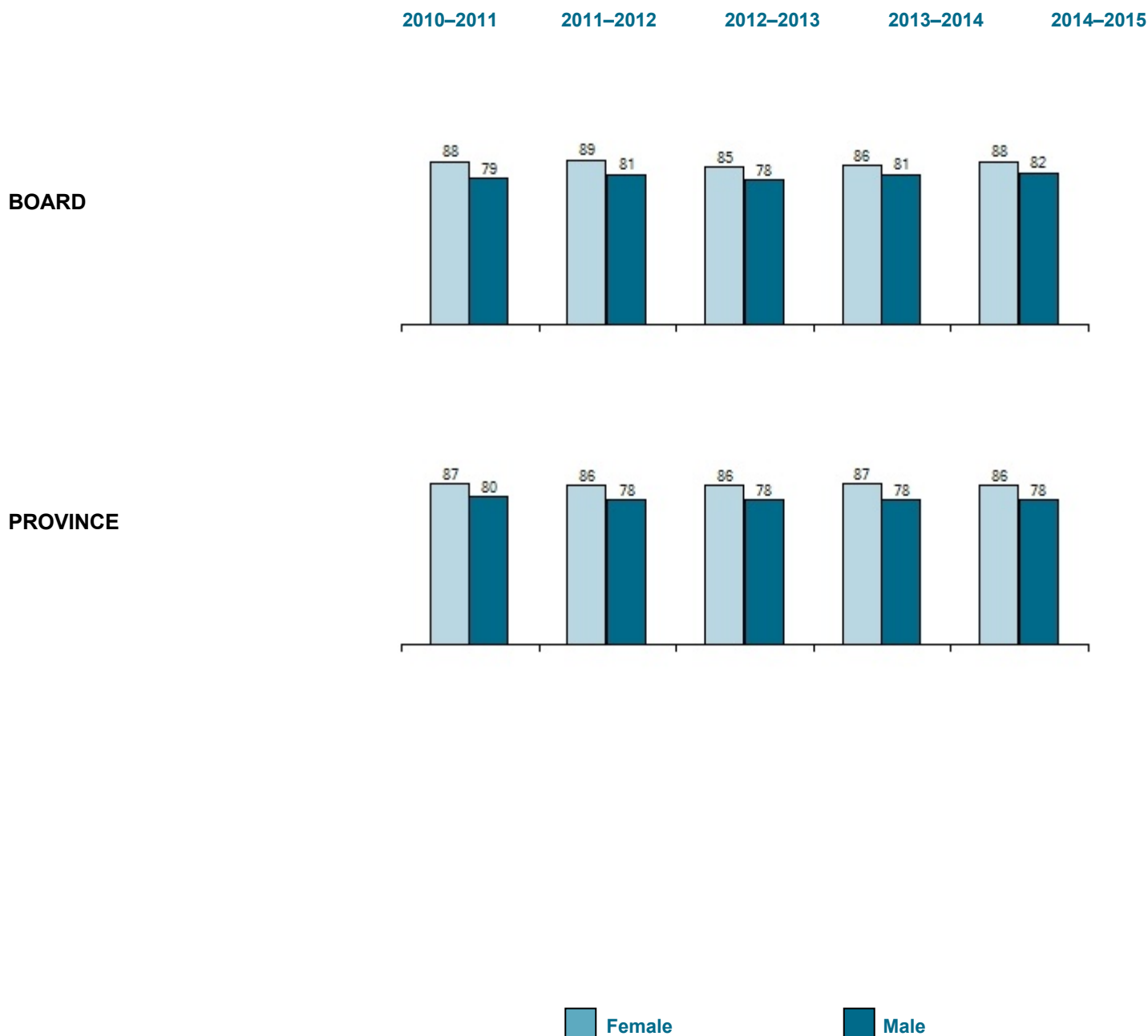
	2010–2011		2011–2012		2012–2013		2013–2014		2014–2015	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Board	783	854	821	804	734	742	745	833	709	792
Province	74 954	78 681	71 934	75 370	70 092	73 260	69 290	72 521	67 023	70 597

† Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS OVER TIME BY GENDER†

PERCENTAGE OF FULLY PARTICIPATING FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO WERE SUCCESSFUL: ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST



Number of Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students†

	2010–2011		2011–2012		2012–2013		2013–2014		2014–2015	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Board	745	797	770	720	700	669	695	750	666	726
Province	70 606	72 640	67 631	69 369	66 262	67 765	65 018	66 692	62 936	64 931

† Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015



















STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS FOR THIS BOARD (# = 1 348)

Questionnaire Item	Percentage of Students*		Number of Students Who Answered "Yes"
	0	100	
1. Types of materials students read in English outside school most weeks:			
non-fiction books, e.g., biographies	32	65	429
comics	26	70	345
Web sites, e-mail, chat messages	94	4	1 272
letters	19	76	256
magazines	42	54	570
manuals, instructions	35	60	472
newspapers	28	68	372
novels, fiction, short stories	63	33	854
song lyrics, poems	60	36	811
religious or spiritual writings	17	78	227
2. Types of writing students do in English outside school most weeks:			
e-mail, chat messages	95		1 286
letter, journals, diaries	19	76	261
notes, directions, instructions	43	52	581
song lyrics, poems	26	69	349
stories, fiction	24	71	321
work-related writing	48	48	653
3. Types of English language materials students have at home (print or electronic):			
dictionaries, encyclopedias	76	21	1 024
books	94		1 271
newspapers	71	25	962
magazines	75	22	1 007
 Yes No			

* Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding or to ambiguous or blank responses. Where there is no number in a bar, the percentage of responses is smaller than four.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS FOR THIS BOARD (# = 1 348)

Questionnaire Item	Percentage of Students*		Number of Students
	0	100	
4. Number of hours a week students read materials written in English outside school, not including homework:			
one hour or less		34	458
more than one hour but less than three hours		31	421
more than three hours but less than five hours		19	253
five hours or more		15	208
5. Number of hours a week students write in English outside school, not including homework:			
one hour or less		47	640
more than one hour but less than three hours		31	421
more than three hours but less than five hours		12	158
five hours or more		9	118
6. How often students use a computer at home for homework:			
don't have a computer at home		1	28
never or hardly ever use a computer for homework		8	113
use a computer once or twice a month for homework		22	298
use a computer once or twice a week for homework		44	588
use a computer almost every day for homework		24	318
7. First language students learned at home was English:			
yes		82	1 111
no		17	235
8. Language(s) students speak at home:			
only or mostly English		80	1 072
another language (or other languages) as often as English		14	192
only or mostly another language (or other languages)		6	78

* Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding or to ambiguous or blank responses. Where there is no number in a bar, the percentage of responses is smaller than four.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS FOR BOARD AND PROVINCE (all students, female, male)	Board			Province		
	All (# = 1 348)	Female* (# = 648)	Male* (# = 700)	All (# = 121 594)	Female* (# = 60 328)	Male* (# = 61 266)
Percentage of students indicating that they						
have a computer at home.	98%	98%	97%	97%	97%	96%
use the computer almost every day for homework.	24%	24%	23%	30%	32%	29%
Percentage of students indicating that they read the following types of materials in English outside school most weeks:						
non-fiction books, e.g., biographies	32%	29%	34%	36%	34%	39%
comics	26%	16%	34%	29%	22%	37%
Web sites, e-mail, chat messages	94%	95%	94%	94%	95%	92%
letters	19%	20%	18%	23%	24%	22%
magazines	42%	54%	31%	44%	53%	35%
manuals, instructions	35%	24%	45%	40%	31%	49%
newspapers	28%	27%	28%	32%	31%	34%
novels, fiction, short stories	63%	77%	51%	70%	81%	59%
song lyrics, poems	60%	72%	49%	65%	77%	52%
religious or spiritual writings	17%	16%	17%	23%	24%	21%
Percentage of students indicating that they read materials written in English outside school, not including homework, for						
more than three hours a week.	34%	40%	29%	38%	43%	32%
Percentage of students indicating that they have the following English language materials at home (print or electronic):						
dictionaries, encyclopedias	76%	78%	74%	80%	82%	78%
books	94%	96%	93%	94%	96%	93%
newspapers	71%	70%	73%	76%	77%	75%
magazines	75%	79%	71%	73%	76%	69%
Percentage of students indicating that they do the following types of writing in English outside school most weeks:						
e-mail, chat messages	95%	96%	95%	95%	96%	94%
letters, journals, diaries	19%	32%	8%	24%	37%	12%
notes, directions, instructions	43%	48%	38%	49%	53%	46%
song lyrics, poems	26%	32%	20%	32%	39%	24%
stories, fiction	24%	30%	18%	29%	35%	23%
work-related writing	48%	50%	47%	56%	57%	56%
Percentage of students indicating that they write in English outside school, not including homework, for						
more than three hours a week.	20%	24%	17%	25%	28%	22%
Percentage of students indicating that the first language they learned at home was						
other than English.	17%	17%	18%	22%	22%	22%
Percentage of students indicating that they speak the following language(s) at home:**						
only or mostly English	80%	78%	81%	74%	74%	75%
another language (or other languages) as often as English	14%	16%	13%	18%	19%	18%
only or mostly another language (or other languages)	6%	5%	6%	7%	6%	7%

* Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

** Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding or to ambiguous or blank responses.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

EXPLANATION OF TERMS	
First-Time Eligible Students	First-time eligible students are working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). These students are expected to write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for the first time in the spring of their second year of secondary school; this also applies to students who entered Grade 10 from out of province.
Previously Eligible Students	Previously eligible includes all students who were absent or deferred, or were unsuccessful during one or more previous administrations; were previously exempted but are now working toward an OSSD; entered Grade 11 or 12 from out of province or enrolled in an adult education program and began Grade 9 in or after the 2000–2001 school year.
All Eligible Students	This method of reporting provides percentages based on all students in the cohort who are working toward an OSSD. The only students excluded are those who are not working toward an OSSD (exempt students).
Fully Participating Students	This method of reporting provides percentages based on students for whom there is work for both sessions of the administration of the OSSLT and who were assigned an achievement result (successful, not successful). Students who are not working toward an OSSD, those who were absent and those who were deferred are excluded.
Successful	Students who fully participated in the OSSLT and received a score that met the expected standard.
Not Successful	Students who fully participated in the OSSLT and received a score that did not meet the expected standard.
Absent	Students who did not submit work for one or both sessions due to absence or for other reasons.
Deferred	Students' participation in the OSSLT can be deferred under several circumstances, as outlined in EQAO's <i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i> . A student is categorized as deferred only if the school indicates a deferral. If a student completed any portion of the OSSLT, he or she is not categorized as deferred.
OSSLC	Students are placed in this category of reporting if the school indicated that the students would be fulfilling the literacy requirement through the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC). For details about the OSSLC, see the Ministry of Education Web site (www.edu.gov.on.ca). If a student completed any portion of the OSSLT, he or she is not categorized as OSSLC.
Exempted	Students can be exempted from the OSSLT only if they are not working toward an OSSD. A student is categorized as exempted only if the school indicates that the student is exempted. If a student completed any portion of the OSSLT, he or she is not categorized as exempted.
English Language Learners	Students who have been identified by the school in accordance with <i>English Language Learners: ESL and ELD Programs and Services: Policies and Procedures for Ontario Elementary and Secondary Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12</i> (2007).
English Language Learners Receiving Special Provisions	English language learners identified by the school as receiving special provisions. Detailed information about special provisions is available in EQAO's <i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i> .
Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted)	Students who have been formally identified by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC), as well as students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students identified solely as gifted are not included.
Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)	Students with special education needs identified by the school as receiving test accommodations. Students identified solely as gifted are not included. Detailed information about accommodations is available in the Ministry of Education <i>Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Program Requirements</i> (2011) and in EQAO's <i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i> .
N/R	"Not reported" indicates that the number of students participating (fewer than 10 in a group) or responding to the Student Questionnaire (fewer than six in a group) is so small that identification of individual student results might be possible; therefore results are not reported.
N/D	"No data available" is used to indicate that there were no students in the group or year specified.
W	Results are being withheld by EQAO. For further information, please contact personnel at the board.