



## NEWS RELEASE

September 24, 2014

### Catholic school students show continued improvement in reading and writing

The reading and writing skills of Grade 10 students in Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board hold strong with 88% deemed successful by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) on their first attempt at this assessment. This achievement represents a 2% increase in results for students in the board compared to last year, and a 5% improvement over results for provincial peers who averaged 83% success rate. The 2013-2014 test results made public today by EQAO will provide important information for educators and inform next steps for responding to student needs, in and out of the classroom.

Based on EQAO Cohort Tracking Data which monitors student progress on Assessments from Grades 3 to 6 and then Grade 10, students within ALCDSB demonstrate improved reading and writing skills over time.

"We are committed to the priority of fostering critically literate learners," said Tom Dall, Chair of the Board. "Strong reading and writing skills are essential for success in our ever-changing world, and we are pleased to see students growing in their abilities over time on their academic journey with us."

Successful completion of the OSSLT is a graduation requirement in the province of Ontario. For students who do not experience success on the assessment, interventions and supports are provided. "All teachers in our Catholic Secondary Schools are teachers of reading and writing," said Terri Slack, Superintendent of School Effectiveness. "Our schools take a whole school approach across subject areas to ensure that every student has the opportunity and skills for success". Further, students may re-write the assessment in the following year or participate in the Ontario Literacy Course.

Within the Board, 892 Grade 10 students were eligible to write the test for the first time in April 2014 compared with 141,815 provincially. Individual Student Reports are issued by EQAO and will be sent home by schools in the weeks ahead. For the complete district and school reports, please see [www.EQAO.com](http://www.EQAO.com).

For further information, please contact Terri Slack, Superintendent of School Effectiveness, 613 354 2255.

Jody DiRocco  
Director of Education

Tom Dall  
Chair of the Board

***Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board***

151 Dairy Avenue  
Napane, Ontario  
K7R 4B2  
Fax: (613) 354-0351

Telephone: (613) 354-2255  
Automated Attendant (613) 354-6257  
Toll Free: 1-800-581-1116

[www.alcdsb.on.ca](http://www.alcdsb.on.ca)