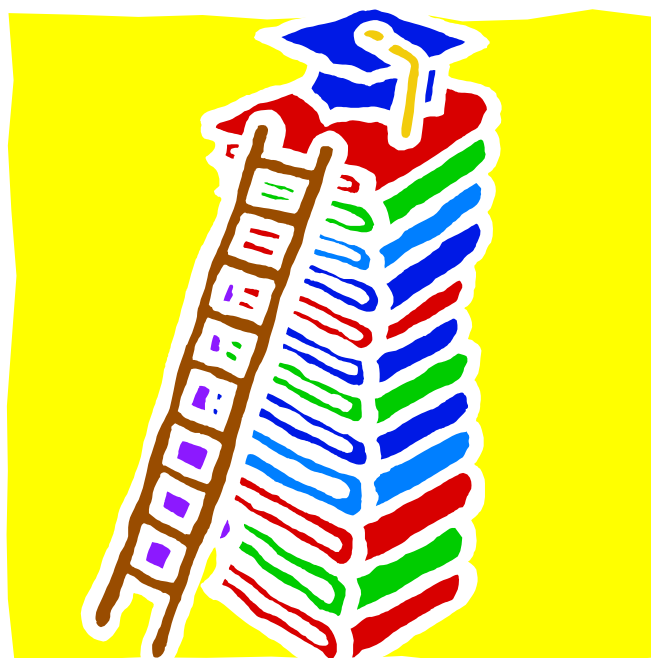




Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

Peel District School Board Results 2005-2006



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**Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)
Peel District School Board (PDSB)
2005-2006**

Summary of Results

Peel District School Board and Provincial Results

Fully Participating – First-Time Eligible Students

- 85% of fully participating first-time eligible PDSB students passed the OSSLT. This was one percent higher than the provincial average of 84%.

 Key Points	PDSB	Province
Fully participating first-time eligible students passing	85%	84%
Increase from last year	4%	2%
Fully participating previously eligible students passing	55%	55%

- Six percent more females in the PDSB passed the OSSLT than males. For the province, seven percent more females passed compared to males.
- 51% of ESL/ELD learners in the PDSB passed the OSSLT, compared to 51% of ESL/ELD learners across the province.
- 51% of students with special needs (excluding gifted) in the PDSB successfully passed the OSSLT, compared to 55% of students with special needs across the province.

- 95% of Academic Level English students in the PDSB passed the OSSLT, compared to 96% of Academic Level English students across the province.
- 60% of Applied Level English students in the PDSB passed the OSSLT, compared to 65% of Applied Level English students across the province.
- 11% of students enrolled in Locally Developed English courses in the PDSB passed the OSSLT, compared to 24% of students enrolled in Locally Developed English courses across the province.

Fully Participating – Previously Eligible Students

- 55% of fully participating previously eligible students in the PDSB who re-wrote the OSSLT in March 2006 passed. This was the same as the provincial average of 55%.
- An additional 13% of previously eligible students in the PDSB were fulfilling the literacy requirement through the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC). Across the province, 15% of previously eligible students were completing the OSSLC.

One-Year and Five-Year Trends

- Four percent more fully participating first-time eligible PDSB students successfully passed the OSSLT this year (85%) compared to last year (81%).
- 10% more PDSB students passed the OSSLT this year (85%) compared to five years ago (75%).

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Peel District School Board Results 2005-2006

A. Introduction

This report contains an overview of the 2005-2006 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) provincial assessment in literacy, the *Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)*. The full Provincial Report can be downloaded from EQAO's website (<http://www.eqao.com/>).

EQAO and OSSLT

EQAO, an independent arm's-length agency of the provincial government, conducts a wide range of province-wide assessments. The OSSLT has been in place for five years. It occurs annually and involves all eligible grade 10 students. The assessment provides both individual and system data on student achievement. Students receive an individual report indicating whether or not they have successfully passed the OSSLT. The results are reported as a single literacy outcome that includes both the reading and writing components. School and school board reports are produced locally for parents and their communities, in addition to reports from EQAO (available on EQAO's website).

The purpose of the OSSLT is to ensure that students possess the reading and writing skills that are required by the end of Grade 9 as outlined in *The Ontario Curriculum* across all subjects areas. Students are eligible to write the OSSLT for the first time in their second year of secondary school. Successful completion of the OSSLT is one of the 32 requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

Changes in the 2005-2006 OSSLT

The OSSLT was revised for the 2005-2006 administration to ensure that current international standards were met and exemplary practices in large-scale assessment were matched. The 2005-2006 OSSLT was administered in March instead of in October as in previous years. The OSSLT was completed on March 29, 2006 in two 90-minute sessions.

PDSB Students and the 2005-2006 OSSLT

All students in Ontario who were registered in Grade 9 during the 2004-2005 school year were eligible to write the OSSLT for the first time in March 2006 ("first-time eligible students"). In March 2006, 9,734 PDSB students were eligible to write the test for the first time. Of the 9,734 first-time eligible students, 215 students were absent (2%) and 286 students were deferred (3%). A total of 9,233 first-time eligible PDSB students fully participated in the OSSLT.

"Previously eligible students" are those students who retook the test following a previous attempt. This category includes students who were not successful when they wrote the test in their first attempt, who were previously absent, or who deferred taking the test. Of the 3,600 students who were previously eligible, 2,551 students fully participated in the OSSLT, 333 students were absent (9%), and 264 students were deferred (7%).

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) is an option for students to acquire the literacy graduation requirement. Students must have been eligible to write the OSSLT at least twice and have been unsuccessful at least once in order to take this course. In 2005-2006, 452 previously eligible students (13%) fulfilled the literacy requirement through the OSSLC.

B. Contextual Information

Demographic data about students in the board and the province provide valuable contextual information to help with the interpretation of OSSLT results.



Key Points

- For 41% of first-time eligible students in the PDSB, the first language learned at home was a language other than English. This compares to 23% for the province.
- In the PDSB, there were more previously eligible ESL/ELD learners compared to the province (18% vs. 11%).

Table 1: Contextual Information				
	PDSB		Province	
	First-Time Eligible Students (N = 9,734)	Previously Eligible Students (N = 3,600)	First-Time Eligible Students (N = 158,817)	Previously Eligible Students (N = 46,465)
Gender				
Male	53%	60%	51%	60%
Female	47%	40%	49%	40%
Student Status				
English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD) learners	6%	18%	4%	11%
Students with special needs (excluding gifted)	12%	23%	14%	28%
Level of Study for English				
Academic	73%	N/A	64%	N/A
Applied	17%	N/A	25%	N/A
Locally developed course	2%	N/A	3%	N/A
English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD) course	4%	N/A	3%	N/A
Language				
First language learned at home was other than English	41%	58%	23%	37%
Speak only or mostly English at home	60%	41%	76%	60%
Speak another language (or languages) as often as English at home	28%	34%	16%	21%
Speak only or mostly another language (or other languages) at home	12%	25%	8%	18%

C. Overall Achievement for the PDSB

Results are reported for both **first-time eligible** and **previously eligible students**. There are two methods of reporting used to present the results:

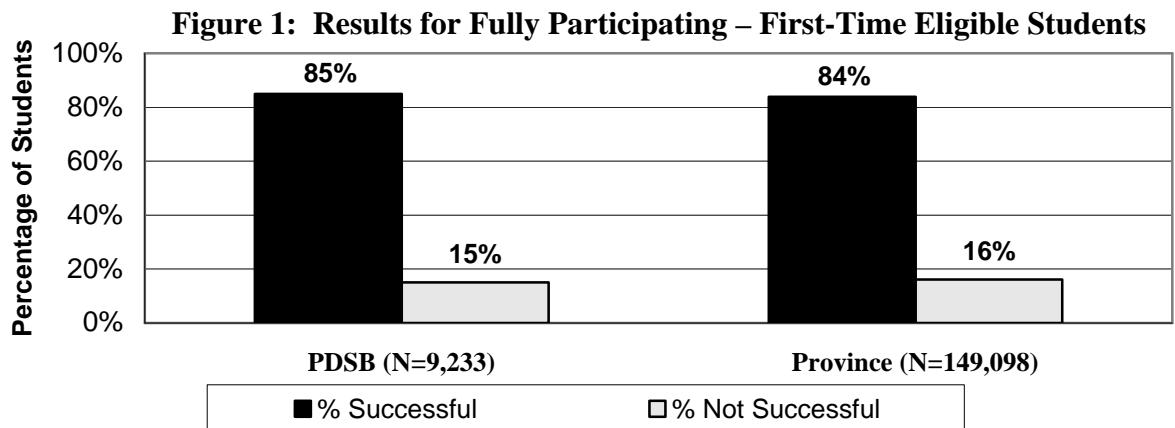
- 1) **Fully Participating Students** (formerly Method 2) – provides percentages based on students who were assigned an achievement result on the OSSLT. Students who were not working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), who were absent, and those who deferred were excluded.
- 2) **All Eligible Students** (formerly Method 1) – provides percentages based on all students in the cohort who were working toward an OSSD.

Fully Participating – First-Time Eligible Students



Key Points

- Out of the 9,233 first-time eligible PDSB students who wrote the OSSLT, 85% were successful and 15% were unsuccessful.
- The percentage of PDSB students who successfully passed the OSSLT was one percent higher than the provincial average (85% vs. 84%).

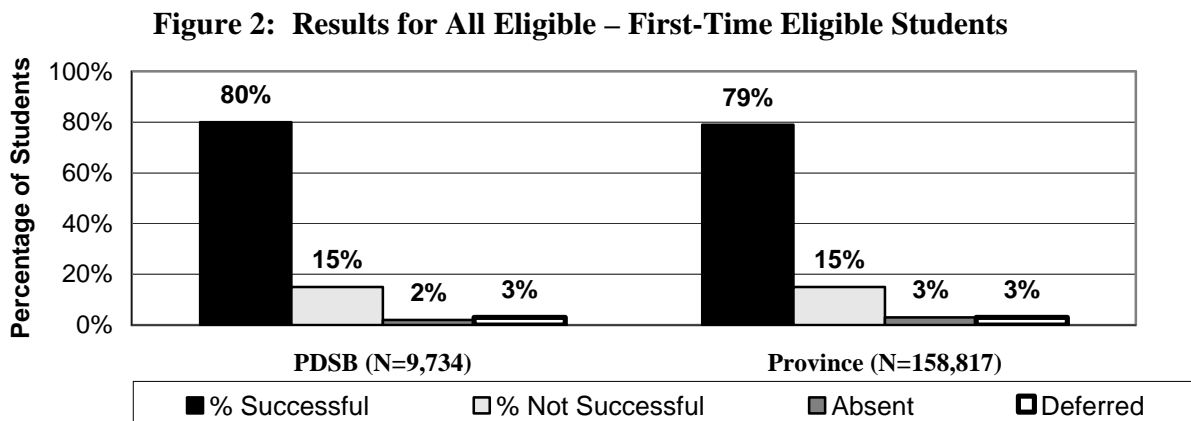


All Eligible – First-Time Eligible Students



Key Points

- Eighty percent of the 9,734 first-time eligible PDSB students passed the OSSLT, compared to 79% for the province.
- Fewer students in the PDSB were absent (2%) compared to the province (3%).



Previously Eligible Students



Key Points

- Of the 3,600 previously eligible PDSB students, 2,551 fully participated and re-wrote the OSSLT in March 2006.
- Fifty-five percent of the PDSB students who re-wrote passed the OSSLT, compared to 55% for the province.
- Thirteen percent of the previously eligible PDSB students were fulfilling the literacy requirement through the OSSLC. Across the province, 15% of previously eligible students were completing the OSSLC.

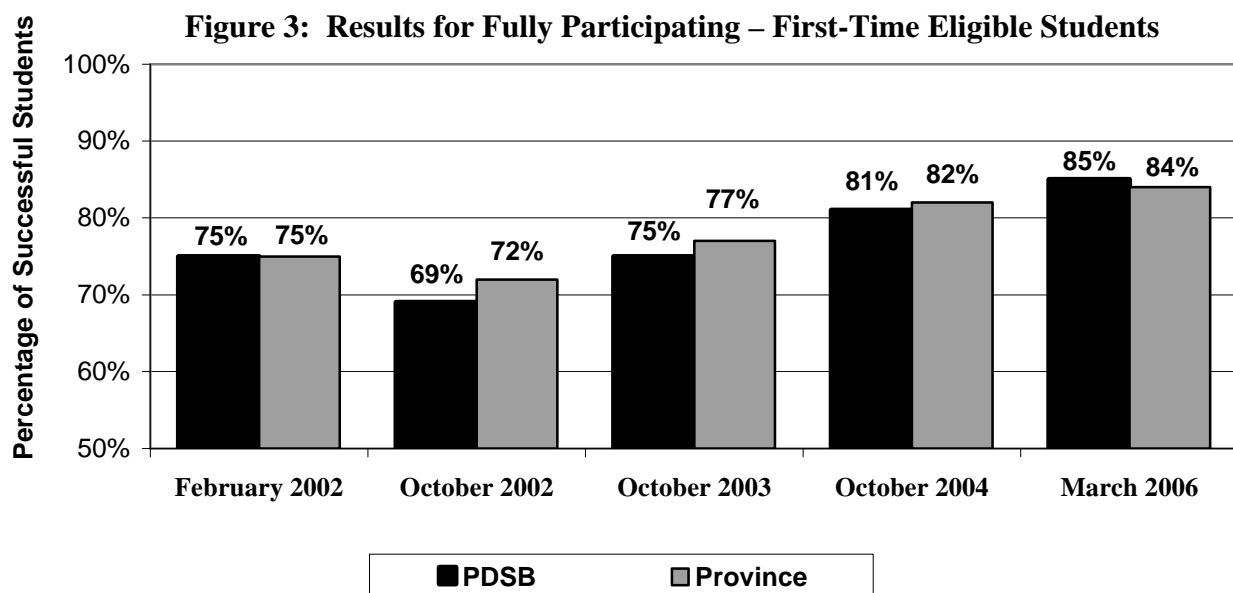
Table 2: Previously Eligible Students		
	PDSB	Province
All previously eligible students	3,600	46,465
Number of previously eligible students who wrote the OSSLT in 2006	2,551	32,352
Percentage of fully participating students who passed in March 2006	55%	55%
Percentage of previously eligible students fulfilling the literacy requirement through the OSSLC	13%	15%

D. Five-Year Trends



Key Points

- Four percent more fully participating first-time eligible PDSB students successfully passed the OSSLT in March 2006 compared to October 2004. For the province, two percent more students passed this year compared to last year.
- Ten percent more PDSB students passed the OSSLT in March 2006 compared to February 2002. For the province, nine percent more passed this year compared to February 2002.



E. Results for Fully Participating – First-Time Eligible Students by Gender

2005-2006 Results by Gender



Key Points

- Eighty-eight percent of PDSB females passed compared to 82% of PDSB males.
- Six percent more PDSB females passed the OSSLT compared to males.
- Similar findings were found in the provincial results (88% females, 81% males).

Figure 4: Fully Participating – First-Time Eligible PDSB Students by Gender



	# Fully Participating *		% Absent**		% Deferred**	
	female	male	female	male	female	male
PDSB	4,383	4,846	2%	2%	2%	3%
Province	73,081	75,966	3%	3%	3%	4%

Note: * The number of Fully Participating students does not include students who were absent or deferred.

**Absent and deferred values are percentages of All Eligible students.

Three-Year Trends by Gender



Key Points

- OSSLT pass rates increased from last year and over the last three years for females and males.
- Females have had consistently higher OSSLT pass rates than males over the last three years for both the PDSB and the province.
- The pass rate for PDSB males has increased more over last year (+4%) and over three years (11%) compared to males in the province (+2%, +8%).

		2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	Previous Year Comparison	Three-Year Comparison
PDSB	Females	79%	86%	88%	+ 2%	+ 9%
	Males	71%	78%	82%	+ 4%	+ 11%
Province	Females	80%	86%	88%	+ 2%	+ 8%
	Males	73%	79%	81%	+ 2%	+ 8%

F. Results for Fully Participating – First-Time Eligible English as a Second Language (ESL)/English Literacy Development (ELD) Learners

2005-2006 Results for ESL/ELD Learners



Key Points

- Of the ESL/ELD learners in the PDSB who took the OSSLT, 51% successfully passed. Similarly, 51% of provincial ESL/ELD learners passed.
- Twenty-five percent of ESL/ELD learners in the PDSB deferred writing the OSSLT until another year. In comparison, 32% of ESL/ELD learners deferred across the province.

Figure 5: Fully Participating – First-Time Eligible ESL/ELD Learners



Table 5: # Fully Participating, %Absent, and %Deferred for ESL/ELD Learners

	# Fully Participating *	% Absent**	% Deferred**
PDSB	413	2%	25%
Province	4,066	3%	32%

Note: * The number of Fully Participating students does not include students who were absent or deferred.
 **Absent and deferred values are percentages of All Eligible students.

Three-Year Trends for ESL/ELD Learners



Key Points

- When compared to last year's results (2004-2005), ESL/ELD learners in the PDSB increased their OSSLT pass rate by three percent. ESL/ELD learners in the province increased by one percent.
- Over the last three years, ESL/ELD students in the PDSB increased their OSSLT pass rate by 10%. ESL /ELD learners in the province increased by nine percent over three years.

Table 6: Comparison of Results Across Three Years for ESL/ELD Learners
 (Fully participating – first-time eligible students passing the OSSLT)

	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	Previous Year Comparison	Three-Year Comparison
PDSB	41%	48%	51%	+ 3%	+ 10%
Province	42%	50%	51%	+ 1%	+ 9%

G. Results for Fully Participating – First-Time Eligible Students With Special Needs (excluding gifted)

2005-2006 Results for Students with Special Needs (excluding gifted)



Key Points

- Fifty-one percent of students with special needs in the PDSB who wrote the OSSLT successfully passed. In the province, 55% of students with special needs passed.
- Fewer PDSB students with special needs (3%) were deferred compared to the province (6%).

Figure 6: Fully Participating – First-Time Eligible Students with Special Needs (excluding gifted)



Table 7: # Fully Participating, %Absent, and %Deferred for Students with Special Needs

	# Fully Participating *	% Absent**	% Deferred**
PDSB	1,103	4%	3%
Province	19,487	4%	6%

Note: * The number of Fully Participating students does not include students who were absent or deferred.
 **Absent and deferred values are percentages of All Eligible students.

Three-Year Trends for Students with Special Needs (excluding gifted)



Key Points

- In the PDSB, two percent more students with special needs passed the OSSLT compared to last year. In comparison, two percent fewer students with special needs in the province passed.
- When compared to the 2003-2004 results, 10% more PDSB students with special needs passed the OSSLT. For the province, there was a nine percent increase over three years.

Table 8: Comparison of Results Across Three Years for Students with Special Needs (Fully participating – first-time eligible students passing the OSSLT)

	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	Previous Year Comparison	Three-Year Comparison
PDSB	41%	49%	51%	+ 2%	+ 10%
Province	46%	57%	55%	-2%	+ 9%

H. Results for Fully Participating – First-Time Eligible Students by Program of Study

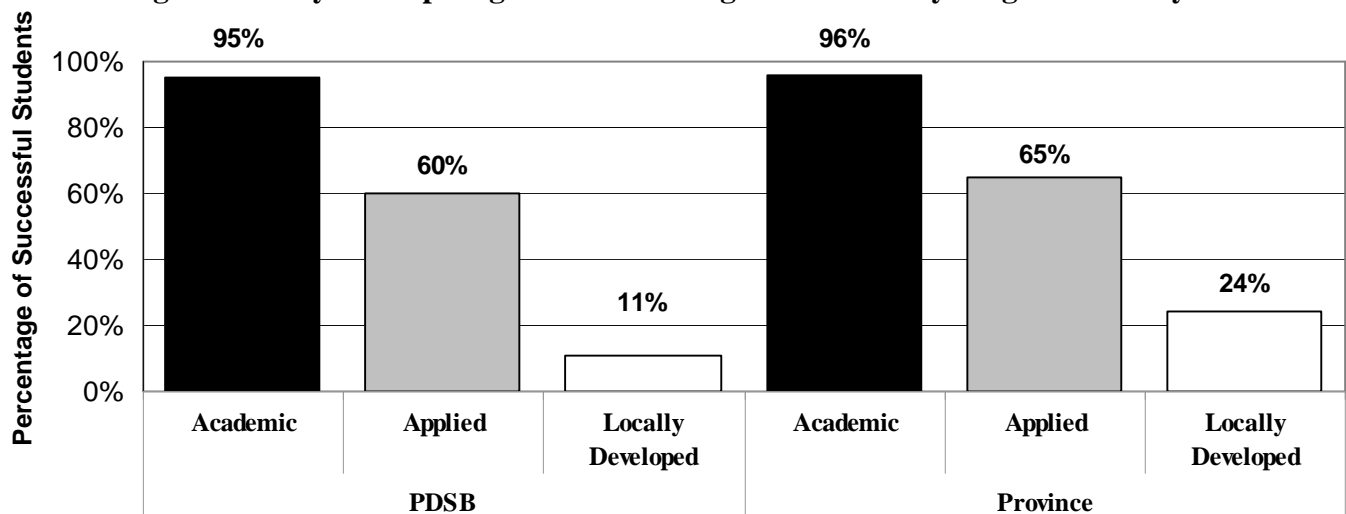
2005-2006 Results by Program of Study



Key Points

- Ninety-five percent of PDSB students enrolled in Academic Level English (AC) who wrote the OSSLT were successful. In the province, 96% of Academic Level English students passed.
- Sixty percent of PDSB students enrolled in Applied Level English (AP) passed the OSSLT compared to 65% across the province.
- Eleven percent of PDSB students enrolled in Locally Developed English Courses (LD) passed the OSSLT. For the province, 24% of students in Locally Developed English Courses passed.
- Fewer PDSB students in LD courses (7%) deferred compared to the province (20%).

Figure 7: Fully Participating – First-Time Eligible Students by Program of Study



	# Fully Participating *			% Absent**			% Deferred**		
	AC	AP	LD	AC	AP	LD	AC	AP	LD
PDSB	7,049	1,479	168	1%	4%	12%	<1%	5%	7%
Province	100,164	36,406	3,734	1%	5%	8%	<1%	2%	20%

Note: * The number of Fully Participating students does not include students who were absent or deferred.

**Absent and deferred values are percentages of All Eligible students.

Three-Year Trends by Program of Study



Key Points

- OSSLT pass rates in the PDSB and in the province have increased from last year (2004-2005) for AC English students (+2%) and AP English students (+3%).
- The OSSLT pass rate for PDSB students enrolled in LD programs decreased from last year (-12%). For the province, there was a two percent decrease from last year.
- In the PDSB, OSSLT pass rates have increased over the last three years for AC English students (+8%), AP English students (+18%), and students enrolled in LD English programs (+1%).

- Over three years, the PDSB has had greater increases in AC and AP English compared to the province (+8% and +18% vs. +6% and +16%).
- For LD English programs, the province increased by six percent and the PDSB increased by one percent over three years.

Table 10: Comparison of Results Across Three Years by Program of Study (Fully participating – first-time eligible students passing the OSSLT)						
		2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	Previous Year Comparison	Three-Year Comparison
PDSB	Academic Level English (AC)	87%	93%	95%	+ 2%	+8%
	Applied Level English (AP)	42%	57%	60%	+ 3%	+ 18%
	Locally Developed English Courses (LD)	10%	23%	11%	-12%	+1%
Province	Academic Level English (AC)	90%	94%	96%	+ 2%	+ 6%
	Applied Level English (AP)	49%	62%	65%	+ 3%	+ 16%
	Locally Developed English Courses (LD)	18%	26%	24%	- 2%	+ 6%

I. Questionnaire Results for First-Time Eligible PDSB Students by Gender: Reading and Writing Practices Outside of School

The OSSLT student questionnaire results yielded some interesting differences in literacy-related practices for males and females.



Key Points

- Ninety-eight percent of females and males reported having a computer available at home.
- About 40% of both females and males use the computer almost every day for homework.
- Most females and males indicated that there were English-language materials at home.
- Nine percent more females than males reported that they read in English for more than three hours a week outside school (not including homework).
- For both females and males, the most popular kinds of materials they read were Internet materials, magazines, novels, fiction, and short stories.
- Males preferred particular types of reading materials more than females (e.g., non-fiction books, comics, manuals/instructions, and newspapers).
- Most females and males reported that the most popular type of writing they did outside of school work involved the Internet (e.g., e-mail and chat messages).
- Females participated in writing activities outside school more often than males in all categories, particularly in letters, journals, and diaries.

Table 11: OSSLT Student Questionnaire Results – First-time Eligible Students by Gender		
Percentage of PDSB students indicating that	Females (N = 4,365)	Males (N = 4,825)
they have a computer in their home.	98%	98%
they use the computer almost every day for homework.	42%	39%
they have the following English-language materials at home:		
dictionaries, encyclopedias (print or electronic)	96%	93%
books	98%	94%
newspapers	92%	89%
magazines	89%	81%
they read in English outside school for more than three hours a week (not including homework).	46%	37%
they read the following kinds of material outside school most weeks:		
non-fiction books, e.g., biographies	40%	42%
comics	45%	50%
Web sites, e-mail, chat messages (Internet materials)	94%	91%
letters	54%	38%
magazines	84%	68%
manuals, instructions	40%	55%
newspapers	57%	61%
novels, fiction, short stories	85%	64%
song lyrics, poems	77%	53%
religious or spiritual writings	34%	31%
they write in English outside school for more than three hours a week (not including homework).	38%	31%
they do the following types of writing outside school most weeks:		
e-mail, chat messages (Internet materials)	95%	92%
letters, journals, diaries	55%	18%
notes, directions, instructions	52%	47%
song lyrics, poems	48%	35%
stories, fiction	36%	29%
work-related writing	60%	57%

This report is available on the Peel District School Board's website.

<http://www.peelsb.com>

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