

## Dufferin-Peel students continue high levels in Grade 9 math

Results from the 2014-2015 Education Quality and Accountability Office's (EQAO) Grade 9 assessments of mathematics contained good news for local students.

The results indicate Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board students continue to demonstrate high levels of performance at both the academic and applied levels of study.

The percentage of students achieving at, or above, the provincial standard (Levels 3 or 4) in Grade 9 mathematics highlights the on-going historical success of Dufferin-Peel in this subject area. Results from the 2014-2015 mathematics assessments were relatively consistent with last year's high achievement levels among students in both the academic and applied mathematics programs.

"Dufferin-Peel Catholic schools foster a climate of academic excellence and our EQAO results are but one reflection of that climate," commented Director of Education John Kostoff. "We look upon these latest positive results with a sense of pride and accomplishment, but we know, as well, that we still have much work to do as a system, to further improve student learning, achievement and well-being among all learners."

"Dufferin-Peel's EQAO success is one of many indicators that our students are achieving," said Board Chair Mario Pascucci. "We will, however, review our supports as we move forward in a strategic manner striving, as always, for continuous improvement in all areas."

EQAO assessments of Grade 9 mathematics provide an indication of each student's achievement in the subject. The 2014-2015 assessment results report on two groups of students – those taking academic mathematics and those taking applied mathematics. The results show 88 per cent of the students were at or exceeded the provincial standard in academic mathematics, and 60 per cent in applied math. There is no provincial data yet available from EQAO.

"We will now proceed to analyze these results in greater detail," said Sheila McWatters, associate director of instructional services with the Board. "Insight gained through analysis will enable us to provide better support to schools, parents and students to ensure even higher levels of achievement as we move forward."

Each school has its own plan to support mathematics, which will be reviewed in the context of the test results, to improve students' mathematics skills across all subject areas. Inherent in school plans are strategies to assist all students, including remediation for those who did not meet the provincial standard in Grade 9 mathematics.

EQAO is an independent agency with a mandate to ensure greater accountability and to help improve the quality of education.