

Literacy Trends at a Glance

A Look at Three Years of EQAO Data

Students in English-Language Schools,
2021–2022 to 2023–2024 School Years

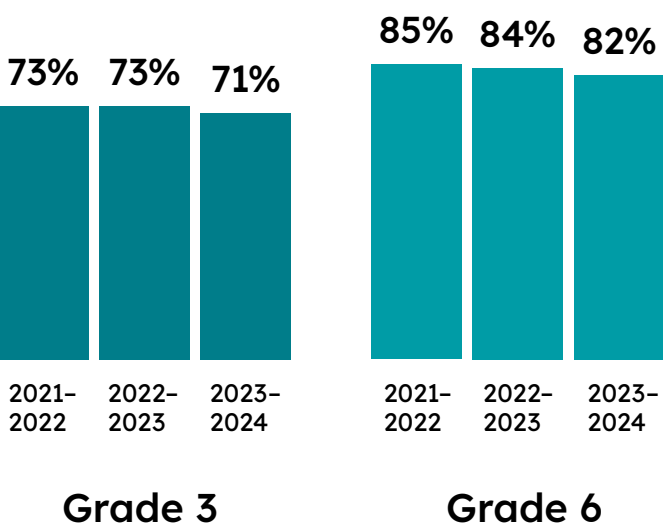
Unlocking the potential for growth in our education system starts with understanding the story behind the data. By exploring EQAO results over the past three years, we can uncover valuable trends that shed light on progress in literacy among Ontario students.



Primary and Junior Divisions

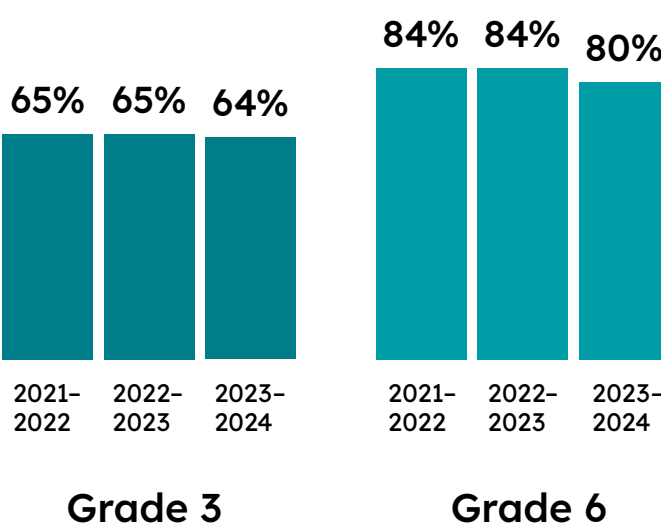
Percentage of students who met the provincial standard (Levels 3 and 4)

Reading



The three-year trends show that the percentage of Grades 3 and 6 students meeting the provincial standard has decreased slightly.

Writing



The three-year trends show that the percentage of students meeting the provincial standard has remained stable for Grade 3 students but has decreased for Grade 6 students.

It is encouraging to note that in both reading and writing, Grade 6 students have a higher rate of success than Grade 3 students, indicating an improvement in their ability as they progress toward higher grades.

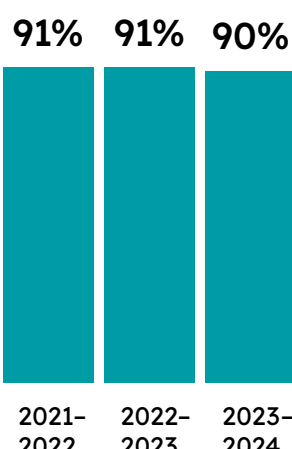


OSSLT

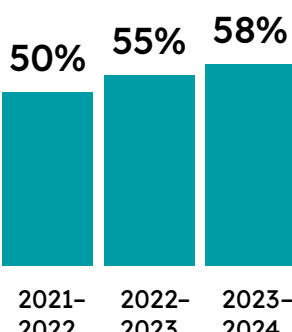
Percentage of students who were successful



Academic Course



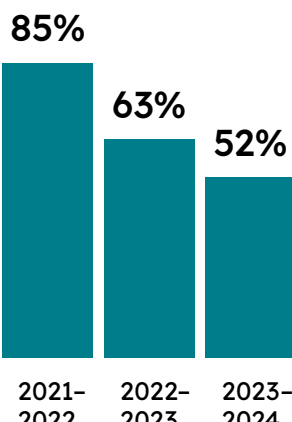
Applied Course



First-Time Eligible



Previously Eligible¹



¹ In 2021–2022, the number of Grade 11 and non-graduating Grade 12 students who were previously eligible to take the OSSLT was greater than usual due to the paused test in 2019–2020 and 2020–2021. When comparing the 2023–2024 results with those of the 2018–2019 cohort, which is a better comparison, the 2023–2024 results represent an increase (from 50% to 52%).

The three-year trend shows that the success rates for OSSLT students enrolled in the academic English course remain consistently high. While the achievement gap between students taking the applied course and those taking the academic course remains an area of concern, the three-year trends indicate that the gap is steadily narrowing, as the success rates of students enrolled in the applied English course have increased.

Why Is EQAO Data Beneficial?

EQAO results are a reliable source of data that is uniquely comparable across the province and consistent from year to year. This comparability makes the data highly valuable to support improvement planning at the student, school and school-board levels. These data also serve as feedback to assist students in their individual learning journey, help parents and guardians better understand their child’s progress, and enable policy-makers and researchers to make evidence-based decisions that benefit student achievement across the province.

Recently, trends in EQAO data have informed the development of several meaningful action plans, including

- changes in the curricula at the elementary and secondary school levels;
- the *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023*, which made EQAO data and metrics an integral part of schools’ achievement plans regarding reading, writing and mathematics; and
- a new kindergarten curriculum that will be implemented in fall 2025.

For more information on the latest provincial results, please visit <https://www.eqao.com/results/>.

