





Validation against these dimensions helps to ensure the high quality, accuracy and reliability of EQAO data. In addition, when sharing data with external users, including school boards, schools and researchers, EQAO follows the data quality dimensions outlined by Statistics Canada to evaluate fitness for use.

**Table 1: Additional Data Quality Dimensions to Evaluate Fitness for External Use**

Dimension	Definition	EQAO Approach
	The degree to which data meet user needs. Data are relevant when they relate to the issues users care about most. However, assessing relevance is subjective because it depends on various user needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing consultation and outreach with data users and stakeholders</li> <li>• Tracking and monitoring data requests</li> </ul>
	The degree to which statistical information correctly describes the phenomena it was designed to measure. Related to accuracy, <b>reliability</b> reflects the degree to which statistical information, consistently over time, correctly describes the phenomena it was designed to measure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EQAO Data Quality Framework</li> </ul>
	The delay between the end of the reference period to which statistical information pertains and the date on which the information becomes available. <b>Punctuality</b> refers to the difference between planned and actual availability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual reporting schedule aligns with stakeholder needs (i.e., school and school board improvement planning)</li> </ul>
	The ease with which users learn that information (including metadata) exists and find it, view it and import it into their own work environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicly accessible data definitions</li> <li>• Data portal to access EQAO data</li> </ul>
	The degree to which data can be reliably combined and compared with other statistical information within a broad analytical framework over time. To improve coherence, it is important to use standard concepts, classifications and target populations as well as a common methodology across surveys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EQAO methodology and psychometrics are well-defined and consistent</li> <li>• Availability of linking variables</li> </ul>
	The availability of supplementary information and metadata necessary to understand, analyze and utilize statistical information appropriately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methodological information and metadata provided with all data requests</li> </ul>

Source: Statistics Canada. (2019). Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines, Sixth edition—December 2019. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/12-539-x/12-539-x2019001-eng.pdf?st=2-qjagch>