



School Board Report

First-Time Eligible Students



Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013

Board: Waterloo Region DSB (66176)

On behalf of EQAO, I am pleased to provide you with the results of the 2013 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

This report provides the 2013 school and board results as well as results for previous years, so you can track progress over time. You'll also find demographic and attitudinal information about schools, which provides context for a deeper analysis of the achievement results.

Given that a large number of students were unable to write the test scheduled for April 11, 2013, due to inclement weather, an alternative test date was provided on May 14. The alternative test ensured all students who were not able to attend school on April 11 were provided with another opportunity to write the OSSLT this year. Since successful completion of the OSSLT is one of the 32 requirements for obtaining an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, this is of particular importance to students in Grade 12.

The alternative test was designed following the same technical guidelines as the version administered on April 11. Just like EQAO tests are comparable from one year to the next, these two versions of the OSSLT are entirely comparable as well. Both measure whether or not students are demonstrating the required level of reading and writing literacy.

Reading and writing skills are critical to success both in and out of school in the 21st century. It is important for students to become readers who can actively construct meaning from what is read and communicate in a clear and coherent manner when they write. The OSSLT assesses whether Ontario students have acquired these fundamental reading and writing skills across all subjects and up to the end of Grade 9.

We continue to advocate the use of EQAO data in combination with classroom-generated results and other information sources to develop strategies and action plans that will make a measurable difference in learning outcomes.

At EQAO we are pleased to partner with parents and educators who are working hard to help students develop essential skills and reach their full potential. I trust you will find our reports to be a helpful tool as you turn knowledge into action for the benefit of your students and community.

Sincerely,

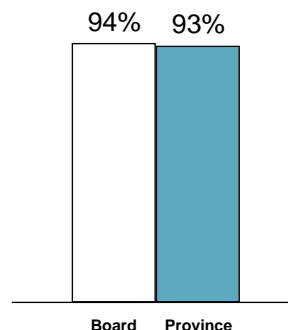
Bruce Rodrigues
 Chief Executive Officer
 Education Quality and Accountability Office

September 25, 2013

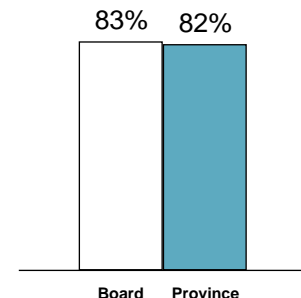
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FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS 2013: PARTICIPATION RATE AND ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

Percentage of Eligible Students Who Participated Fully



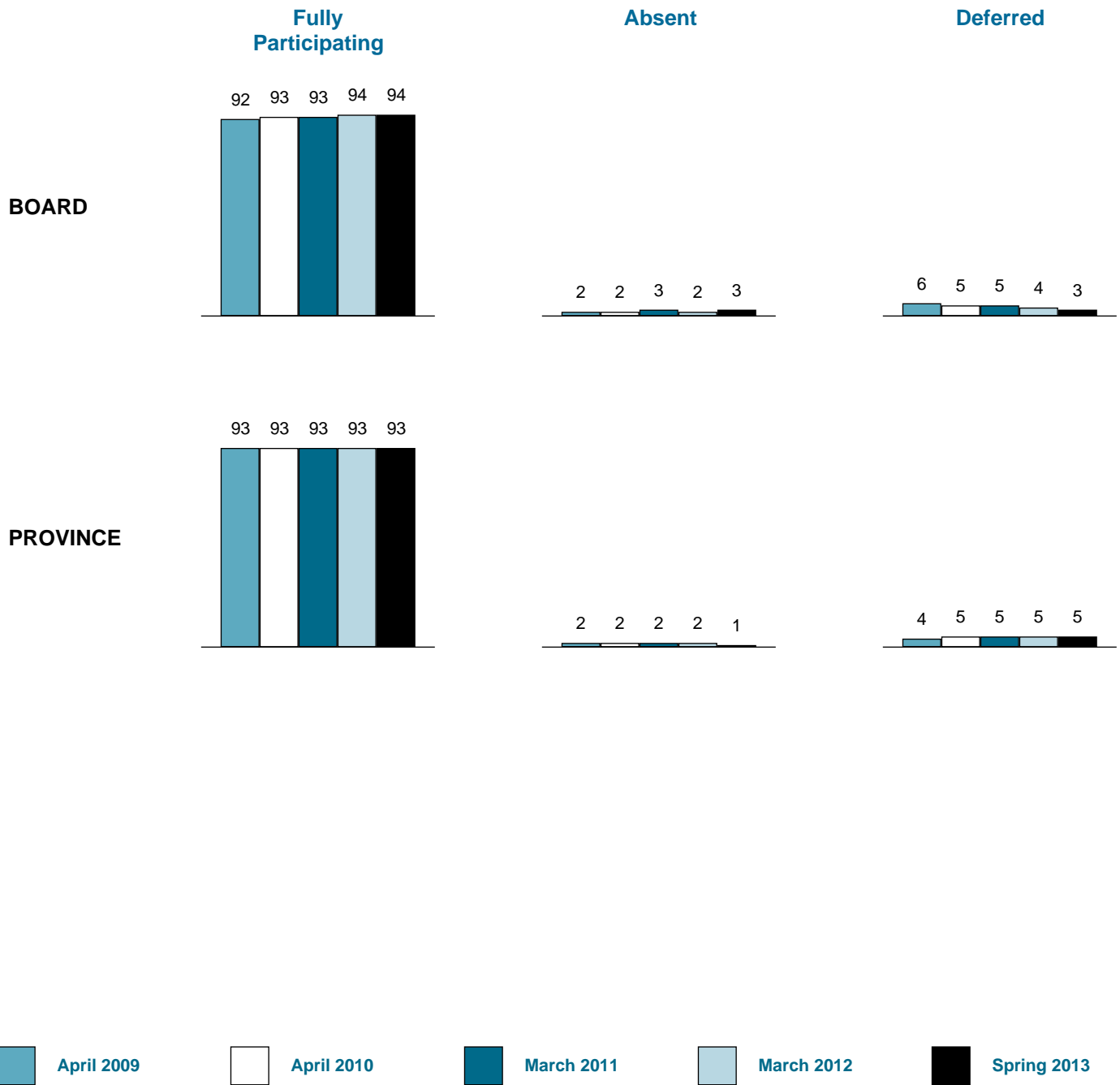
Percentage of Fully Participating Students Who Were Successful



Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013

PARTICIPATION RATES FOR ALL FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS OVER TIME

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS*



	<u>April 2009</u>	<u>April 2010</u>	<u>March 2011</u>	<u>March 2012</u>	<u>Spring 2013</u>
Board	4 476	4 641	4 800	4 662	4 504
Province	152 830	153 490	153 635	147 306	143 358

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

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013

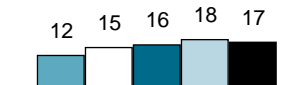
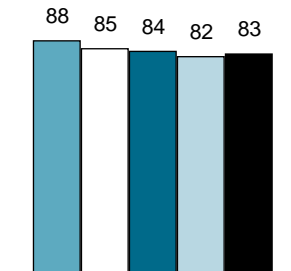
ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR FULLY PARTICIPATING FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS OVER TIME

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS*

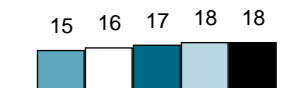
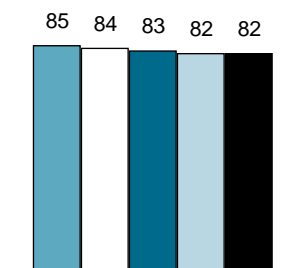
BOARD

Successful

Not Successful



PROVINCE



Number of Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students

	<u>April 2009</u>	<u>April 2010</u>	<u>March 2011</u>	<u>March 2012</u>	<u>Spring 2013</u>
Board	4 103	4 300	4 450	4 397	4 242
Province	142 394	142 955	143 246	137 002	134 033

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

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. Results are not reported publicly for schools where fewer than 10 students fully participated in 2012-2013, or fewer than 15 students fully participated prior to 2012-2013 because it might be possible to identify individual students.

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 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

Contextual Information

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

	Board		Province	
Enrolment				
Number of first-time eligible students	4 504		143 358	
Number of schools with first-time eligible students	16		792	
Number of students who were exempted	155		1 670	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Participation in the Test				
Of all first-time eligible students, those who participated fully in the assessment	4 242	94%	134 033	93%
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were absent	125	3%	2 059	1%
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were deferred	137	3%	7 266	5%
Gender[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students				
Female	2 184	48%	70 092	49%
Male	2 319	51%	73 260	51%
Gender not specified	1	<1%	6	<1%
Student Status[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students				
English language learners*	258	6%	8 051	6%
English language learners receiving special provisions**	96	2%	4 294	3%
Students with special education needs (excluding gifted)*	837	19%	25 390	18%
Students with special education needs receiving accommodations (excluding gifted)**	660	16%	20 580	15%
Course Type in English[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students				
Academic	3 220	71%	102 260	71%
Applied	969	22%	31 172	22%
Locally developed	147	3%	4 791	3%
ESL/ELD	77	2%	3 348	2%
Other	89	2%	1 749	1%
Language^{††} Based on Student Questionnaire data				
	Number of Respondents:		130 397	
	4 201			
First language learned at home was other than English	868	21%	29 916	23%
Speak only or mostly English at home	3 260	78%	96 271	74%
Speak another language (or other languages) as often as English at home	648	15%	24 467	19%
Speak only or mostly another language (or other languages) at home	265	6%	8 587	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.

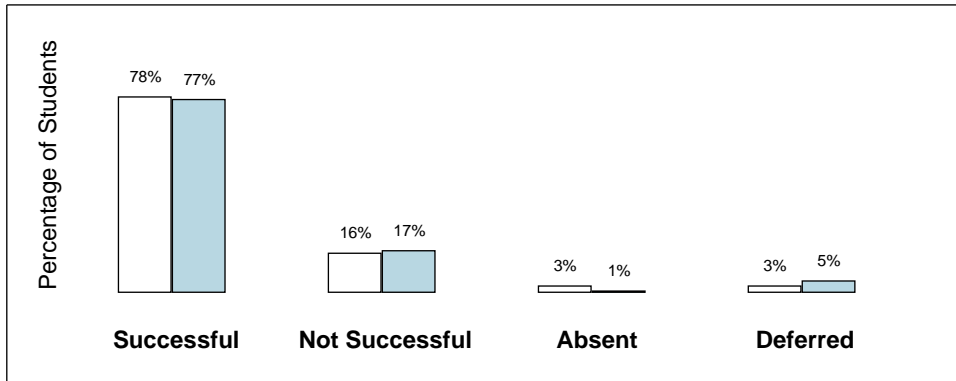
^{††} Contextual data pertaining to "language" are gathered from the Student Questionnaire completed by students. Some data may be missing because they were not provided by students.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

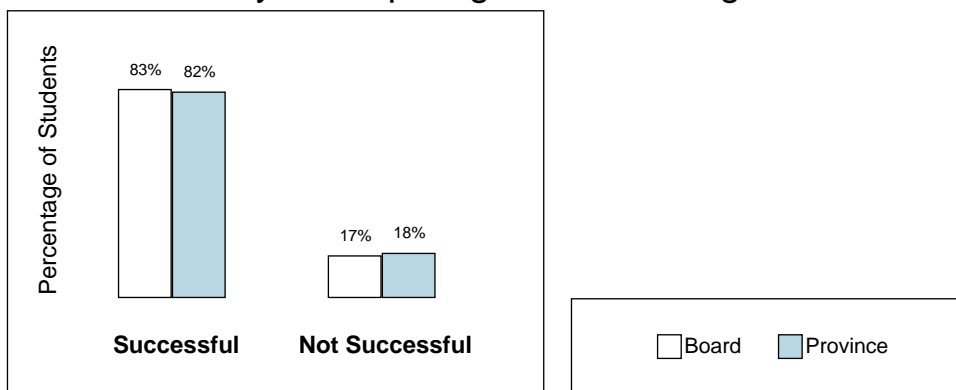
Results for All Students*

	First-Time Eligible Students				
	All		Fully Participating		
	Board # = 4 504	Province # = 143 358	Board # = 4 242	Province # = 134 033	
Successful	3 508	78%	77%	83%	82%
Not Successful	734	16%	17%	17%	18%
Fully Participating	4 242	94%	93%		
Absent	125	3%	1%		
Deferred	137	3%	5%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students



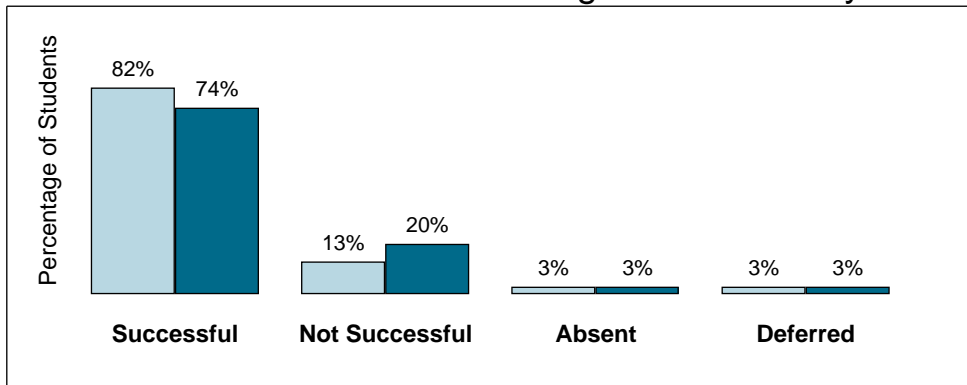
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

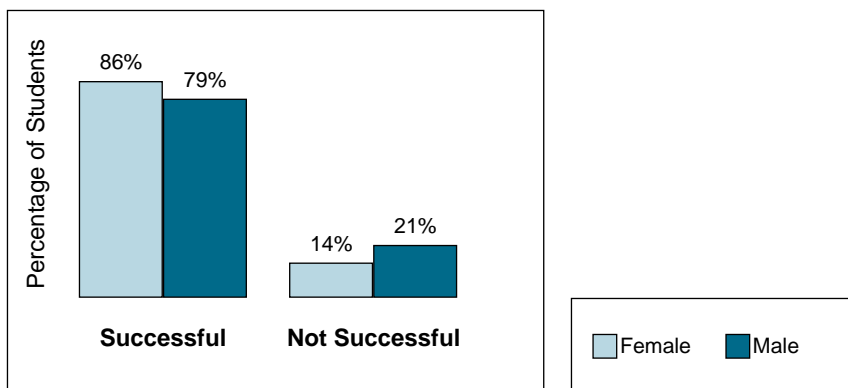
Board Results by Gender*†

Board Results by Gender First-Time Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	Female # = 2 184		Male # = 2 319		Female # = 2 063	Male # = 2 178
Successful	1 784	82%	1 723	74%	86%	79%
Not Successful	279	13%	455	20%	14%	21%
Fully Participating	2 063	94%	2 178	94%		
Absent	63	3%	62	3%		
Deferred	58	3%	79	3%		

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.

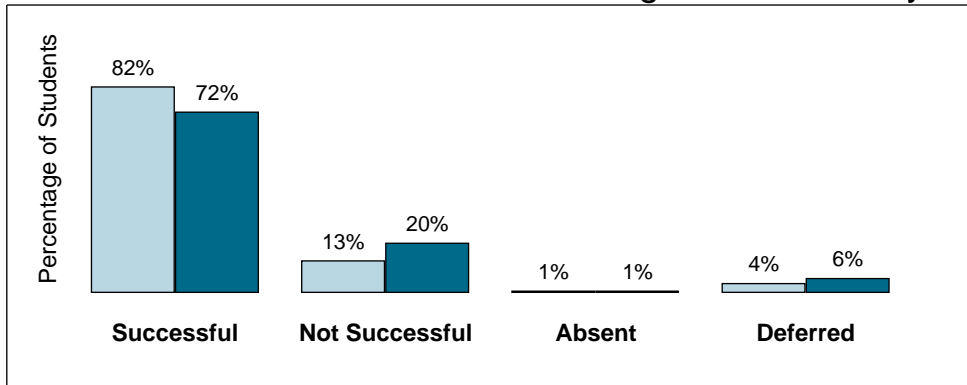
† Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

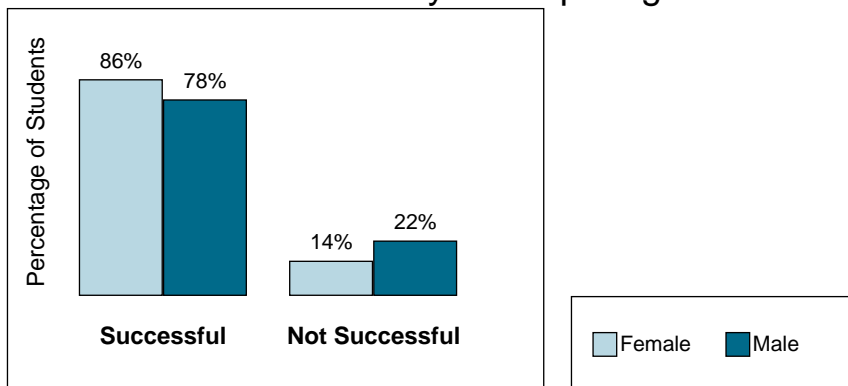
Provincial Results by Gender*†

	Provincial Results by Gender First-Time Eligible Students			
	All		Fully Participating	
	Female # = 70 092	Male # = 73 260	Female # = 66 262	Male # = 67 765
Successful	57 204	82%	52 952	72%
Not Successful	9 058	13%	14 813	20%
Fully Participating	66 262	95%	67 765	92%
Absent	996	1%	1 063	1%
Deferred	2 834	4%	4 432	6%

Provincial Results for All First-Time Eligible Students by Gender



Provincial 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.

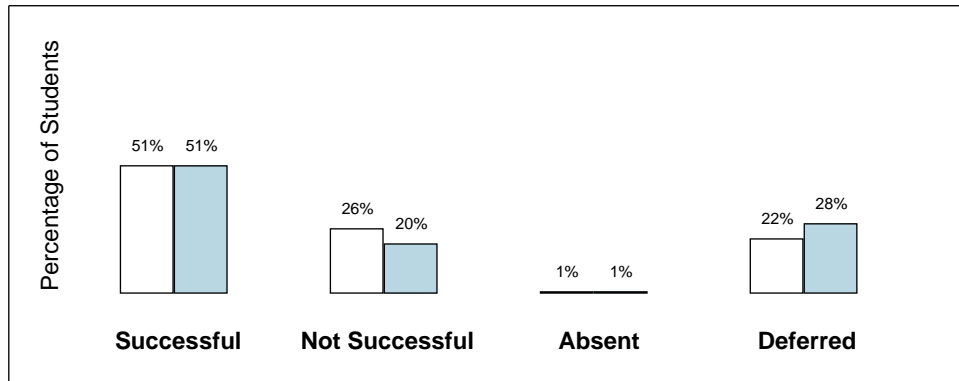
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

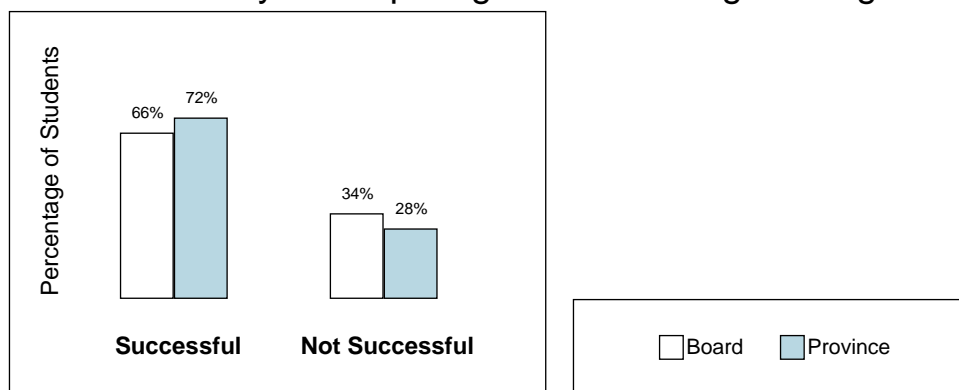
Results for English Language Learners*

Results for English Language Learners First-Time Eligible Students					
	All			Fully Participating	
	Board # = 258	Province # = 8 051		Board # = 198	Province # = 5 727
Successful	131	51%	51%	66%	72%
Not Successful	67	26%	20%	34%	28%
Fully Participating	198	77%	71%		
Absent	3	1%	1%		
Deferred	57	22%	28%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible English Language Learners



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible English Language Learners



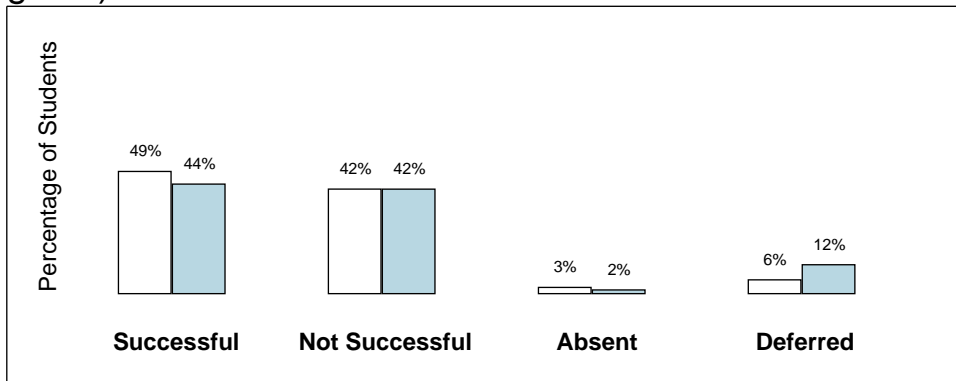
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

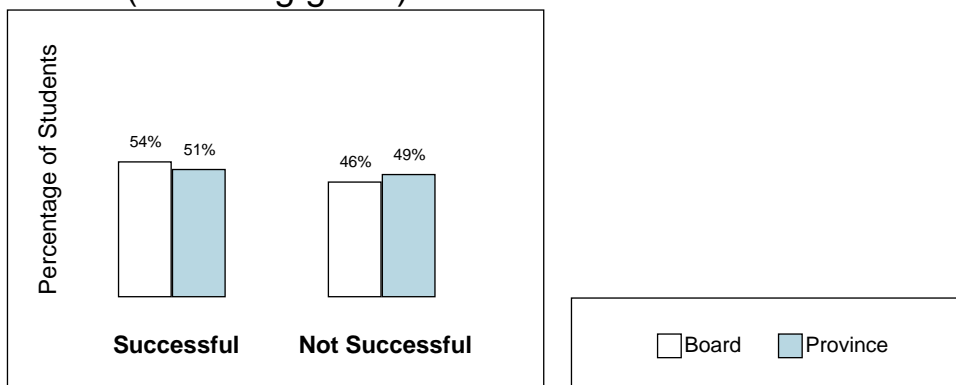
Results for Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted)*

Results for Students with Special Education Needs (excluding gifted) First-Time Eligible Students					
	All			Fully Participating	
	Board # = 837		Province # = 25 390	Board # = 756	Province # = 21 831
Successful	407	49%	44%	54%	51%
Not Successful	349	42%	42%	46%	49%
Fully Participating	756	90%	86%		
Absent	29	3%	2%		
Deferred	52	6%	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)



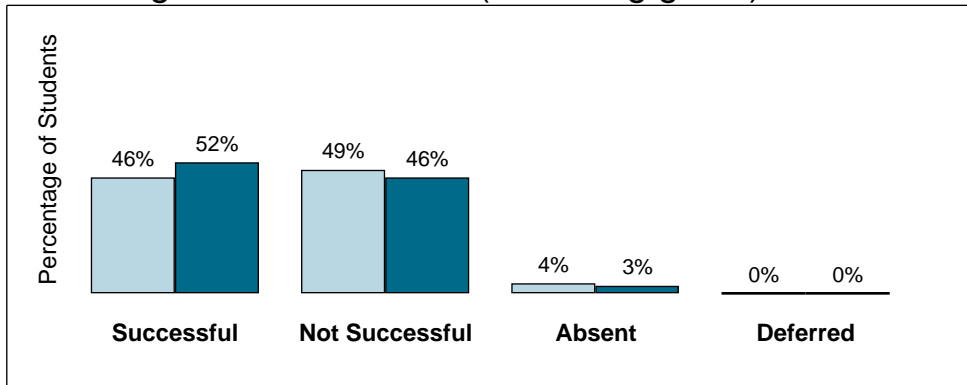
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

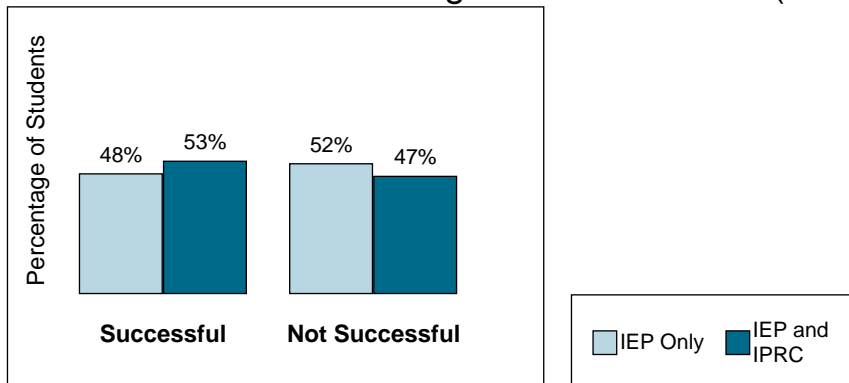
Board Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)*

Board Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted) First-Time Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	IEP Only # = 472		IEP and IPRC # = 215		IEP Only # = 451	IEP and IPRC # = 209
Successful	218	46%	111	52%	48%	53%
Not Successful	233	49%	98	46%	52%	47%
Fully Participating	451	96%	209	97%		
Absent	21	4%	6	3%		
Deferred	0	0%	0	0%		

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)



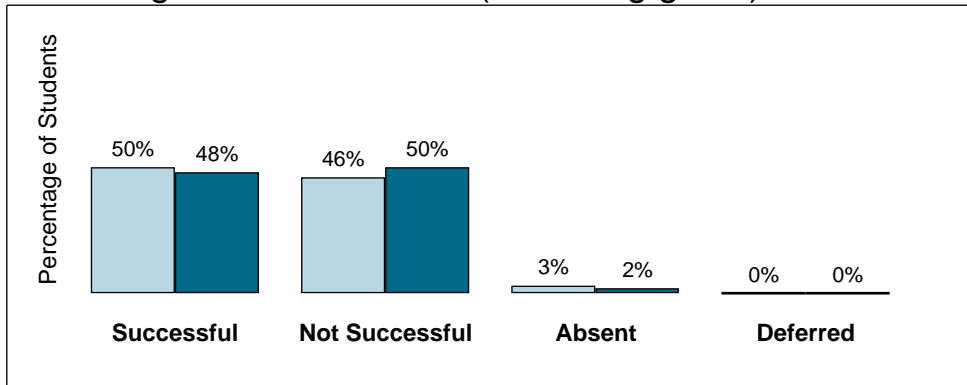
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

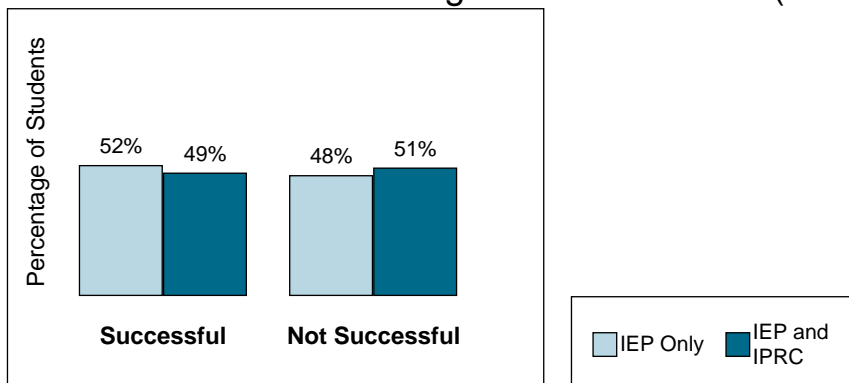
Provincial Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)*

Provincial Results for Students with Special Education Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted) First-Time Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	IEP Only # = 8 204		IEP and IPRC # = 12 931		IEP Only # = 7 927	IEP and IPRC # = 12 653
Successful	4 115	50%	6 213	48%	52%	49%
Not Successful	3 812	46%	6 440	50%	48%	51%
Fully Participating	7 927	97%	12 653	98%		
Absent	277	3%	278	2%		
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)



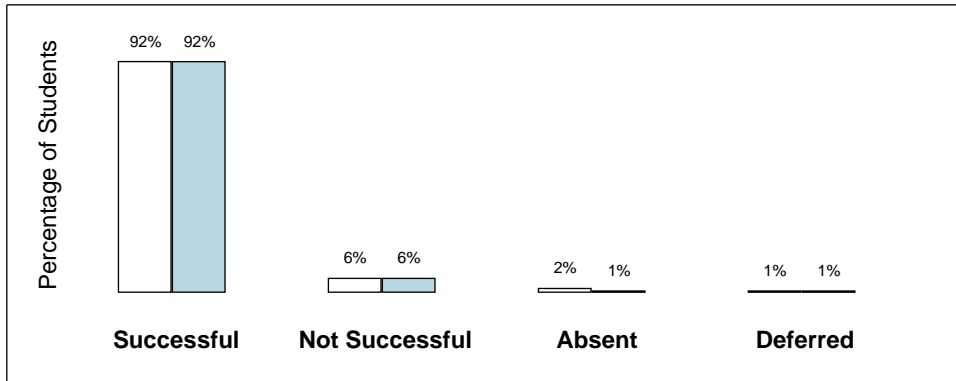
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

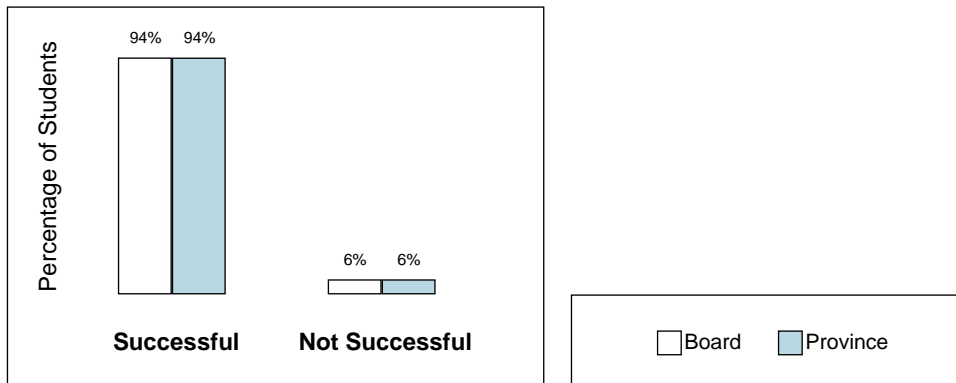
Results for Students Taking Academic English Course*

Results for Students Taking Academic English Course First-Time Eligible Students					
	All			Fully Participating	
	Board # = 3 220	Province # = 102 260		Board # = 3 145	Province # = 100 711
Successful	2 949	92%	92%	94%	94%
Not Successful	196	6%	6%	6%	6%
Fully Participating	3 145	98%	98%		
Absent	54	2%	1%		
Deferred	21	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



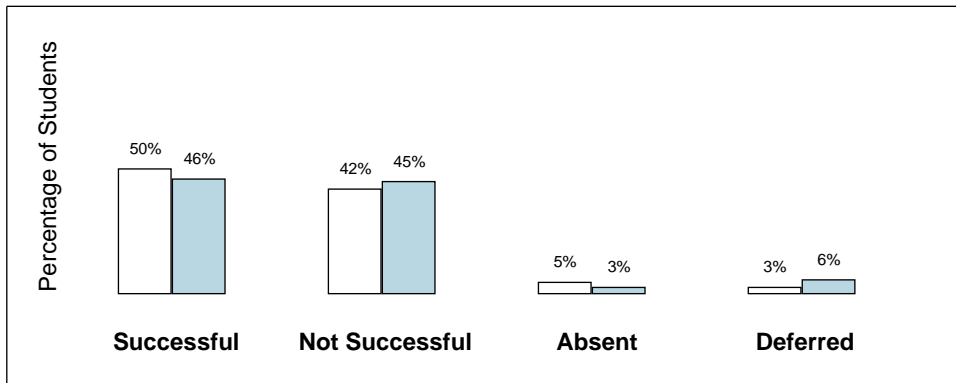
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

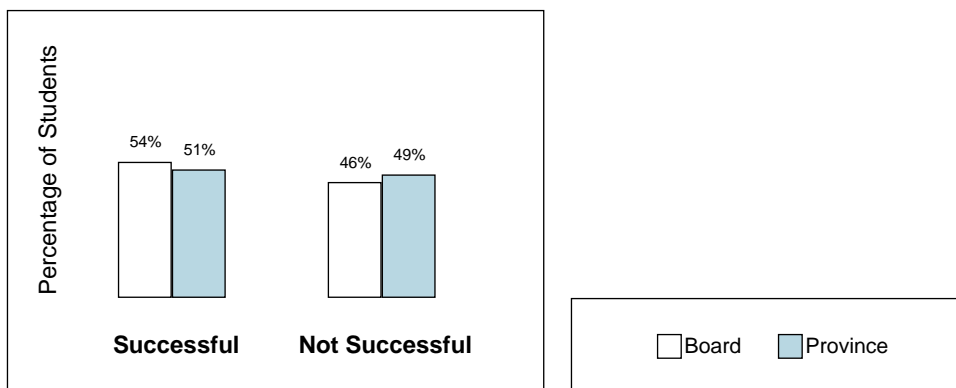
Results for Students Taking Applied English Course*

Results for Students Taking Applied English Course First-Time Eligible Students					
	All		Fully Participating		
	Board # = 969	Province # = 31 172	Board # = 889	Province # = 28 252	
Successful	480	50%	46%	54%	51%
Not Successful	409	42%	45%	46%	49%
Fully Participating	889	92%	91%		
Absent	50	5%	3%		
Deferred	30	3%	6%		

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



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



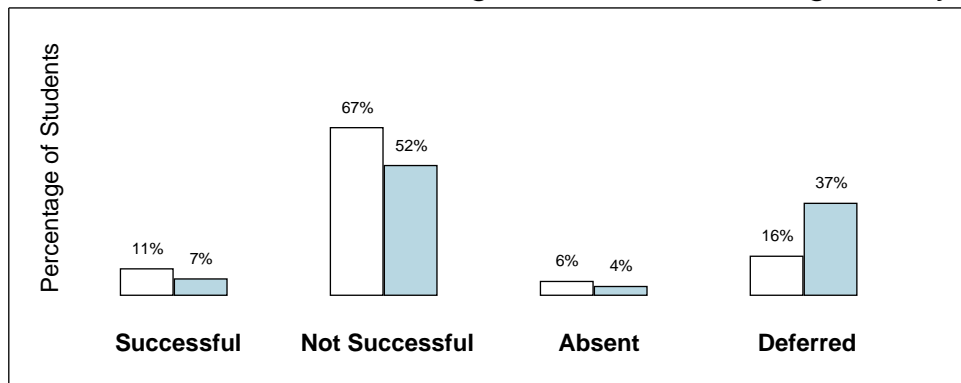
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

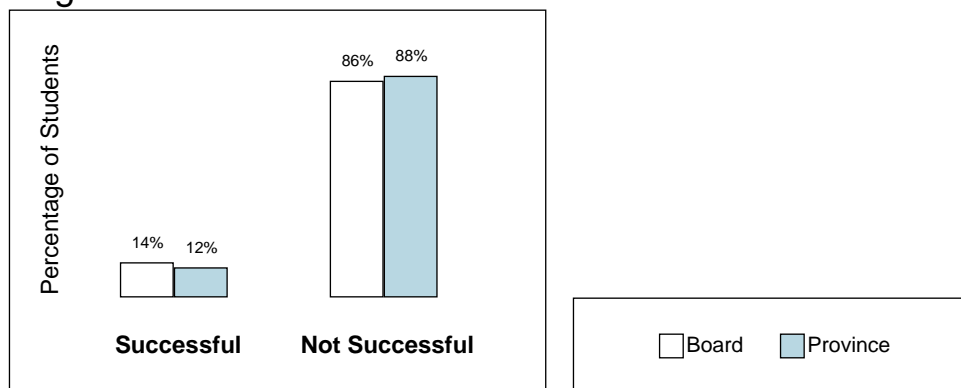
Results for Students Taking Locally Developed English Course*

Results for Students Taking Locally Developed English Course First-Time Eligible Students					
	All		Fully Participating		
	Board # = 147	Province # = 4 791	Board # = 114	Province # = 2 814	
Successful	16	11%	7%	14%	12%
Not Successful	98	67%	52%	86%	88%
Fully Participating	114	78%	59%		
Absent	9	6%	4%		
Deferred	24	16%	37%		

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



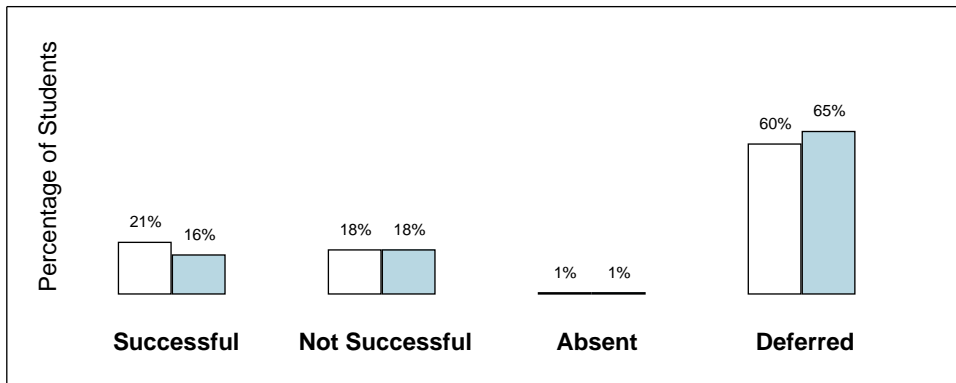
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

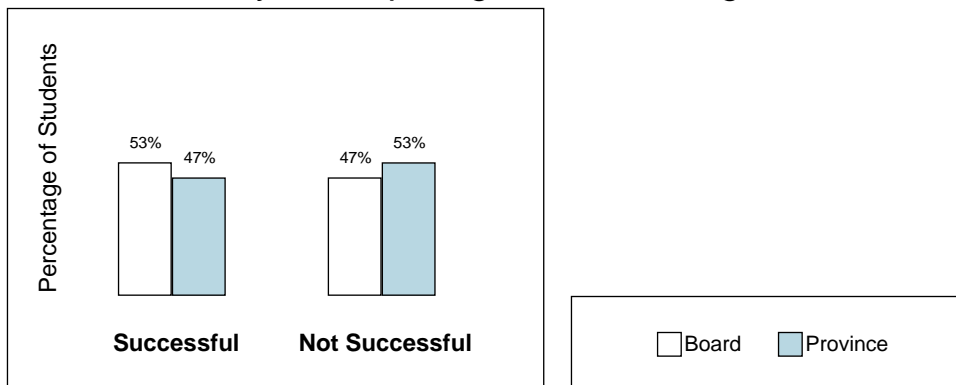
Results for Students Taking ESL/ELD Course*

	Results for Students Taking ESL/ELD Course First-Time Eligible Students				
	All			Fully Participating	
	Board # = 77	Province # = 3 348		Board # = 30	Province # = 1 137
Successful	16	21%	16%	53%	47%
Not Successful	14	18%	18%	47%	53%
Fully Participating	30	39%	34%		
Absent	1	1%	1%		
Deferred	46	60%	65%		

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 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

Contextual Information over Time

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

	Apr. 2009	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2011	Mar. 2012	Spr. 2013	
Enrolment						
Number of first-time eligible students	4 476	4 641	4 800	4 662	4 504	
Number of schools with first-time eligible students	16	16	16	16	16	
Number of students who were exempted	79	71	69	132	155	
Participation in the Test						
Of all first-time eligible students, those who participated fully in the assessment	92%	93%	93%	94%	94%	
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were absent	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were deferred	6%	5%	5%	4%	3%	
Gender[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students						
Female	49%	48%	50%	47%	48%	
Male	51%	52%	50%	53%	51%	
Gender not specified	<1%	0%	0%	0%	<1%	
Student Status[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students						
English language learners*	4%	5%	6%	5%	6%	
English language learners receiving special provisions**	<1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	
Students with special education needs (excluding gifted)*	13%	15%	17%	17%	19%	
Students with special education needs receiving accommodations (excluding gifted)**	10%	12%	14%	14%	16%	
Course Type in English[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students						
Academic	68%	69%	69%	70%	71%	
Applied	24%	24%	23%	23%	22%	
Locally developed	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%	
ESL/ELD	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	
Other	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	
Language^{††} Based on Student Questionnaire data						
	Number of Respondents:	4 081	4 283	4 415	4 364	4 201
First language learned at home was other than English		17%	19%	19%	20%	21%
Speak only or mostly English at home		81%	80%	80%	80%	78%
Speak another language (or other languages) as often as English at home		13%	13%	13%	13%	15%
Speak only or mostly another language (or other languages) at home		6%	6%	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.

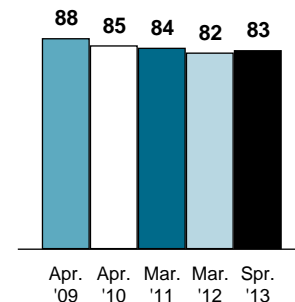
** Percentages are based on fully participating students.

^{††} 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 2013, First-Time Eligible Students Results over Time, April 2009–Spring 2013

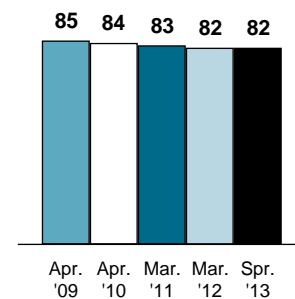
Board Results over Time*										
	April '09		April '10		March '11		March '12		Spring '13	
<i>All Students</i>	4 476		4 641		4 800		4 662		4 504	
Successful (all)	3 619	81%	3 674	79%	3 749	78%	3 625	78%	3 508	78%
Not Successful	484	11%	626	13%	701	15%	772	17%	734	16%
Fully Participating	4 103	92%	4 300	93%	4 450	93%	4 397	94%	4 242	94%
Absent	109	2%	114	2%	121	3%	88	2%	125	3%
Deferred	264	6%	227	5%	229	5%	177	4%	137	3%
Fully Participating Successful	3 619	88%	3 674	85%	3 749	84%	3 625	82%	3 508	83%

**Board Results over Time:
Percentage of Fully Participating
Successful Students**



Provincial Results over Time*										
	April '09		April '10		March '11		March '12		Spring '13	
<i>All Students</i>	152 830		153 490		153 635		147 306		143 358	
Successful (all)	120 776	79%	120 218	78%	118 961	77%	112 717	77%	110 162	77%
Not Successful	21 618	14%	22 737	15%	24 285	16%	24 285	16%	23 871	17%
Fully Participating	142 394	93%	142 955	93%	143 246	93%	137 002	93%	134 033	93%
Absent	3 707	2%	3 479	2%	3 237	2%	2 966	2%	2 059	1%
Deferred	6 729	4%	7 056	5%	7 152	5%	7 338	5%	7 266	5%
Fully Participating Successful	120 776	85%	120 218	84%	118 961	83%	112 717	82%	110 162	82%

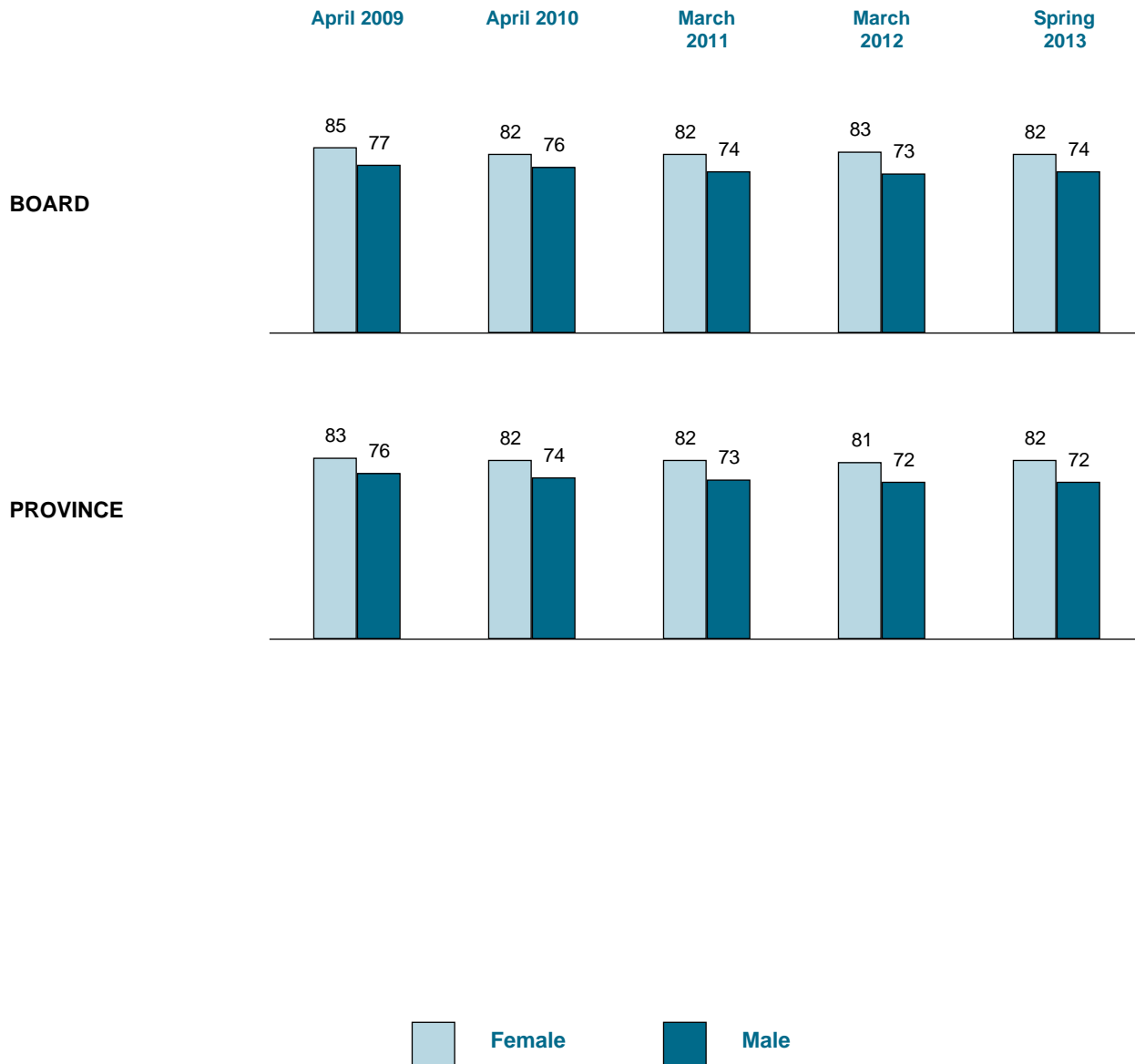
**Provincial Results over Time:
Percentage of Fully Participating
Successful Students**



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

ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS OVER TIME BY GENDER†

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



Female Male

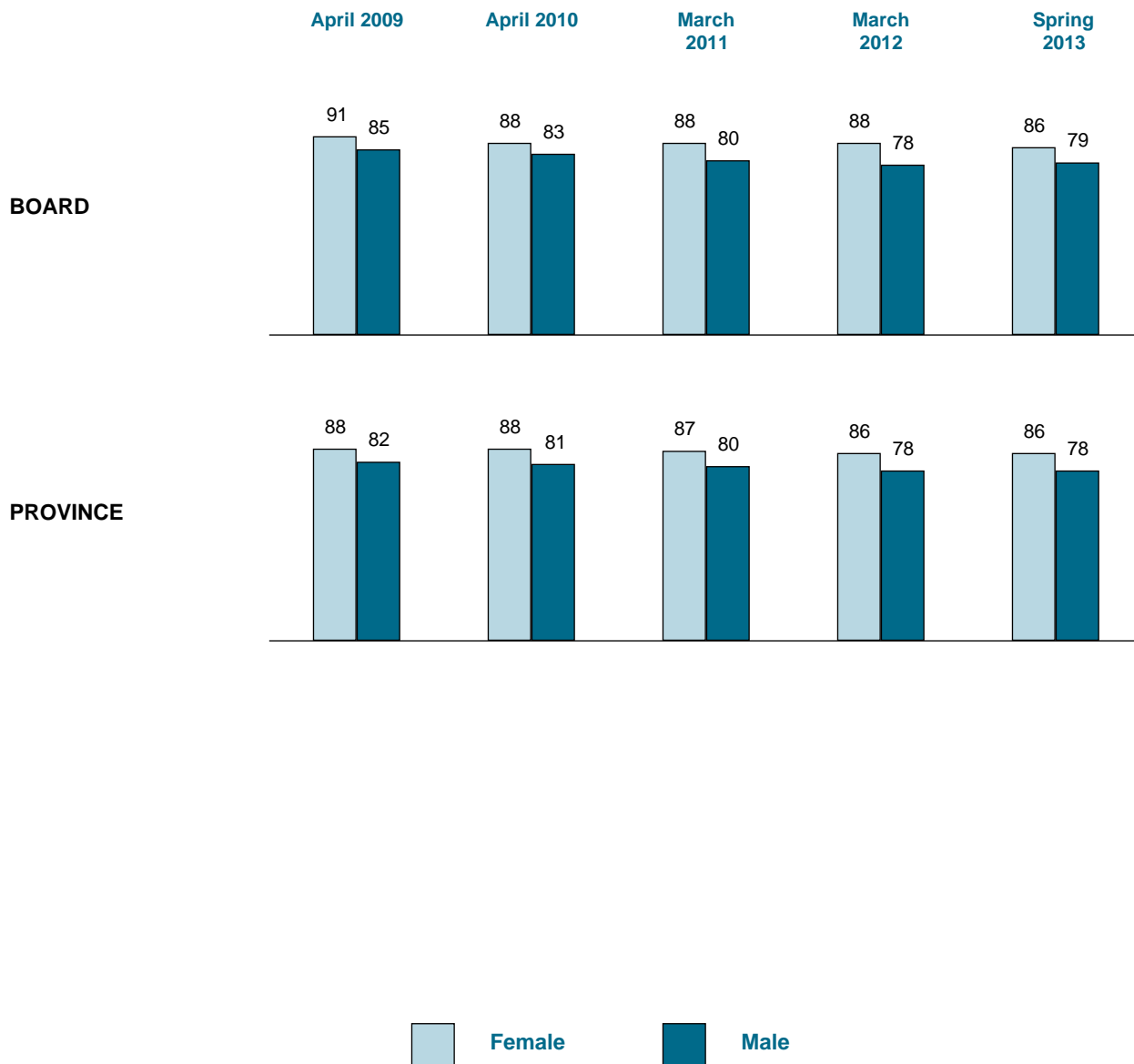
Number of First-Time Eligible Students†

	<u>April 2009</u>		<u>April 2010</u>		<u>March 2011</u>		<u>March 2012</u>		<u>Spring 2013</u>	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Board	2 202	2 273	2 224	2 417	2 386	2 414	2 210	2 452	2 184	2 319
Province	74 355	78 459	74 545	78 940	74 954	78 681	71 934	75 370	70 092	73 260

† Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS OVER TIME BY GENDER†

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

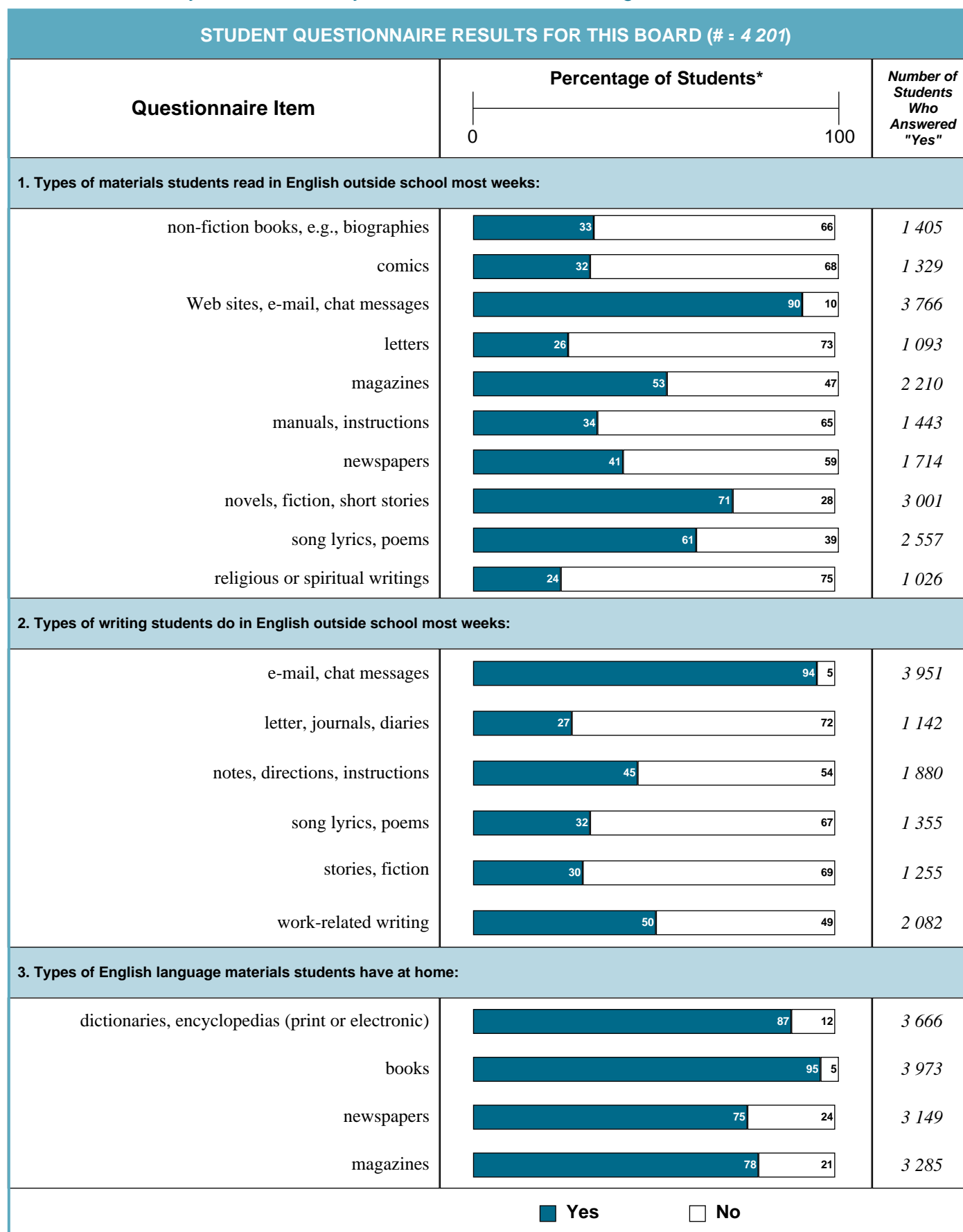


Number of Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students†

	<u>April 2009</u>		<u>April 2010</u>		<u>March 2011</u>		<u>March 2012</u>		<u>Spring 2013</u>	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Board	2 059	2 043	2 072	2 228	2 216	2 234	2 099	2 298	2 063	2 178
Province	69 954	72 432	70 055	72 896	70 606	72 640	67 631	69 369	66 262	67 765

† Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013, First-Time Eligible Students



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

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS FOR THIS BOARD (# = 4 201)			
Questionnaire Item	Percentage of Students*		Number of Students
4. Number of hours a week students read materials written in English outside school, not including homework:			
one hour or less	29		1 212
more than one hour but less than three hours	31		1 304
more than three hours but less than five hours	20		824
five hours or more	20		845
5. Number of hours a week students write in English outside school, not including homework:			
one hour or less	45		1 910
more than one hour but less than three hours	30		1 251
more than three hours but less than five hours	14		568
five hours or more	11		442
6. How often students use a computer at home for homework:			
don't have a computer at home	2		101
never or hardly ever use a computer for homework	11		449
use a computer once or twice a month for homework	19		811
use a computer once or twice a week for homework	37		1 575
use a computer almost every day for homework	30		1 257
7. First language students learned at home was English:			
yes	79		3 333
no	21		868
8. Language(s) students speak at home:			
only or mostly English	78		3 260
another language (or other languages) as often as English	15		648
only or mostly another language (or other languages)	6		265

* Percentages may not add to 100, due to a lack of or ambiguous responses.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013, First-Time Eligible Students

STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS FOR BOARD AND PROVINCE (all students, female, male)	Board			Province		
	All (#= 4 201)	Female* (#= 2 046)	Male* (#= 2 154)	All (#= 130 397)	Female* (#= 64 707)	Male* (#= 65 684)
Percentage of students indicating that they						
have a computer at home	97%	98%	97%	97%	98%	97%
use the computer almost every day for homework	30%	34%	27%	34%	36%	32%
Percentage of students indicating that they read the following types of materials in English outside school most weeks:						
non-fiction books, e.g., biographies	33%	30%	36%	36%	33%	40%
comics	32%	23%	40%	33%	25%	41%
Web sites, e-mail, chat messages	90%	92%	87%	90%	92%	88%
letters	26%	29%	23%	28%	30%	26%
magazines	53%	63%	43%	55%	66%	44%
manuals, instructions	34%	25%	43%	39%	29%	48%
newspapers	41%	39%	42%	41%	38%	43%
novels, fiction, short stories	71%	83%	61%	70%	81%	59%
song lyrics, poems	61%	73%	49%	65%	77%	53%
religious or spiritual writings	24%	26%	23%	23%	24%	22%
Percentage of students indicating that they read materials written in English outside school, not including homework, for						
more than three hours a week.	40%	45%	34%	37%	43%	32%
Percentage of students indicating that they have the following English language materials at home:						
dictionaries, encyclopedias (print or electronic)	87%	89%	85%	87%	89%	85%
books	95%	97%	92%	93%	96%	91%
newspapers	75%	76%	74%	79%	80%	78%
magazines	78%	82%	74%	78%	82%	73%
Percentage of students indicating that they do the following types of writing in English outside school most weeks:						
e-mail, chat messages	94%	96%	92%	93%	95%	91%
letters, journals, diaries	27%	43%	13%	27%	40%	14%
notes, directions, instructions	45%	48%	42%	46%	49%	44%
song lyrics, poems	32%	39%	26%	36%	43%	29%
stories, fiction	30%	35%	25%	32%	38%	27%
work-related writing	50%	52%	48%	55%	55%	55%
Percentage of students indicating that they write in English outside school, not including homework, for						
more than three hours a week.	24%	29%	20%	25%	28%	22%
Percentage of students indicating that the first language they learned at home was						
other than English.	21%	20%	21%	23%	23%	23%
Percentage of students indicating that they speak the following language(s) at home:**						
only or mostly English	78%	78%	78%	74%	74%	74%
another language (or other languages) as often as English	15%	16%	15%	19%	19%	18%
only or mostly another language (or other languages)	6%	5%	7%	7%	6%	7%

* Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

** Percentages may not add to 100, due to a lack of or ambiguous responses.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2013

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

First-Time Eligible Students	First-time eligible students are working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and typically entered Grade 9 during the 2011–2012 school year or entered Grade 10 in the 2012–2013 school year from out of province. These students were required to write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for the first time in 2013.
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 now working toward an OSSD; entered Grade 11 or 12 in the 2012–2013 school year 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 is so small (fewer than six in a group) 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 for some or all students are being withheld by EQAO. For further information, please contact personnel at the board.