

## Provincial Testing Results Summary 2002-2003

### Background for Interpretation of Results

- There are two standards for each provincial test, the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence.
- Alberta Learning provides achievement test results for school authorities calculated in two ways:
  - percentages of students achieving the standards based on only those who wrote the tests;
  - percentages based on all students enrolled in the grade;
  - Home education students are not included in school authority results.

### Participation in Achievement Tests

- CBE participation rates are above those of the province on all tests written in grades 3 and 6, and 2 of the 6 tests written in grade 9.
- Our results reflect the efforts of students with a wide range of learning abilities and needs. Our high participation reflects much more than a statistic. It is a fundamental value of public education – the inclusion of all. For example, for tests written in English:
  - CBE English as a Second Language (ESL) students made up 41% of the ESL students writing achievement tests in English throughout the province in grade 3, 45% in grade 6, and 51% in grade 9. For these students, CBE results were at or above the provincial results in 18 of the 22 standards.
  - CBE Special Education students made up 16% of the Special Education students writing achievement tests in English throughout the province in Gr. 3, 19% in Gr. 6 and 20% in Gr. 9. For these students, CBE results were above the province in 20 of the 22 standards.

### Comparison of Achievement Test Results

#### When percentages are based on those writing the tests:

- Compared to 2001-2002, on the 11 tests\*
  - CBE results improved on
    - 7 at the acceptable standard
    - 6 at the excellence standard (and remained the same on one more)
  - Provincial results improved on
    - 7 at the acceptable standard
    - 8 at the excellence standard
- CBE results were higher than or the same as provincial results in the percentage of students at the
  - acceptable standard on 6 of the 13 achievement tests (Gr. 6 LA and Math, Gr. 9 LA, Math, Science [Form A] and Social Studies);
  - excellence standard on 6 of the 13 tests (Gr. 6 Math, Science and Social Studies, Gr. 9 LA, Math and Science [Form A]).

#### When the percentages are based on all students enrolled in the grade:

- CBE results were higher than or the same as provincial results in the percentage of students at the
  - acceptable standard in 9 of the 13 tests (Gr. 3 Math; Gr. 6 L.A, Math, Science and Social Studies; and Gr. 9 L.A. Math, Science [Form A] and Social Studies);
  - excellence level in 8 of the 13 tests (Gr. 3 L.A.; Gr. 6 L. A., Math, Science and Social Studies; and Gr. 9 L. A., Math and Science [Form A]).

\* Grade 9 Science is in transition to a new curriculum and, therefore, cannot be compared to last year.

## Grade 12 Diploma Examinations Results

### Compared to the provincial results:

- A higher percentage of CBE students achieved the acceptable standard in 8 of 12 courses (French L. A., Social Studies 30 and 33, Pure and Applied Math 30, Biology 30, Chemistry 30 and Physics 30).
- A higher percentage of CBE students achieved the standard of excellence in 8 of 12 courses (French L.A. 30, English 30, Social Studies 30 and 33, Pure Math 30, Biology 30, Chemistry 30 and Physics 30).

## Uses of Results

Results from the provincial testing program provide the system and schools with information about the achievement of provincial goals and standards in the specific grades and subjects tested.

### The system uses results to

- study changes over time
- celebrate achievements
- address areas that need improvement.

Together with other information, such as students' prior learning and unique learning needs and community priorities

### Schools use results to

- identify strategies to better meet learning needs
- celebrate achievements
- add to the data that inform school development and renewal planning.

## Conclusions

The Calgary Board of Education is proud of the achievements of its students and the significant work of staff in providing the kind of quality learning conditions that enable students to succeed. The grade 3 results have shown growth in mathematics and have remained stable in Language Arts as measured by the percentage of students attaining the acceptable standard over the past 3 years. The percentage of students achieving the acceptable standard in grade 6 L.A. has shown growth in the past 3 years in relationship to both the province and CBE past performances. The results in grade 9 L.A. have shown steady growth in relationship to the province. Although our grade 9 Math results have dipped slightly after 3 years of strong growth, the gap between provincial and CBE results continues to widen in our favor.

In high schools, our grade 12 students are achieving excellence in the 30-level diploma examinations. Especially notable is the consistently higher performance of Calgary Board of Education students as compared to the province in French Language Arts 30, Social Studies 30 and 33, Pure Math 30, Biology 30, Chemistry 30 and Physics 30. Pure Math 30 results over the past three years have shown steady improvement in the percentage of students achieving the acceptable standard, and the last five years of Biology, Chemistry and Physics results have remained consistently high and substantially above the province's.