



School Board Report

Previously 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 also includes 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.

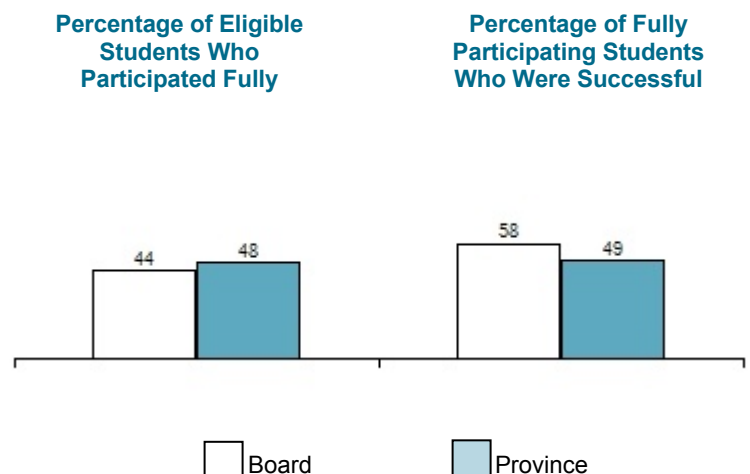
At EQAO, we strongly believe that reliable evidence empowers and guides the judgment and actions of professional educators and school communities. We are pleased to continue our partnership with you as we all work toward helping students reach their full potential. I hope you will find this report to 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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PREVIOUSLY ELIGIBLE STUDENTS, 2014–2015: PARTICIPATION RATE AND ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS



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 as differences may look exaggerated. For example, in a group of 30 students, a difference of 10% represents only three students.



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 at 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 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 previously eligible students	571		54 024	
Number of schools with previously eligible students	5		819	
Number of students who were exempted	8		2 074	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Participation in the Test				
Of all previously eligible students, those who participated fully in the assessment	249	44%	25 989	48%
Of all previously eligible students, those who were absent	65	11%	4 639	9%
Of all previously eligible students, those who were deferred	45	8%	5 835	11%
Of all previously eligible students, those who are completing the literacy requirement through the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC)	212	37%	17 562	33%
Gender[†] Based on number of previously eligible students				
Female	217	38%	21 079	39%
Male	354	62%	32 945	61%
Gender not specified	0	0%	0	0%
Student Status[†] Based on number of previously eligible students				
English language learners*	69	12%	8 278	15%
English language learners receiving special provisions**	33	13%	4 282	16%
Students with special education needs (excluding gifted)*	311	54%	21 881	41%
Students with special education needs receiving accommodations (excluding gifted)**	110	44%	8 724	34%
Language^{††} Based on Student Questionnaire data				
	Number of Respondents: 230		24 015	
First language learned at home was other than English	75	33%	8 119	34%
Speak only or mostly English at home	145	63%	14 853	62%
Speak another language (or other languages) as often as English at home	52	23%	5 026	21%
Speak only or mostly another language (or other languages) at home	31	13%	3 919	16%

† 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.

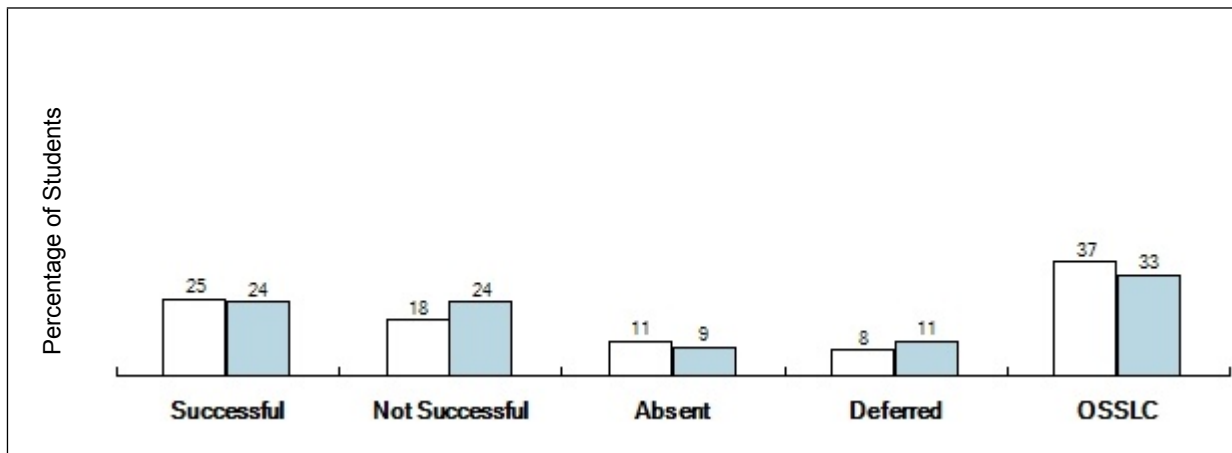
†† Contextual data pertaining to "language" are gathered from the Student Questionnaire completed by students. Some data may be missing because they were not provided by students.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

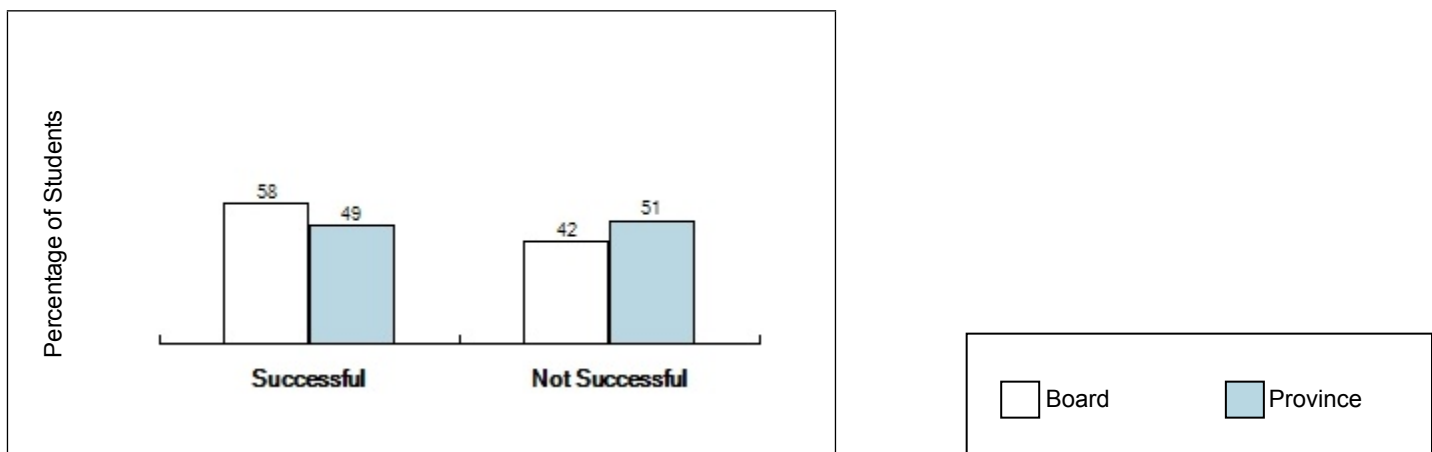
Results for All Students*

	Results for All Students Previously Eligible Students			
	All		Fully Participating	
	Board # = 571	Province # = 54 024	Board # = 249	Province # = 25 989
Successful	144	25%	24%	58%
Not Successful	105	18%	24%	42%
Fully Participating	249	44%	48%	
Absent	65	11%	9%	
Deferred	45	8%	11%	
OSSLC	212	37%	33%	

Results for All Previously Eligible Students



Results for Fully Participating Previously Eligible Students



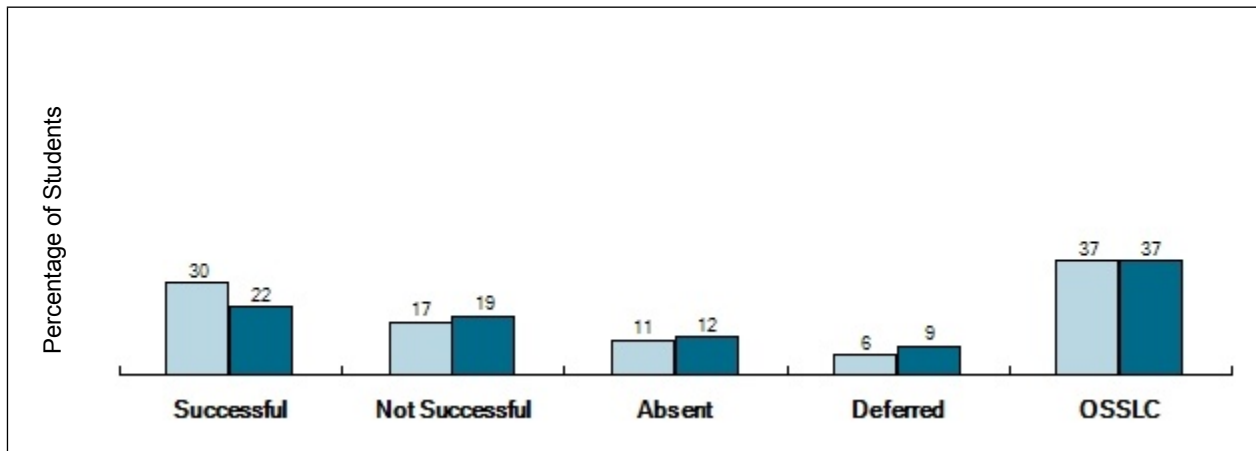
* Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

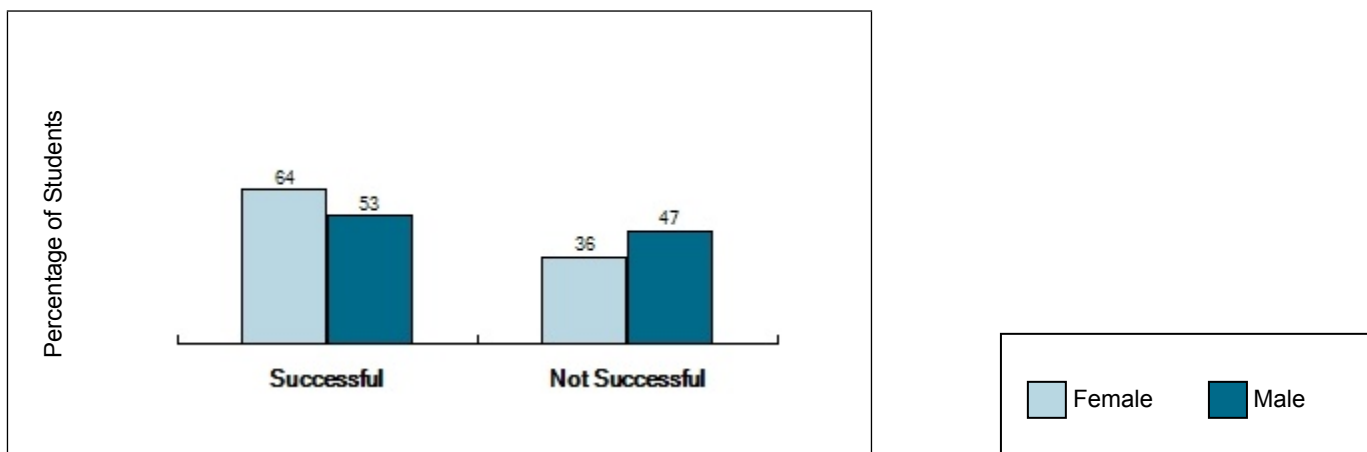
Board Results by Gender*†

Board Results by Gender Previously Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	Female # = 217		Male # = 354		Female # = 101	Male # = 148
Successful	65	30%	79	22%	64%	53%
Not Successful	36	17%	69	19%	36%	47%
Fully Participating	101	47%	148	42%		
Absent	24	11%	41	12%		
Deferred	12	6%	33	9%		
OSSLC	80	37%	132	37%		

Board Results for All Previously Eligible Students by Gender



Board Results for Fully Participating Previously Eligible Students by Gender



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

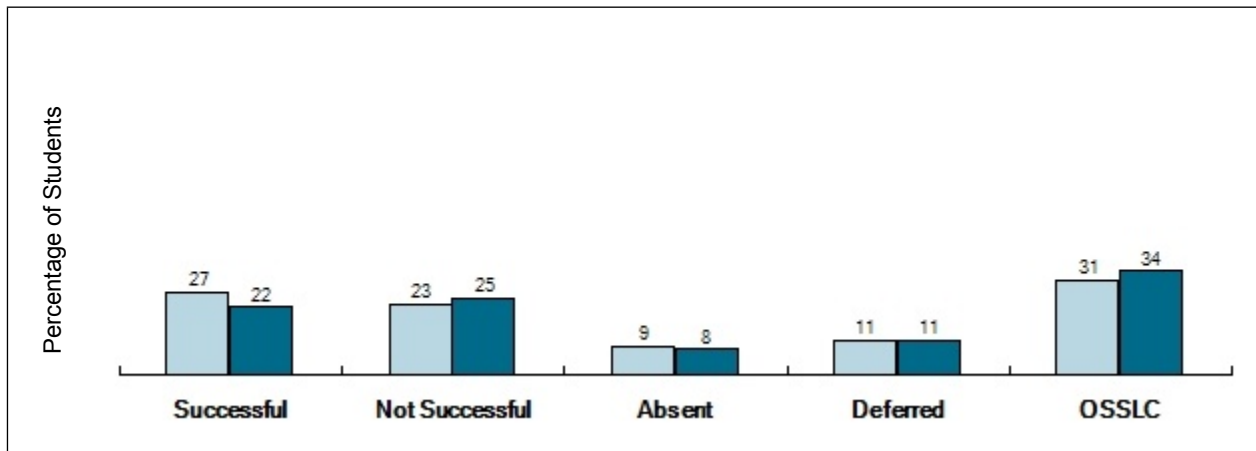
† Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

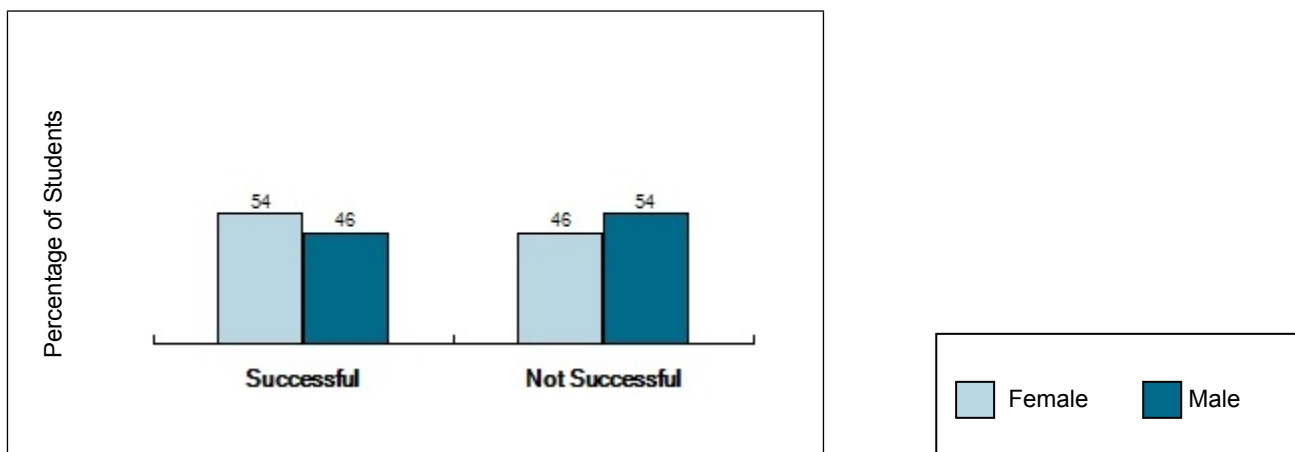
Provincial Results by Gender*†

Provincial Results by Gender Previously Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	Female # = 21 079		Male # = 32 945		Female # = 10 444	Male # = 15 545
Successful	5 669	27%	7 169	22%	54%	46%
Not Successful	4 775	23%	8 376	25%	46%	54%
Fully Participating	10 444	50%	15 545	47%		
Absent	1 851	9%	2 788	8%		
Deferred	2 311	11%	3 524	11%		
OSSLC	6 473	31%	11 089	34%		

Provincial Results for All Previously Eligible Students by Gender



Provincial Results for Fully Participating Previously Eligible Students by Gender



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

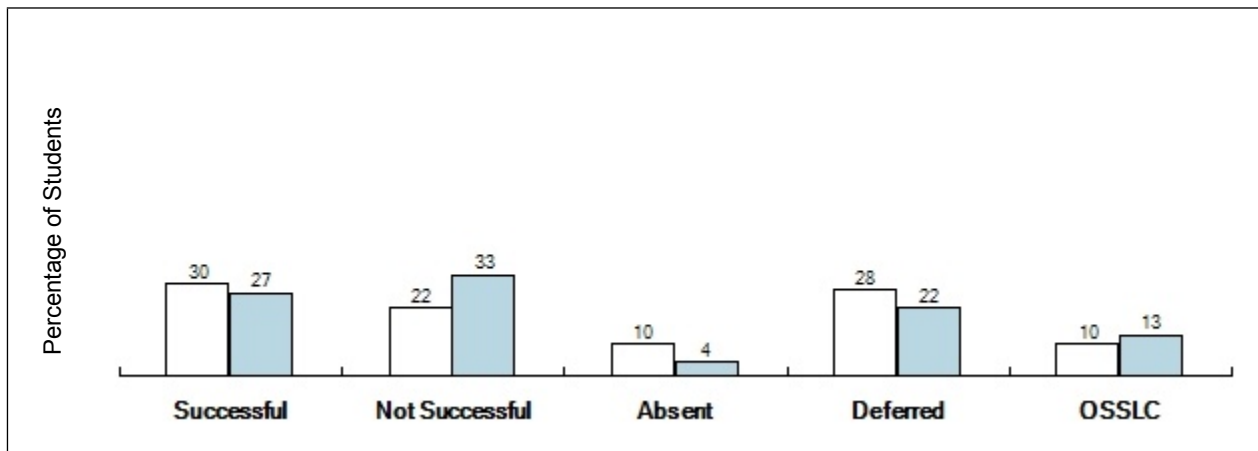
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

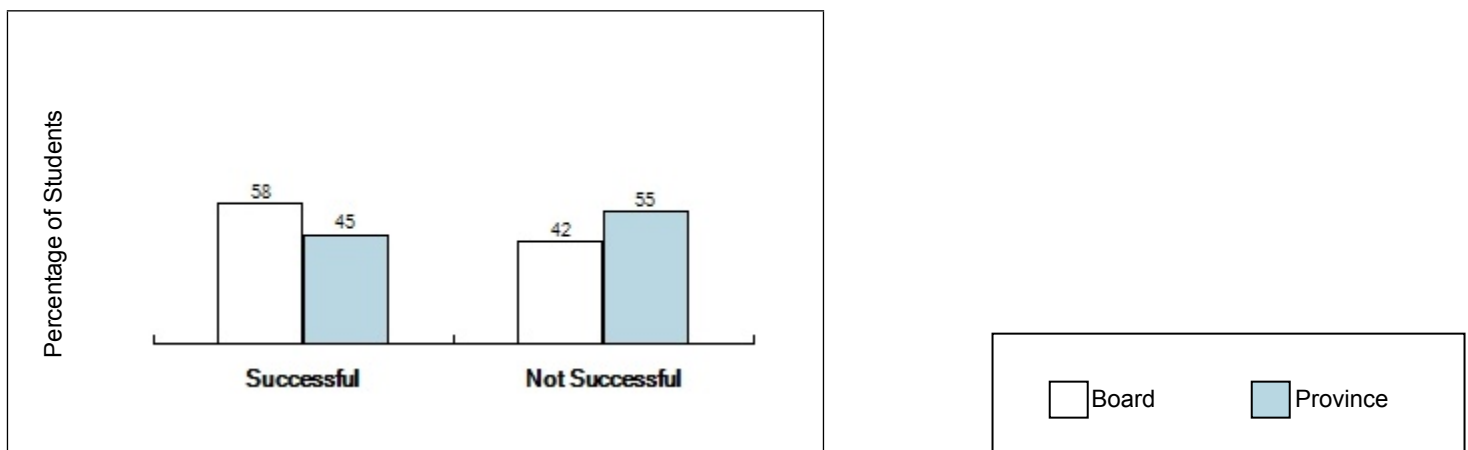
Results for English Language Learners*

	Results for English Language Learners Previously Eligible Students			
	All		Fully Participating	
	Board # = 69	Province # = 8 278	Board # = 36	Province # = 5 040
Successful	21	30%	27%	45%
Not Successful	15	22%	33%	55%
Fully Participating	36	52%	61%	
Absent	7	10%	4%	
Deferred	19	28%	22%	
OSSLC	7	10%	13%	

Results for All Previously Eligible English Language Learners



Results for Fully Participating Previously Eligible English Language Learners



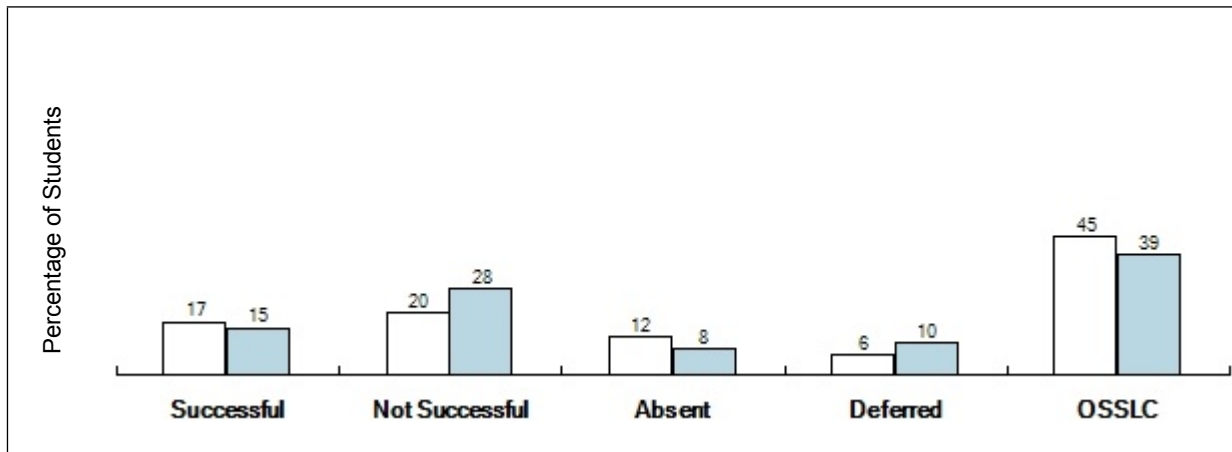
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

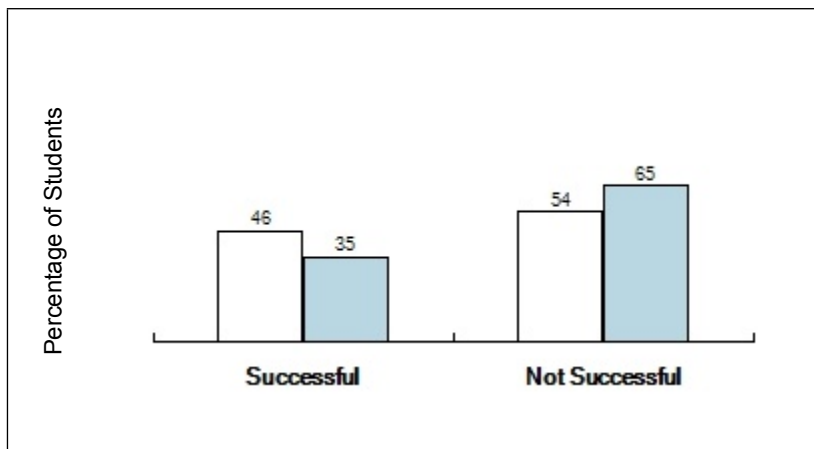
Results for Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted)*

	Results for Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted) Previously Eligible Students			
	All		Fully Participating	
	Board # = 311	Province # = 21 881	Board # = 113	Province # = 9 370
Successful	52	17%	46%	35%
Not Successful	61	20%	54%	65%
Fully Participating	113	36%	43%	
Absent	37	12%	6	8%
Deferred	20	6%	10	10%
OSSLC	141	45%	45	39%

Results for All Previously Eligible Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted)



Results for Fully Participating Previously Eligible Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted)



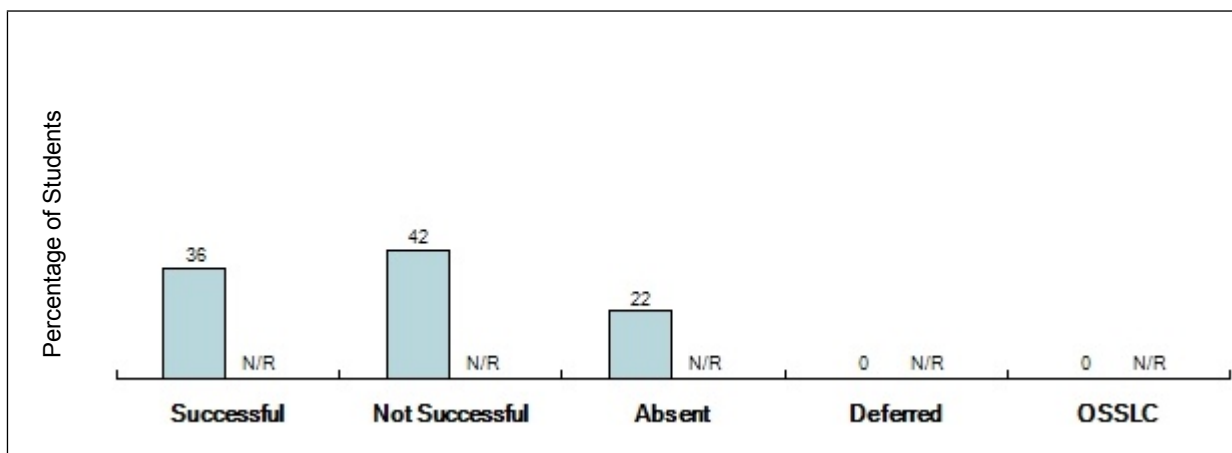
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

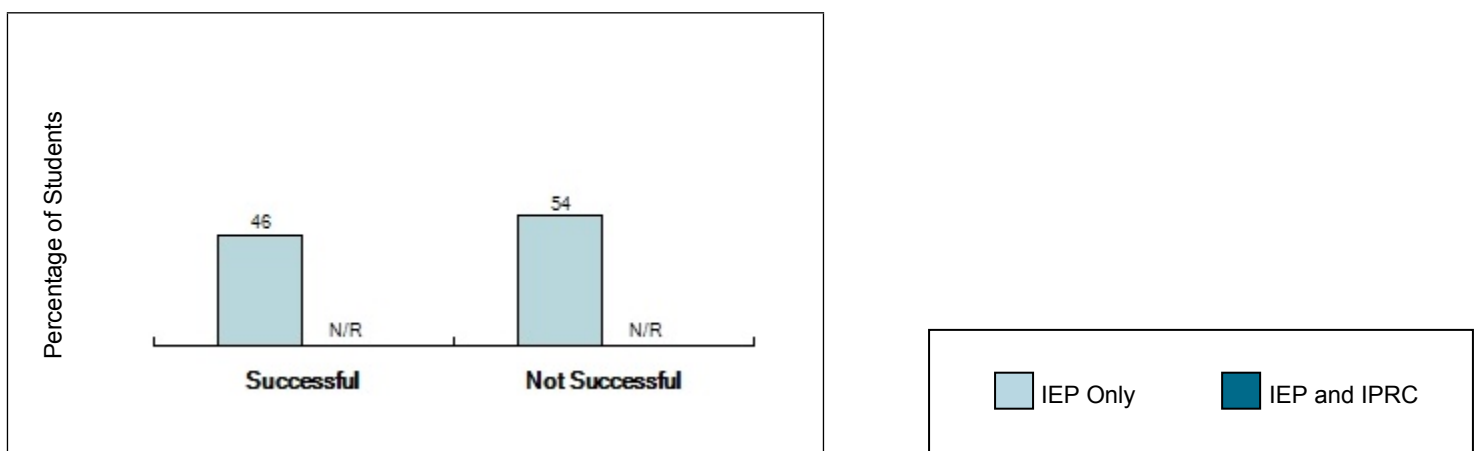
Board Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)*

Board Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted) Previously Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	IEP Only # = 138		IEP and IPRC # = N/R		IEP Only # = 108	IEP and IPRC # = N/R
Successful	50	36%	N/R	N/R	46%	N/R
Not Successful	58	42%	N/R	N/R	54%	N/R
Fully Participating	108	78%	N/R	N/R		
Absent	30	22%	N/R	N/R		
Deferred	0	0%	N/R	N/R		
OSSLC	0	0%	N/R	N/R		

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



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



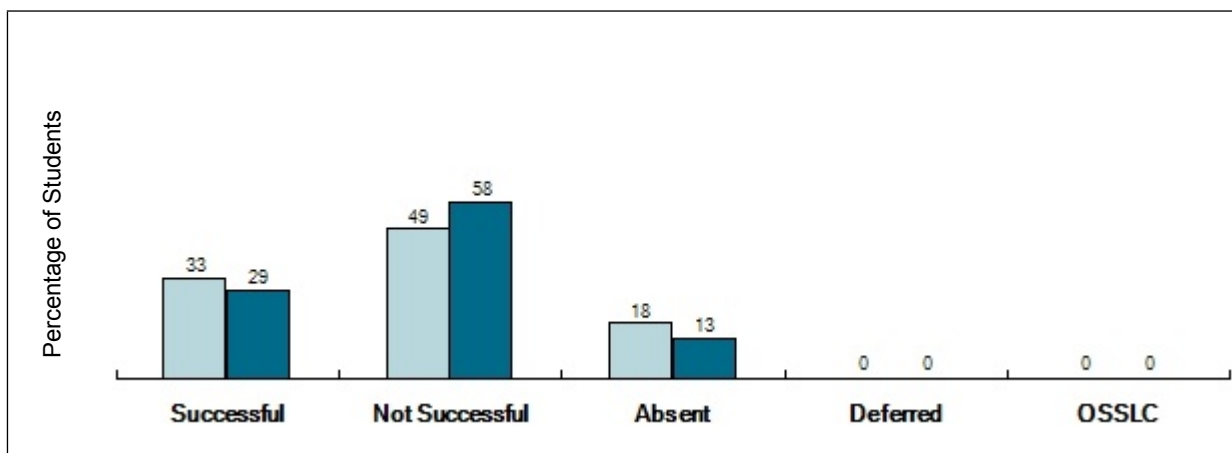
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015

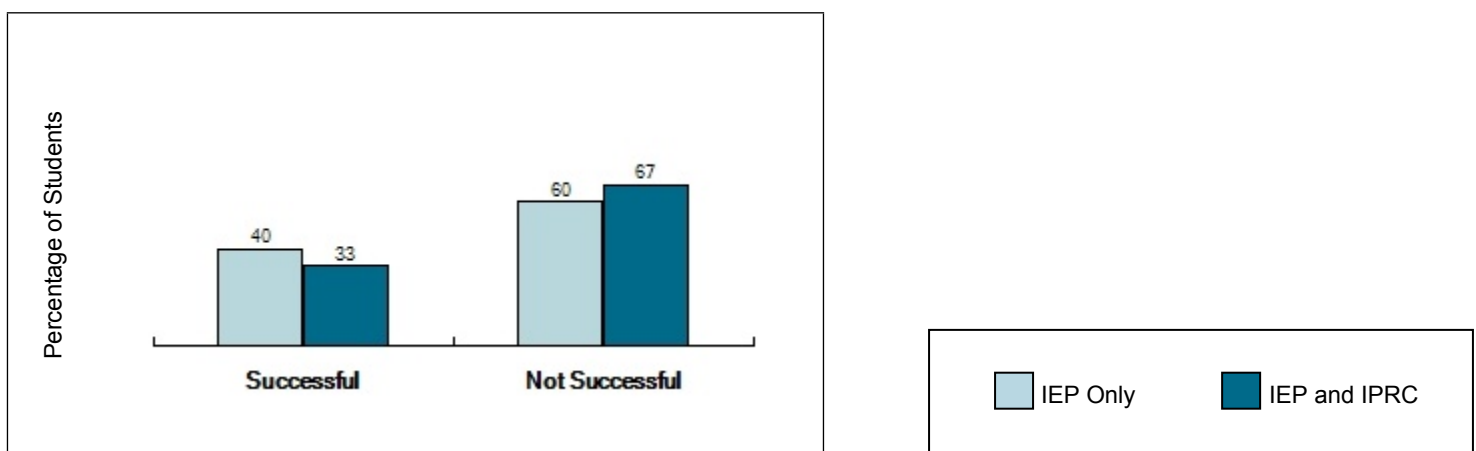
Provincial Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)*

Provincial Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted) Previously Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	IEP Only # = 4 135		IEP and IPRC # = 6 113		IEP Only # = 3 407	IEP and IPRC # = 5 317
Successful	1 363	33%	1 777	29%	40%	33%
Not Successful	2 044	49%	3 540	58%	60%	67%
Fully Participating	3 407	82%	5 317	87%		
Absent	728	18%	797	13%		
Deferred	0	0%	0	0%		
OSSLC	0	0%	0	0%		

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



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



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

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 2014–2015










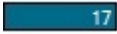




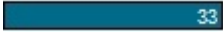



STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS FOR THIS BOARD (# = 230)

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	38	54	88
comics	33	58	75
Web sites, e-mail, chat messages	92	5	211
letters	34	58	78
magazines	48	47	111
manuals, instructions	49	42	113
newspapers	36	55	83
novels, fiction, short stories	54	38	124
song lyrics, poems	64	30	147
religious or spiritual writings	25	67	57
2. Types of writing students do in English outside school most weeks:			
e-mail, chat messages	92	5	211
letter, journals, diaries	29	61	66
notes, directions, instructions	49	40	112
song lyrics, poems	41	50	94
stories, fiction	26	61	59
work-related writing	51	39	118
3. Types of English language materials students have at home (print or electronic):			
dictionaries, encyclopedias	64	28	148
books	88	8	202
newspapers	67	26	153
magazines	68	26	156
 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 (# = 230)

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		42	96
more than one hour but less than three hours		31	72
more than three hours but less than five hours		8	18
five hours or more		17	38
5. Number of hours a week students write in English outside school, not including homework:			
one hour or less		40	91
more than one hour but less than three hours		36	83
more than three hours but less than five hours		12	27
five hours or more		9	21
6. How often students use a computer at home for homework:			
don't have a computer at home		6	13
never or hardly ever use a computer for homework		17	38
use a computer once or twice a month for homework		20	46
use a computer once or twice a week for homework		33	75
use a computer almost every day for homework		24	56
7. First language students learned at home was English:			
yes		67	155
no		33	75
8. Language(s) students speak at home:			
only or mostly English		63	145
another language (or other languages) as often as English		23	52
only or mostly another language (or other languages)		13	31

* 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 (# = 230)	Female* (# = 96)	Male* (# = 134)	All (# = 24 015)	Female* (# = 9 807)	Male* (# = 14 208)
Percentage of students indicating that they						
have a computer at home.	93%	95%	93%	91%	92%	91%
use the computer almost every day for homework.	24%	27%	22%	25%	28%	23%
Percentage of students indicating that they read the following types of materials in English outside school most weeks:						
non-fiction books, e.g., biographies	38%	33%	42%	39%	39%	39%
comics	33%	24%	39%	34%	27%	39%
Web sites, e-mail, chat messages	92%	93%	91%	91%	94%	90%
letters	34%	39%	31%	37%	40%	35%
magazines	48%	59%	40%	46%	55%	40%
manuals, instructions	49%	35%	59%	49%	39%	55%
newspapers	36%	31%	40%	37%	35%	38%
novels, fiction, short stories	54%	61%	49%	62%	74%	54%
song lyrics, poems	64%	73%	57%	68%	79%	60%
religious or spiritual writings	25%	24%	25%	27%	29%	25%
Percentage of students indicating that they read materials written in English outside school, not including homework, for						
more than three hours a week.	24%	30%	20%	30%	35%	27%
Percentage of students indicating that they have the following English language materials at home (print or electronic):						
dictionaries, encyclopedias	64%	66%	63%	71%	74%	69%
books	88%	92%	85%	88%	91%	86%
newspapers	67%	67%	66%	66%	65%	67%
magazines	68%	77%	61%	64%	67%	62%
Percentage of students indicating that they do the following types of writing in English outside school most weeks:						
e-mail, chat messages	92%	93%	91%	93%	94%	92%
letters, journals, diaries	29%	50%	13%	29%	43%	20%
notes, directions, instructions	49%	51%	47%	53%	57%	51%
song lyrics, poems	41%	49%	35%	41%	49%	36%
stories, fiction	26%	29%	23%	31%	36%	27%
work-related writing	51%	51%	51%	55%	55%	55%
Percentage of students indicating that they write in English outside school, not including homework, for						
more than three hours a week.	21%	25%	18%	25%	29%	23%
Percentage of students indicating that the first language they learned at home was						
other than English.	33%	30%	34%	34%	36%	32%
Percentage of students indicating that they speak the following language(s) at home:**						
only or mostly English	63%	69%	59%	62%	59%	64%
another language (or other languages) as often as English	23%	22%	23%	21%	23%	20%
only or mostly another language (or other languages)	13%	8%	17%	16%	17%	16%

* 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.

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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.