



**EQAO Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics  
Primary Division (Grades 1-3) and  
Junior Division (Grades 4-6)  
2008-2009**

**Overview of Results**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## **EQAO Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics 2008-2009 Primary Division (Grades 1-3) and Junior Division (Grades 4-6)**

Introduction .....	1
What is EQAO?.....	1
What were the assessments?.....	1
Who participated in the assessments? .....	2
How was student work marked?.....	2
Some key messages about the EQAO assessments .....	3
Background Characteristics.....	4
Student Achievement Reporting .....	4
Summary of Results, 2007-2008 for Levels 3, 4.....	24

### **Tables**

Table 1: EQAO 2008-2009 Results: Peel Board and Provincial Comparisons – Primary Division – Grades 1-3 .....	5
Table 2: EQAO 2008-2009 Results: Peel Board and Provincial Comparisons – Junior Division – Grades 4-6 .....	6
Table 3: Peel Board Gender Gap Analysis – Primary and Junior Divisions .....	13

### **Figures**

Figure 1: EQAO 2008-2009 Results: Peel Board and Provincial Comparisons Primary Division – Grades 1-3.....	5
Figure 2: EQAO 2008-2009 Results: Peel Board and Provincial Comparisons Junior Division – Grades 4-6.....	6
Figure 3: Primary and Junior Division Results: Peel Board and Provincial Comparisons.....	7
Figure 4: EQAO 2008-2009 Primary Division Results: Five-Year Trends .....	8
Figure 5: EQAO 2008-2009 Junior Division Results: Five-Year Trends .....	10
Figure 6: EQAO 2008-2009 Primary and Junior Division Results: Peel Board Gender Comparisons..	12
Figure 7: EQAO 2008-2009 Primary Division Results: Peel Board Comparisons of Change in English Language Learners’ Scores from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009.....	14
Figure 8: EQAO 2008-2009 Junior Division Results: Peel Board Comparisons of Change in English Language Learners’ Scores from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009.....	16
Figure 9: EQAO 2008-2009 Primary Division Results: Peel Board Comparisons of Change in Students with Special Needs’ Scores (excluding gifted) from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009 .....	18
Figure 10: EQAO 2008-2009 Junior Division Results: Peel Board Comparisons of Change in Students with Special Needs’ Scores (excluding gifted) from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009 .....	20
Figure 11: EQAO 2008-2009 Primary Division Results: Peel Board Comparisons of Change in Primary Division French Immersion Students’ Scores .....	22

# **EQAO Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics Primary Division (Grades 1-3) and Junior Division (Grades 4-6) 2008-2009**

## **Introduction**

This report contains an overview of the 2008-2009 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) provincial assessments in reading, writing, and mathematics for primary and junior divisions (formerly referred to as Grades 3 and 6). It brings together the information regarding what EQAO has learned over the past year about student learning in Ontario. Copies of the full *Provincial Report* can be downloaded from EQAO's web site, which is located at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).

## **What is EQAO?**

EQAO is an independent, arm's-length agency of the provincial government that provides parents/guardians, teachers, and the public with reliable and valid information about student achievement. EQAO reports provide information for improvement which educators, parents/guardians, policy makers and others in the education community can use to improve learning and teaching.

EQAO conducts a range of province-wide assessments. The Grade 3 assessment (now referred to as the primary division) was instituted in 1996-1997. It involves all students, occurs annually, and provides information on what students have learned in reading, writing, and mathematics. In 1998-1999, EQAO introduced an annual Grade 6 assessment (now referred to as the junior division), that measures student achievement in the same three subject areas.

These assessments provide both individual and system data on student achievement. Parents/guardians receive an *Individual Student Report*, and schools and school boards produce local reports for parents/guardians and their communities.

## **What were the assessments?**

The primary and junior assessments measure how well students have met the provincial expectations in *The Ontario Curriculum*. In 2007, the assessment for Grade 3 was renamed the Assessment of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, Primary Division (Grades 1-3); the Grade 6 assessment was renamed the Assessment of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, Junior Division (Grades 4-6). "The change is meant to reflect the important fact that the EQAO tests measure the cumulative knowledge and skills in reading, writing, and mathematics acquired by the end of these key stages of education."<sup>1</sup> These two assessments were administered in May and June 2009.

In the reading assessment, students read a variety of materials including both fiction and non-fiction. Students were assessed on how well they could use various reading strategies and conventions, and how effectively they could understand concepts, make inferences, and connect ideas.

<sup>1</sup>Taken from *Administering the Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, Primary Division (Grades 1-3) and Junior Division (Grades 4-6), Spring 2007*, p.1.

In the writing assessment, students were asked to use a range of forms and to write for different purposes. They completed various pieces of written work and answered multiple-choice questions. Students were assessed on how well they could use writing strategies and language conventions, and how effectively they could understand assigned tasks, organize ideas, and communicate with a reader.

In the mathematics assessment, students were asked to solve problems, apply concepts and procedures, and explain how they arrived at their answers. The assessments were based on the knowledge and skills in five curriculum areas of mathematics: Number Sense and Numeration, Geometry and Spatial Sense, Measurement, Patterning and Algebra, and Data Management and Probability.

## **Who participated in the assessments?**

Grade 3 (10 289) and Grade 6 (10 736) Peel students participated in the assessments during regular classes. Exemptions were permitted only where students would be unable to respond to the assessment in any way and/or where they would be adversely affected as a result of participation. Exemptions were made only with the written informed consent of the parent(s) or guardian(s). In specific circumstances, teachers were allowed to provide certain kinds of assistance to students with special needs – 8% of Grade 3 and 10% of Grade 6 students received one or more accommodations. Two percent of Grade 3 and Grade 6 Peel students were exempted in all three subject areas.

## **How was student work marked?**

EQAO reports on student achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics using a four-level scale. The four levels describe how well students performed in each subject area. EQAO has aligned its four levels of achievement to those of the *Ontario Student Report Card*.

The Ministry of Education has set *Level 3* as the provincial standard for Grades 3 and 6. *Level 1* identifies achievement that falls much below the provincial standard. *Level 2* identifies achievement that is approaching the provincial standard. *Level 4* identifies achievement that surpasses the provincial standard.

Marking was done in July 2009 by specially trained principals and teachers. EQAO developed scoring scales by taking the four achievement levels established by the Ministry, and applying them to actual student work. Markers used EQAO's scales to score student work. The scoring was monitored to ensure that it was objective, consistent, and reliable.

## Some key messages about the EQAO assessments

- ✓ EQAO urges principals to ensure that school councils are fully informed about the assessment and are encouraged to play an active role in reviewing and updating the school's Action Plan for Improvement.
- ✓ EQAO encourages schools and school boards to include strategies in their Action Plans for Improvement that will help both females and males improve their achievement.
- ✓ Parents/guardians, educators, policy makers, and the public should use the overall results to measure improvements in student achievement over time.
- ✓ EQAO encourages schools and school boards to be proactive in reporting results to parents/guardians and their communities.
- ✓ The achievement data must be interpreted in relation to contextual data that schools and school boards have gathered (e.g., size of school, English language learner\* population, special education population, language spoken at home).
- ✓ Teachers and principals should use samples of student work, anchor papers provided by EQAO, and Ministry exemplar documents, to help students and parents/guardians understand what work at Levels 3 and 4 looks like.
- ✓ School boards should provide opportunities for teachers and principals to share assessment expertise and successful assessment practices.

\*English language learners were called English as a second language (ESL)/English literacy development (ELD) learners.

# **Primary and Junior EQAO Assessments Peel Board and Provincial Results 2008-2009**

## **Background Characteristics**

### **Primary Division: Grades 1 – 3**

- 10 289 Grade 3 Peel students in 156 schools participated in the EQAO testing; 2% were fully exempt from the assessment in all three subjects. Seven percent were identified as students with special needs (excluding gifted) and 31% were English language learners.
- Twenty-one percent of Grade 3 Peel students were born outside Canada; 2% were in Canada less than one year, 4% were in Canada one year or more but less than three years, and 14% were in Canada three years or more.

### **Junior Division: Grades 4 – 6**

- 10 736 Grade 6 Peel students in 90 schools participated in the EQAO testing; 2% were fully exempt from the assessment in all three subjects. Ten percent were identified as students with special needs (excluding gifted) and 14% were English language learners.
- Twenty-five percent of Grade 6 Peel students were born outside Canada; 2% were in Canada less than one year, 4% were in Canada one year or more but less than three years, and 19% were in Canada three years or more.

## **Student Achievement Reporting**

Achievement results in this report are expressed as the number of students achieving at each level as a percentage of all of the students in the grade. This includes students who were exempted, for whom there were no data, and students who did not have enough evidence for Level 1.

**TABLE 1**

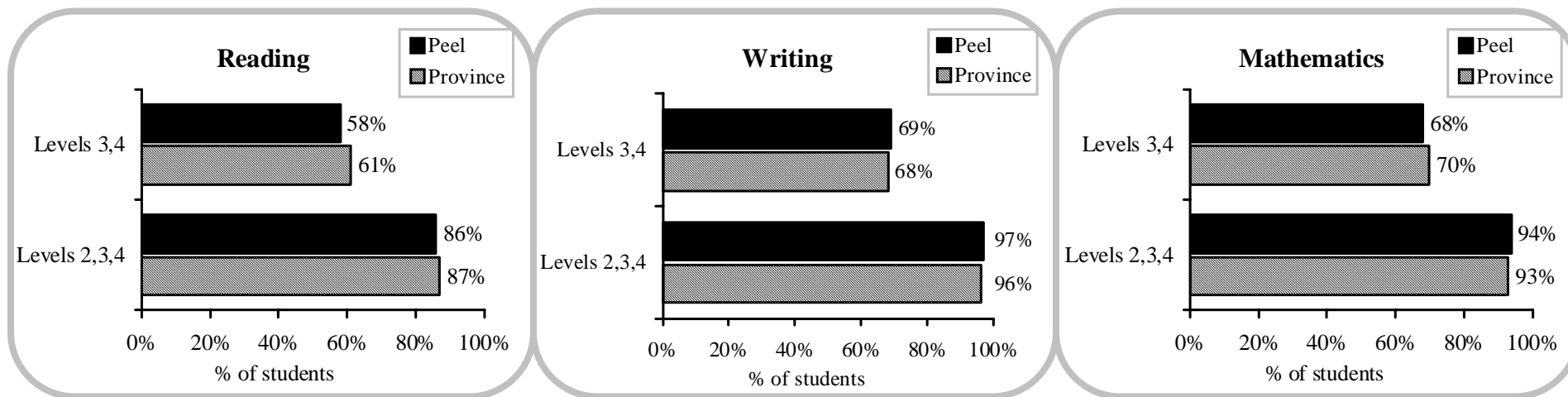
**EQAO 2008-2009 Results: Peel Board and Provincial Comparisons – Primary Division – Grades 1 - 3**

(All Students - Includes Levels 1-4, Not Enough Evidence for Level 1, No Data, and Exempt Categories)

	Exempt		No Data		Not Enough Evidence for Level 1		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
	Peel	Province	Peel	Province	Peel	Province	Peel	Province	Peel	Province	Peel	Province	Peel	Province
<b>Reading</b>	2%	4%	1%	1%	2%	2%	9%	7%	28%	26%	51%	53%	7%	7%
<b>Writing</b>	2%	3%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	28%	28%	63%	63%	5%	4%
<b>Mathematics</b>	2%	3%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	3%	2%	26%	23%	56%	58%	12%	12%

**FIGURE 1**

**All Students<sup>2</sup>**



**When compared to the province:**

- Peel students in Grade 3 scored below the provincial results in Levels 3, 4, for reading and mathematics.
- Peel students in Grade 3 scored above the provincial results in Levels 3, 4 for writing.
- Peel students in Grade 3 scored below the provincial results in Levels 2, 3, 4 for reading.
- Peel students in Grade 3 scored above the provincial results in Levels 2, 3, 4 for writing and mathematics.

<sup>2</sup>Due to rounding, these percentages may not be the sum of Levels 2,3,4 and Levels 3,4 as noted in the above table.

**TABLE 2**

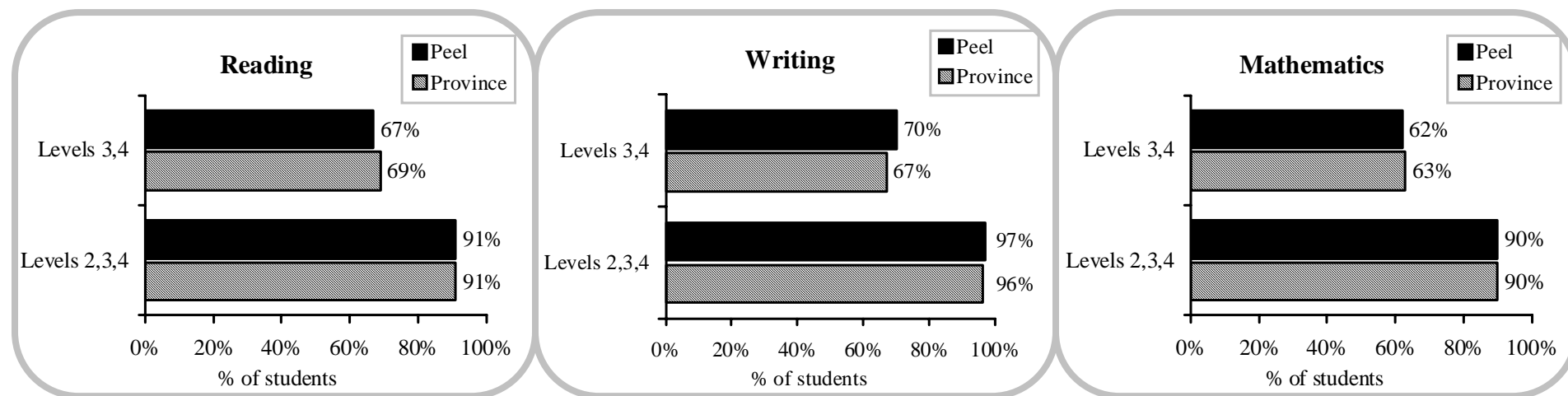
**EQAO 2008-2009 Results: Peel Board and Provincial Comparisons – Junior Division – Grades 4 - 6**

(All Students - Includes Levels 1-4, Not Enough Evidence for Level 1, No Data, and Exempt Categories)

	Exempt		No Data		Not Enough Evidence for Level 1		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
	Peel	Province	Peel	Province	Peel	Province	Peel	Province	Peel	Province	Peel	Province	Peel	Province
<b>Reading</b>	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	6%	5%	24%	22%	57%	59%	10%	11%
<b>Writing</b>	2%	3%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	27%	29%	59%	58%	11%	9%
<b>Mathematics</b>	2%	3%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	7%	6%	28%	27%	49%	49%	13%	13%

**FIGURE 2**

**All Students<sup>2</sup>**



**When compared to the province:**

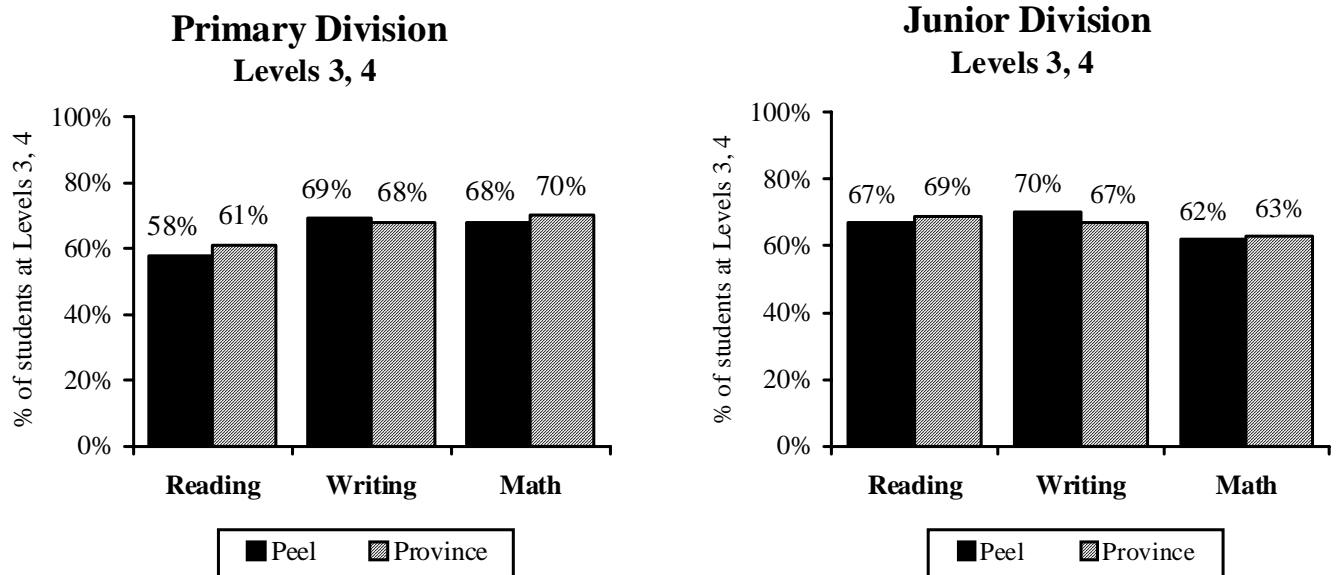
- Peel students in Grade 6 scored below the provincial results in Levels 3, 4 for reading and mathematics.
- Peel students in Grade 6 scored above the provincial results in Levels 3, 4 for writing.
- Peel students in Grade 6 scored the same as the provincial results in Levels 2, 3, 4 for reading and mathematics.
- Peel students in Grade 6 scored above the provincial results in Levels 2, 3, 4 for writing.

<sup>2</sup>Due to rounding, these percentages may not be the sum of Levels 2,3,4 and Levels 3,4 as noted in the above table.

## FIGURE 3

### Primary and Junior Division Results: Peel Board and Provincial Comparisons

(All Students - Includes Levels 1-4, Not Enough Evidence for Level 1, No Data, and Exempt Categories)



#### When compared to the province:

- Peel students in Grade 3 scored below the provincial results in reading and mathematics.
- Peel students in Grade 3 scored higher than the provincial results in writing.
- Peel students in Grade 6 scored below the provincial results in reading and mathematics.
- Peel students in Grade 6 scored higher than the provincial results in writing.

#### Primary Division (Levels 3, 4)

Grade 3 Peel students scored:

- 3% lower in reading.
- 1% higher in writing.
- 2% lower in mathematics.

#### Junior Division (Levels 3, 4)

Grade 6 Peel students scored:

- 2% lower in reading.
- 3% higher in writing.
- 1% lower in mathematics.

## FIGURE 4

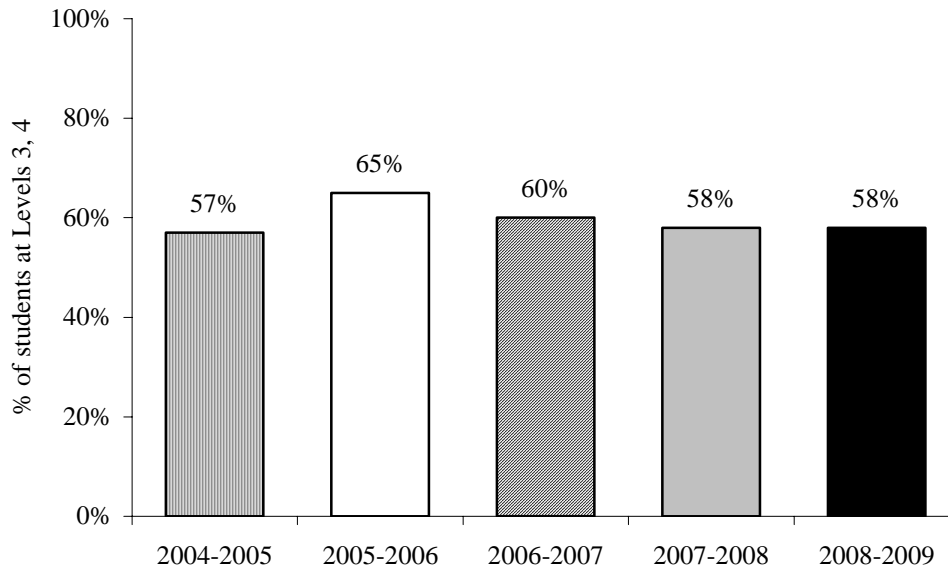
### EQAO 2008-2009 Primary Division Results: Five-Year Trends

#### Peel Board Comparisons of Change in Scores from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009

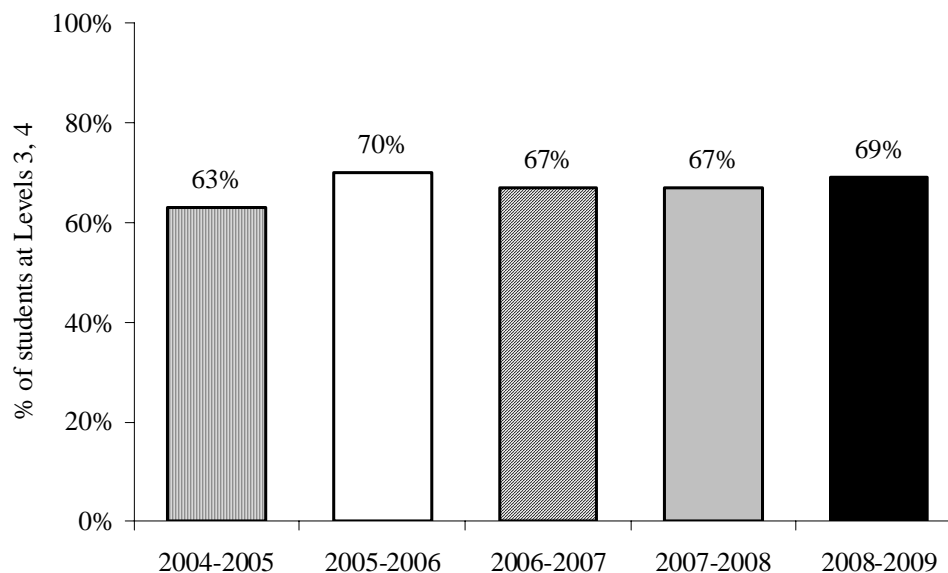
(All Students - Includes Levels 1-4, Not Enough Evidence for Level 1, No Data, and Exempt Categories)

#### Levels 3, 4

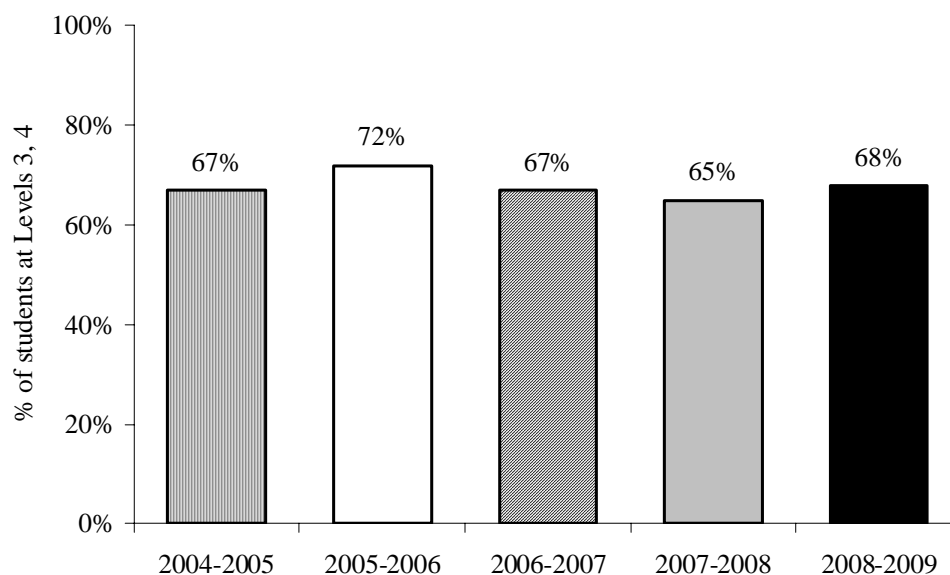
##### Primary Division Reading Results



##### Primary Division Writing Results



## Primary Division Mathematics Results



### When compared to last year's results (2007-2008), Grade 3 Peel students scored:

- the same in 2008-2009 for reading.
- 2% higher in 2008-2009 for writing.
- 3% higher in 2008-2009 for mathematics.

### When compared to 2004-2005 results (5-year trends), Grade 3 Peel students scored:

- 1% higher in 2008-2009 for reading.
- 6% higher in 2008-2009 for writing.
- 1% higher in 2008-2009 for mathematics.

## FIGURE 5

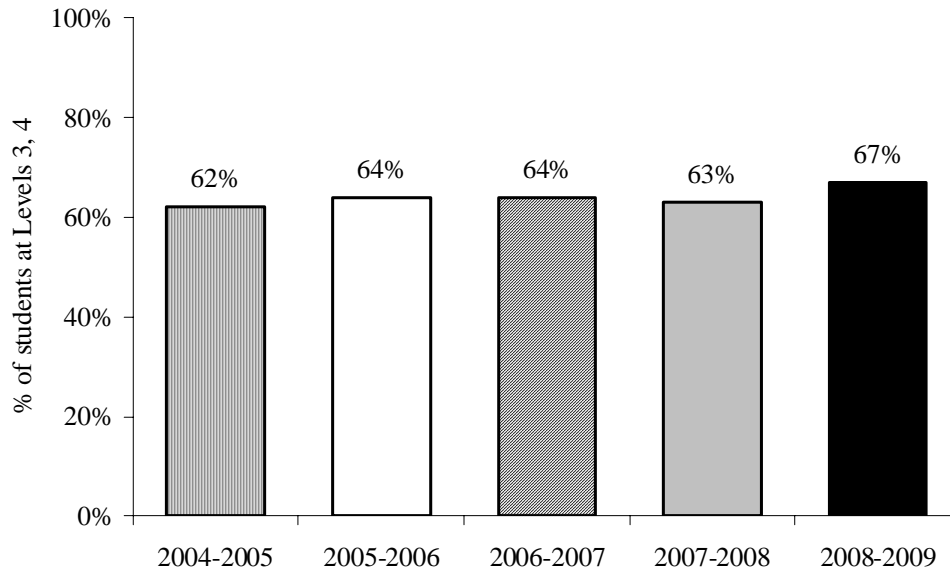
### EQAO 2008-2009 Junior Division Results: Five-Year Trends

#### Peel Board Comparisons of Change in Scores from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009

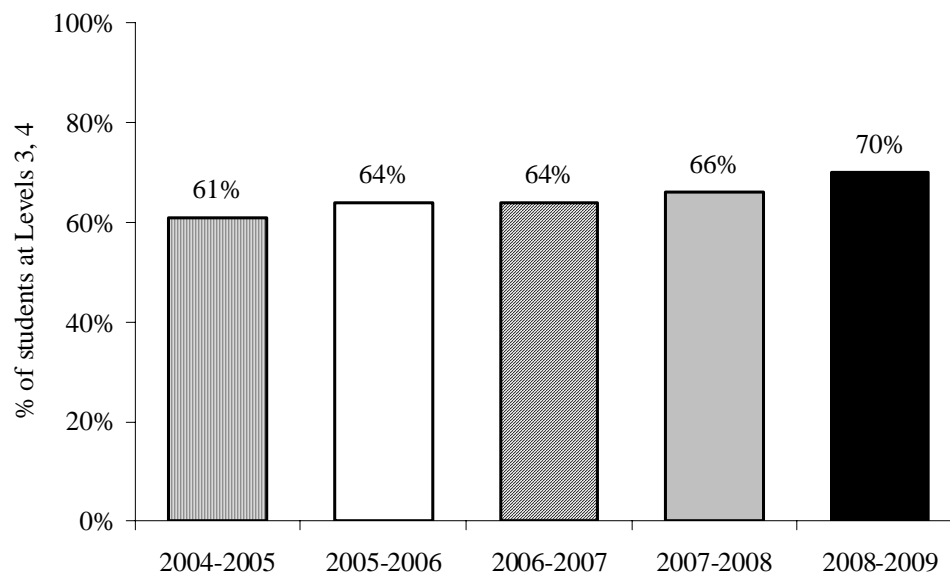
(All Students - Includes Levels 1-4, Not Enough Evidence for Level 1, No Data, and Exempt Categories)

#### Levels 3, 4

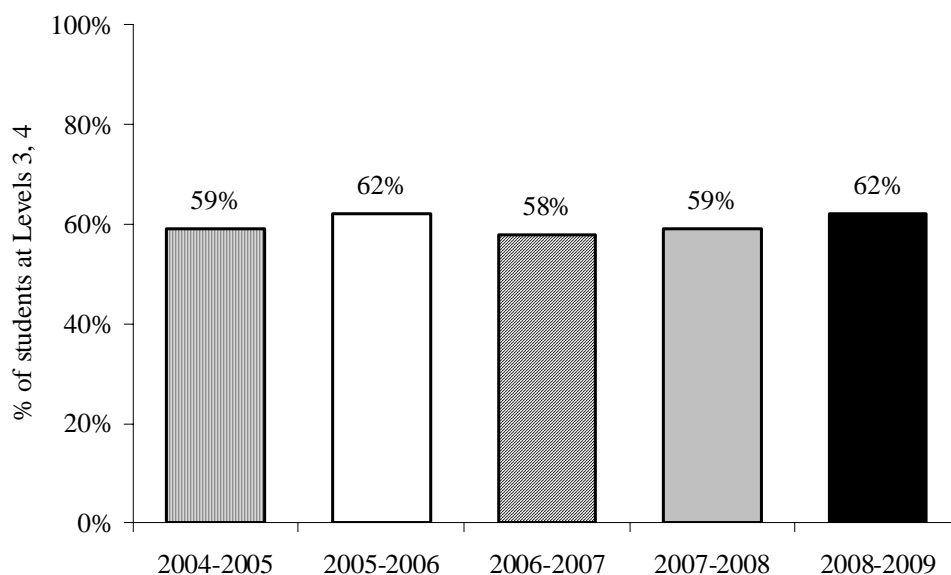
#### Junior Division Reading Results



#### Junior Division Writing Results



## Junior Division Mathematics Results



### When compared to last year's results (2007-2008), Grade 6 Peel students scored:

- 4% higher in 2008-2009 for reading.
- 4% higher in 2008-2009 for writing.
- 3% higher in 2008-2009 for mathematics.

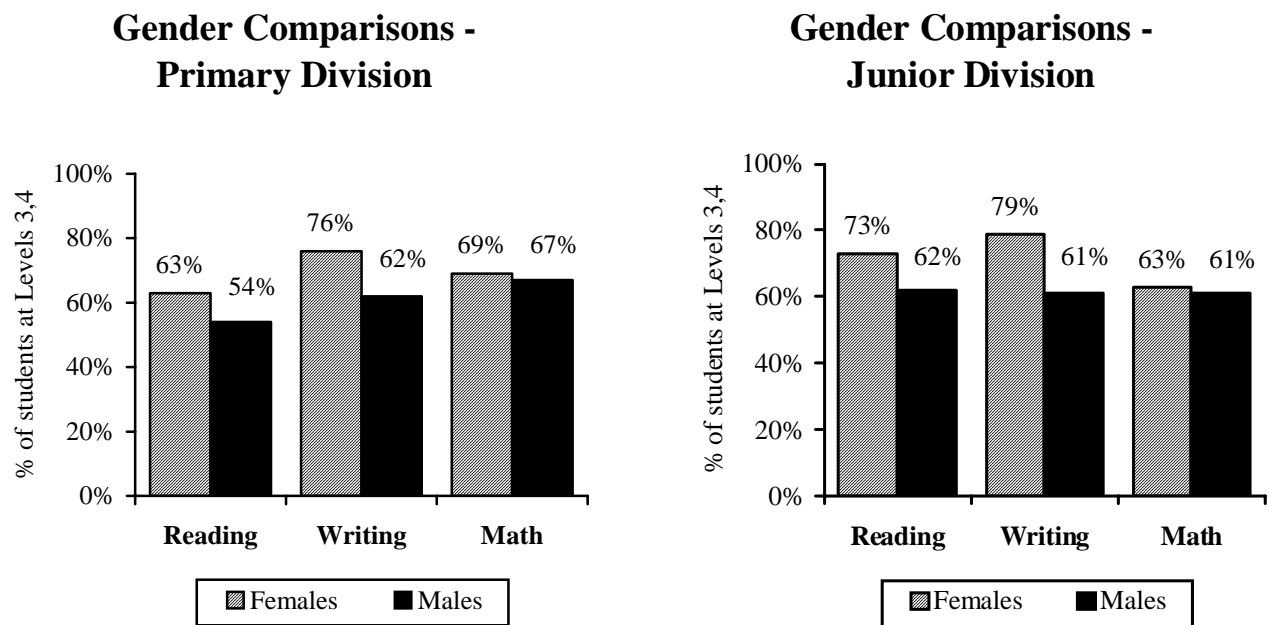
### When compared to 2004-2005 results (5-year trends), Grade 6 Peel students scored:

- 5% higher in 2008-2009 for reading.
- 9% higher in 2008-2009 for writing.
- 3% higher in 2008-2009 for mathematics.

## FIGURE 6

### EQAO 2008-2009 Primary and Junior Division Results: Peel Board Gender Comparisons

(All Students - Includes Levels 1-4, Not Enough Evidence for Level 1, No Data, and Exempt Categories)



#### When comparing the results of Peel females and males:

- Peel females in Grade 3 scored above males in reading, writing, and mathematics.
- Peel females in Grade 6 scored above males in reading, writing, and mathematics.

#### Primary Division (Levels 3, 4)

Grade 3 Peel females scored:

- 9% higher than males in reading.
- 14% higher than males in writing.
- 2% higher than males in mathematics.

#### Junior Division (Levels 3, 4)

Grade 6 Peel females scored:

- 11% higher than males in reading.
- 18% higher than males in writing.
- 2% higher than males in mathematics.

**TABLE 3****Peel Board Gender Gap Analysis - Primary and Junior Divisions****Extent to Which Females Outperformed Males in Levels 3, 4**

		2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
<b>Primary Division</b>	Reading	+10%	+13%	+13%	+12%	+9%
	Writing	+12%	+15%	+15%	+16%	+14%
	Mathematics	0%	-2%	+2%	0%	+2%
<b>Junior Division</b>	Reading	+13%	+15%	+14%	+15%	+11%
	Writing	+18%	+20%	+22%	+19%	+18%
	Mathematics	+1%	+2%	+3%	+1%	+2%

**When comparing the results of Peel females and males:**

- Females outperformed males in almost all test areas in the primary and junior divisions of the assessment over the past five years.
- For both the primary and junior divisions, the gender gap in achievement was largest for writing and reading, and smallest for mathematics.
- For both Grade 3 and Grade 6, the gender gap in achievement has remained relatively consistent over the past five years within each of the subject areas.

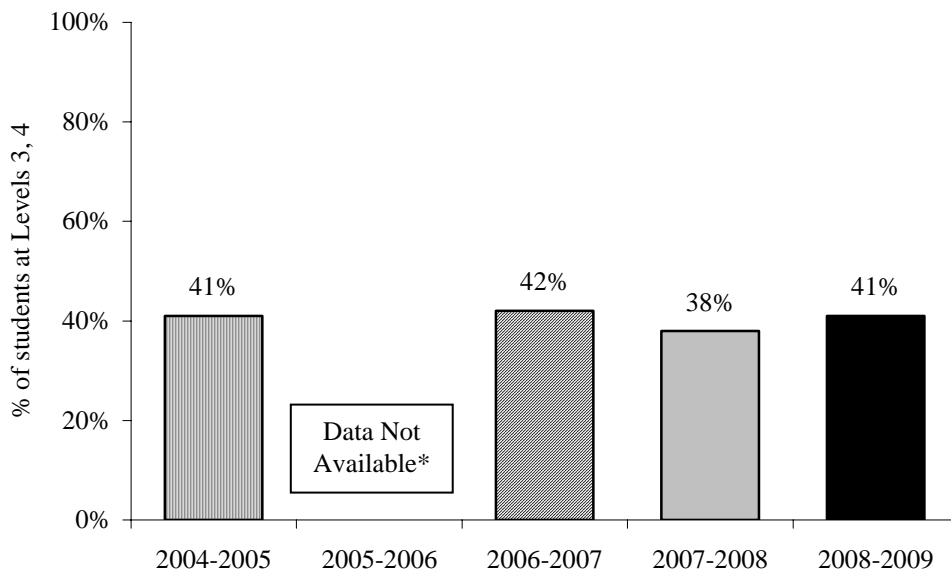
## FIGURE 7

### **EQAO 2008-2009 Primary Division Results: Peel Board Comparisons of Change in English Language Learners' Scores\* from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009\*\***

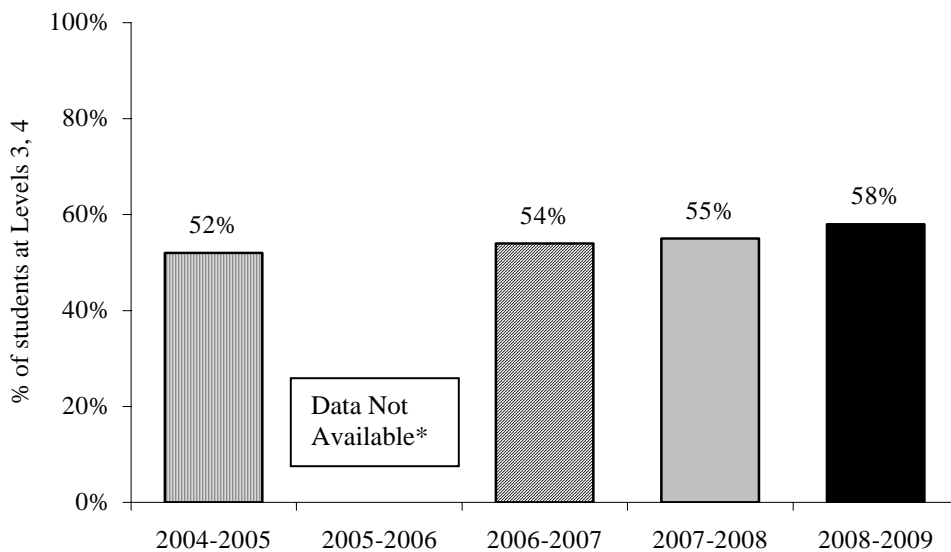
(All Students - Includes Levels 1-4, Not Enough Evidence for Level 1, No Data, and Exempt Categories)

#### **Levels 3, 4**

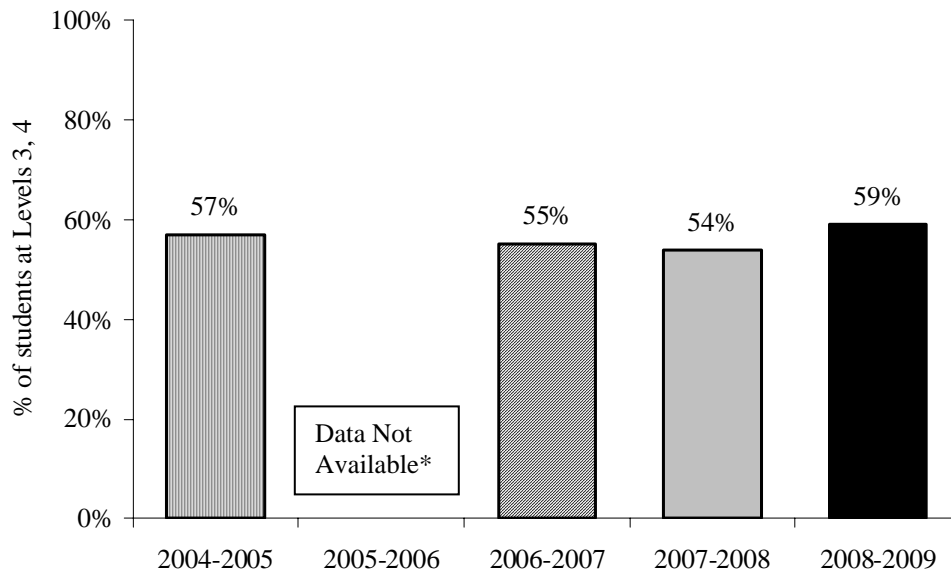
#### English Language Learners - Primary Division Reading



#### English Language Learners - Primary Division Writing



## English Language Learners - Primary Division Mathematics



*Note:* \*Due to a change in the definition of English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development (ESL/ELD), data are unavailable for the year 2005-2006.

\*\*Due to a change in the definition of English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development (ESL/ELD) in the year 2006-2007, data cannot be compared to previous years.

### **When compared to last year's results (2007-2008), Grade 3 Peel students scored:**

- 3% higher in 2008-2009 for reading.
- 3% higher in 2008-2009 for writing.
- 5% higher in 2008-2009 for mathematics.

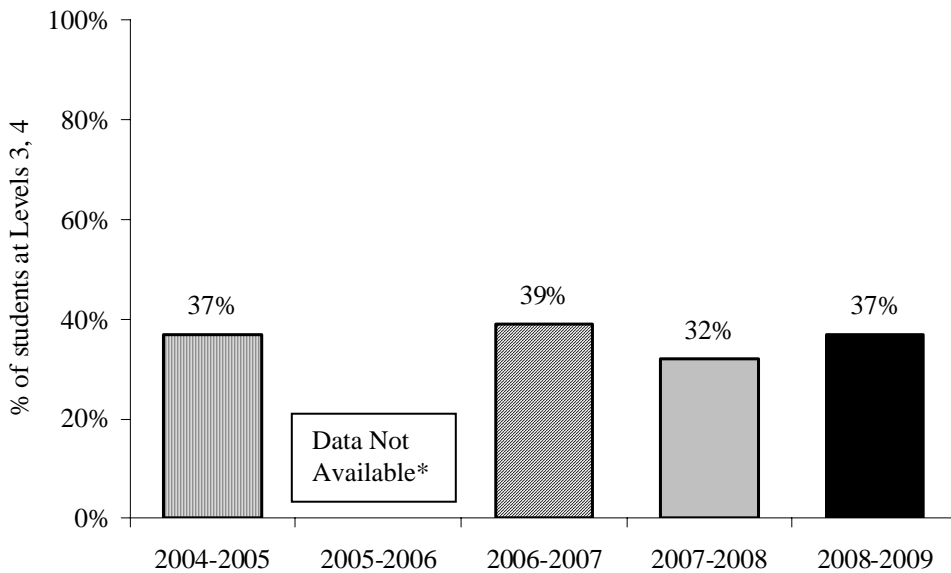
## FIGURE 8

### EQAO 2008-2009 Junior Division Results: Peel Board Comparisons of Change in English Language Learners' Scores\* from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009\*\*

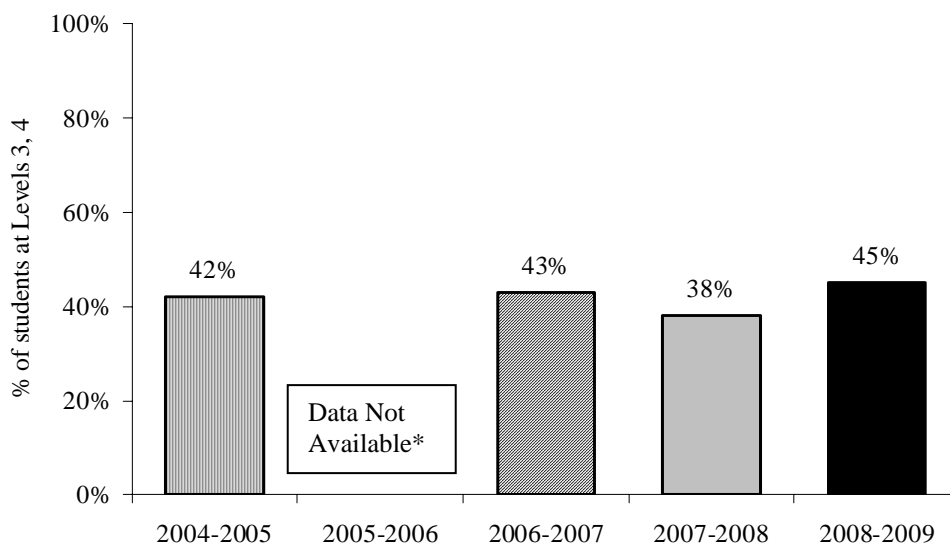
(All Students - Includes Levels 1-4, Not Enough Evidence for Level 1, No Data, and Exempt Categories)

#### Levels 3, 4

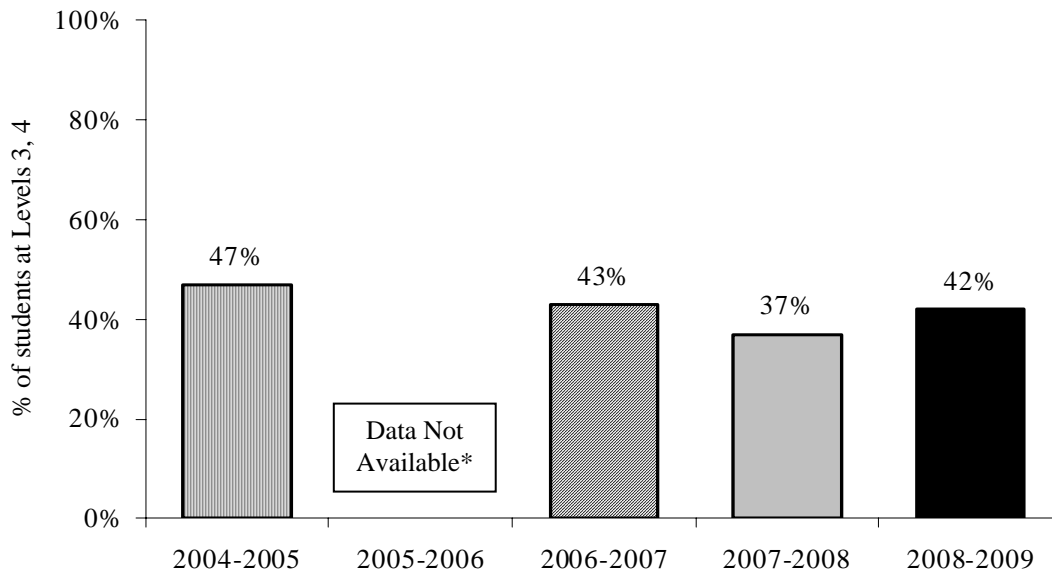
#### English Language Learners - Junior Division Reading



#### English Language Learners - Junior Division Writing



## English Language Learners - Primary Division Mathematics



*Note:* \*Due to a change in the definition of English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development (ESL/ELD), data are unavailable for the year 2005-2006.

\*\*Due to a change in the definition of English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development (ESL/ELD) in the year 2006-2007, data cannot be compared to previous years.

### **When compared to last year's results (2007-2008), Grade 6 Peel students scored:**

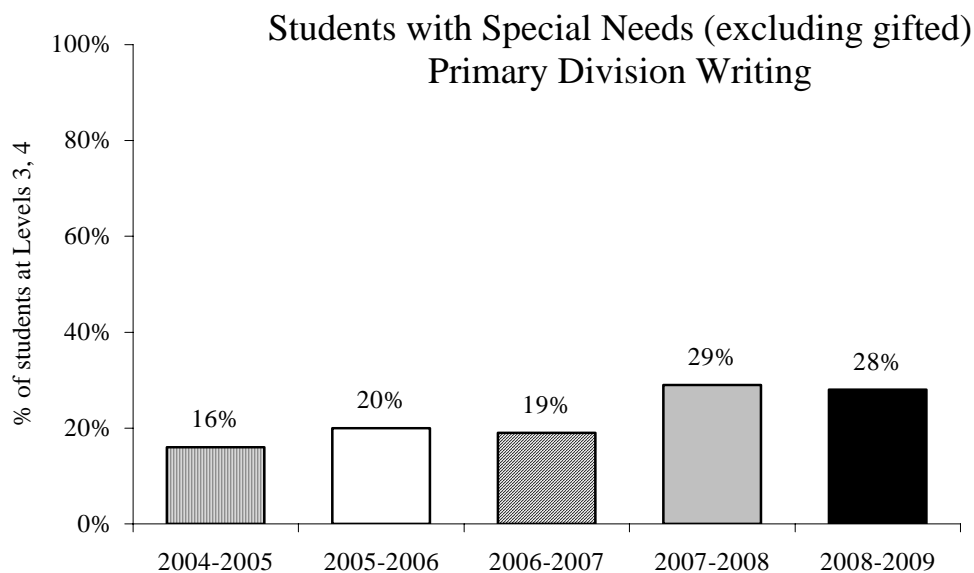
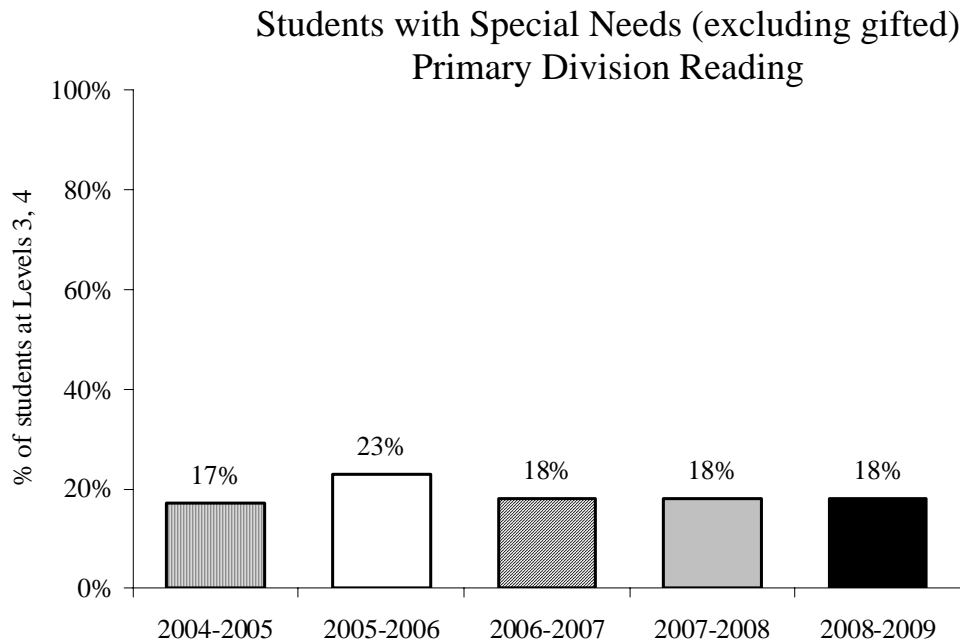
- 5% higher in 2008-2009 for reading.
- 7% higher in 2008-2009 for writing.
- 5% higher in 2008-2009 for mathematics.

## FIGURE 9

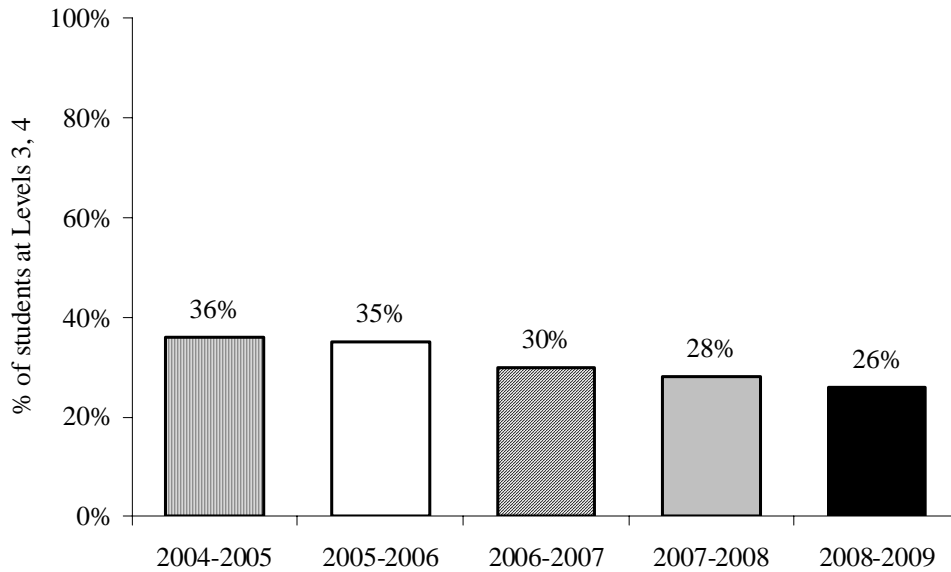
### **EQAO 2008-2009 Primary Division Results: Peel Board Comparisons of Change in Students with Special Needs' Scores (excluding gifted) from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009**

(All Students - Includes Levels 1-4, Not Enough Evidence for Level 1, No Data, and Exempt Categories)

#### **Levels 3, 4**



**Students with Special Needs (excluding gifted)  
Primary Division Mathematics**



**When compared to last year's results (2007-2008), Grade 3 Peel students with special needs (excluded gifted) scored:**

- the same in 2008-2009 for reading.
- 1% lower in 2008-2009 for writing.
- 2% lower in 2008-2009 for mathematics.

**When compared to 2004-2005 results (5-year trends), Grade 3 Peel students with special needs (excluded gifted) scored:**

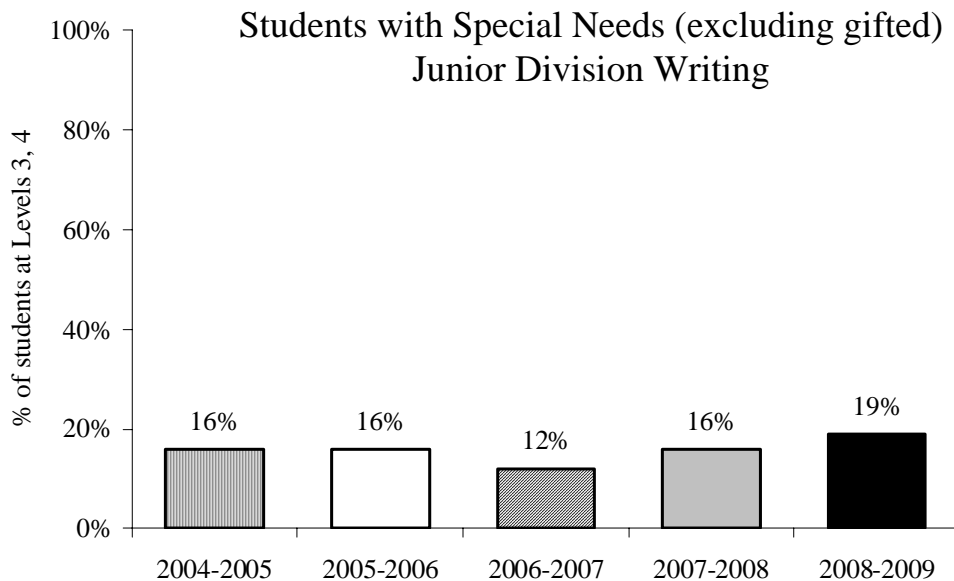
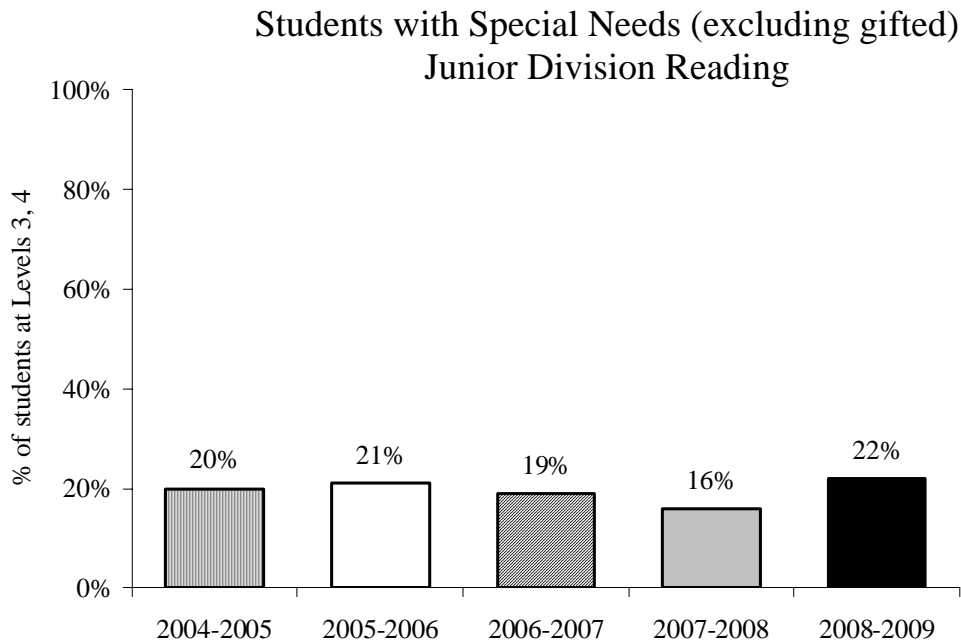
- 1% higher in 2008-2009 for reading.
- 12% higher in 2008-2009 for writing.
- 10% lower in 2008-2009 for mathematics.

## FIGURE 10

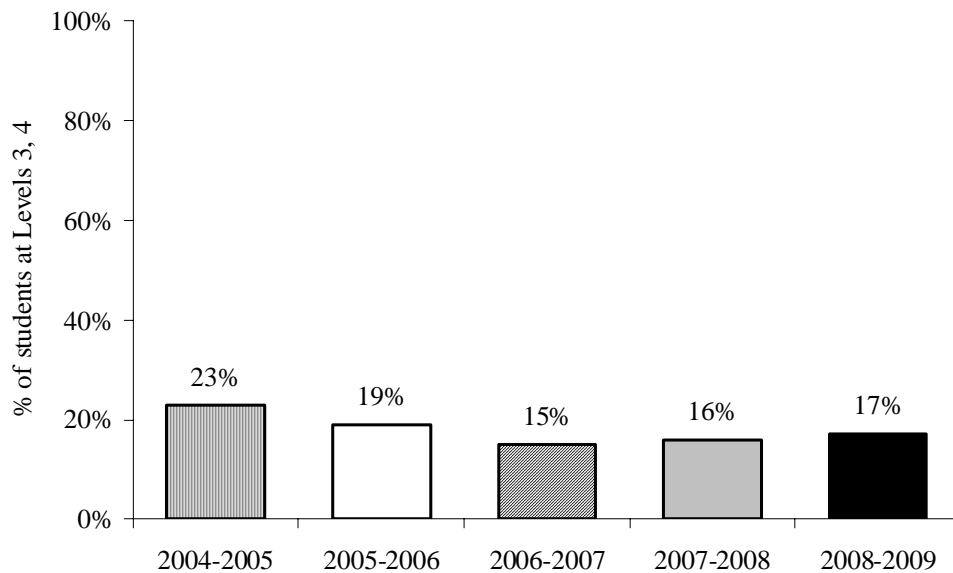
### **EQAO 2008-2009 Junior Division Results: Peel Board Comparisons of Change in Students with Special Needs' Scores (excluding gifted) from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009**

(All Students - Includes Levels 1-4, Not Enough Evidence for Level 1, No Data, and Exempt Categories)

#### **Levels 3, 4**



## Students with Special Needs (excluding gifted) Junior Division Mathematics



### **When compared to last year's results (2007-2008), Grade 6 Peel students with special needs (excluding gifted) scored:**

- 6% higher in 2008-2009 for reading.
- 3% higher in 2008-2009 for writing.
- 1% higher in 2008-2009 for mathematics.

### **When compared to 2004-2005 results (5-year trends), Grade 6 Peel students with special needs (excluding gifted) scored:**

- 2% higher in 2008-2009 for reading.
- 3% higher in 2008-2009 for writing.
- 6% lower in 2008-2009 for mathematics.

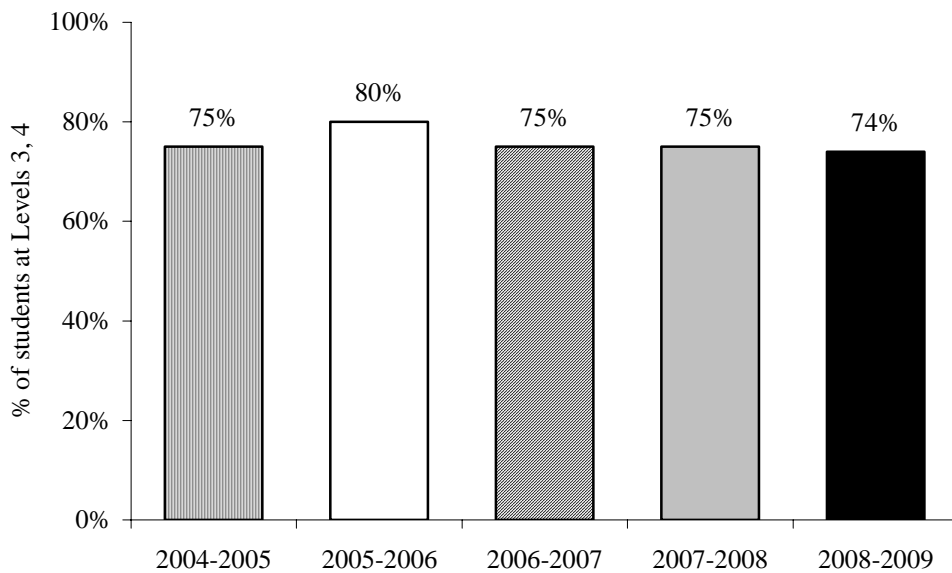
## FIGURE 11

### **EQAO 2008-2009 Primary Division Results: Peel Board Comparisons of Change in Primary Division French Immersion Students' Scores from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009**

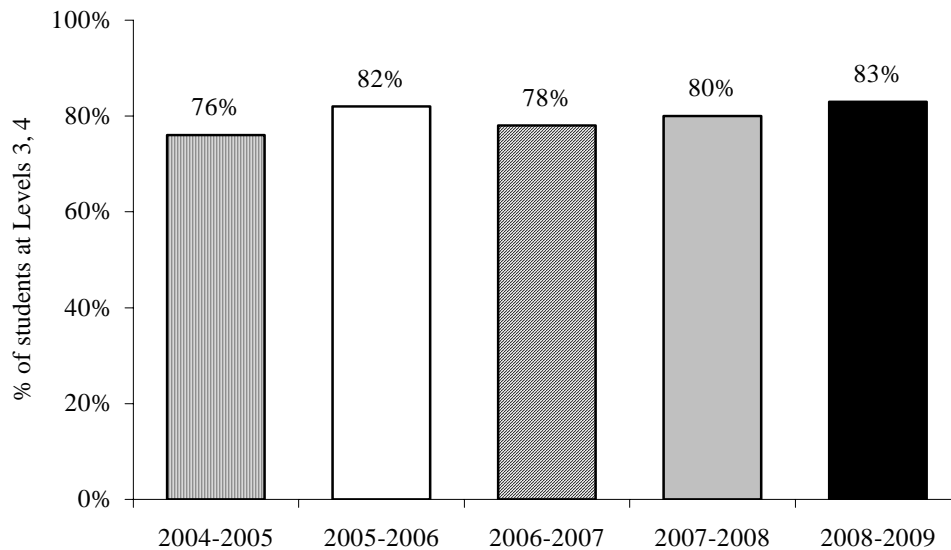
(All Students - Includes Levels 1-4, Not Enough Evidence for Level 1, No Data, and Exempt Categories)

#### **Levels 3, 4**

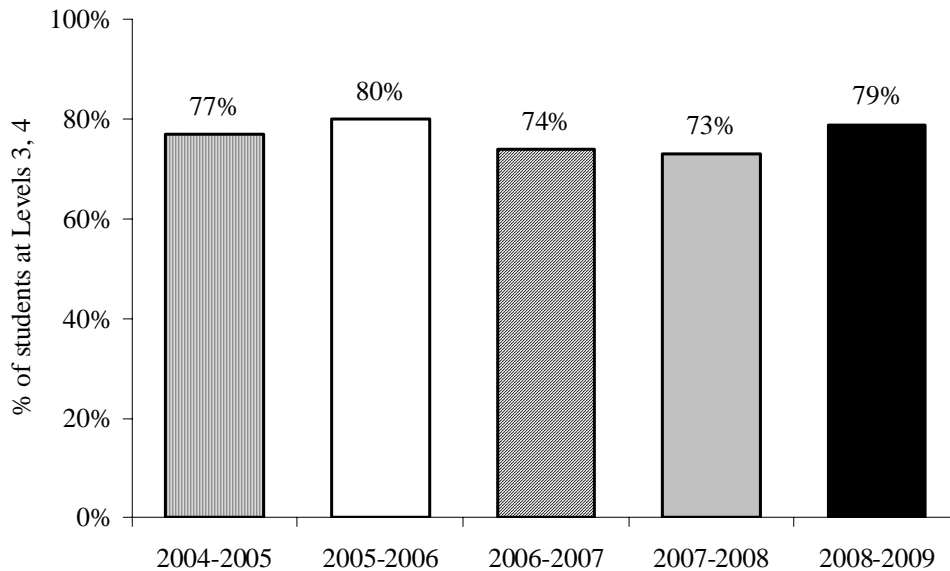
#### **French Immersion - Primary Division Reading**



#### **French Immersion - Primary Division Writing**



## French Immersion - Primary Division Mathematics



*\*Note:* These results include Grade 3 French Immersion students who wrote the reading, writing, and mathematics components of the assessment in English.

### **When compared to last year's results (2007-2008), Peel Board French Immersion students in Grade 3 scored:**

- 1% lower in 2008-2009 for reading.
- 3% higher in 2008-2009 for writing.
- 6% higher in 2008-2009 for mathematics.

### **When compared to 2004-2005 results (5-year trends), Peel Board French Immersion students in Grade 3 scored:**

- 1% lower in 2008-2009 for reading.
- 7% higher in 2008-2009 for writing.
- 2% higher in 2008-2009 for mathematics.

# Summary of Results, 2008-2009 for Levels 3, 4

## 1. Peel Board and Provincial Results

- Grade 3 Peel students scored 3% below the provincial results in reading.
- Grade 3 Peel students scored 1% above the provincial results in writing.
- Grade 3 Peel students scored 2% below the provincial results in mathematics.
- Grade 6 Peel students scored 2% below as the provincial results in reading.
- Grade 6 Peel students scored 3% above the provincial results in writing.
- Grade 6 Peel students scored 1% below the provincial results in mathematics.

## 2. Yearly Comparisons (Peel Board)

- Grade 3 students scored the same in reading when compared to last year.
- Grade 3 students scored 2% higher in writing when compared to last year.
- Grade 3 students scored 3% higher in mathematics when compared to last year.
- Grade 6 students scored 4% higher in reading when compared to last year.
- Grade 6 students scored 4% higher in writing when compared to last year.
- Grade 6 students scored 3% higher in mathematics when compared to last year.

## 3. Five-Year Comparisons (Peel Board)

- Grade 3 students scored 1% higher in reading than in 2004-2005.
- Grade 3 students scored 6% higher in writing than in 2004-2005.
- Grade 3 students scored 1% higher in mathematics than in 2004-2005.
- Grade 6 students scored 5% higher in reading than in 2004-2005.
- Grade 6 students scored 9% higher in writing than in 2004-2005.
- Grade 6 students scored 3% higher in mathematics than in 2004-2005.

## 4. Gender Comparisons (Peel Board)

- Grade 3 females scored 9% higher than males in reading.
- Grade 3 females scored 14% higher than males in writing.
- Grade 3 females scored 2% higher than males in mathematics.
- Grade 6 females scored 11% higher than males in reading.
- Grade 6 females scored 18% higher than males in writing.
- Grade 6 females scored 2% higher than males in mathematics.

## 5. Gender Gap Analysis (Peel Board)

- Females outperformed males in almost all test areas in the primary and junior divisions of the assessment over the past five years.
- The gender gap in achievement was largest for reading and writing in Grades 3 and 6.
- For both Grade 3 and Grade 6, the gender gap in achievement has remained relatively consistent over the past five years within each of the subject areas.

## **6. English Language Learners' Yearly Comparisons (Peel Board)**

- Grade 3 English language learners scored 3% higher in reading when compared to last year.
- Grade 3 English language learners scored 3% higher in writing when compared to last year.
- Grade 3 English language learners scored 5% higher in mathematics when compared to last year.
- Grade 6 English language learners scored 5% higher in reading when compared to last year.
- Grade 6 English language learners scored 7% higher in writing when compared to last year.
- Grade 6 English language learners scored 5% higher in mathematics when compared to last year.

## **7. Students with Special Needs' (excluding gifted) Yearly Comparisons (Peel Board)**

- Grade 3 students with special needs scored the same in reading when compared to last year.
- Grade 3 students with special needs scored 1% lower in writing when compared to last year.
- Grade 3 students with special needs scored 2% lower in mathematics when compared to last year.
- Grade 6 students with special needs scored 6% higher in reading when compared to last year.
- Grade 6 students with special needs scored 3% higher in writing when compared to last year.
- Grade 6 students with special needs scored 1% higher in mathematics when compared to last year.

## **8. Students with Special Needs' Five-Year Comparisons (Peel Board)**

- Grade 3 students with special needs scored 1% higher in reading than in 2004-2005.
- Grade 3 students with special needs scored 12% higher in writing than in 2004-2005.
- Grade 3 students with special needs scored 10% lower in mathematics than in 2004-2005.
- Grade 6 students with special needs scored 2% higher in reading than in 2004-2005.
- Grade 6 students with special needs scored 3% higher in writing than in 2004-2005.
- Grade 6 students with special needs scored 6% lower in mathematics than in 2004-2005.

## **9. French Immersion Yearly Comparisons (Peel Board)**

*Peel Board French Immersion students in Grade 3 (who wrote the test in English) scored:*

- 1% lower in reading when compared to last year.
- 3% higher in writing when compared to last year.
- 6% higher in mathematics when compared to last year.

## **10. French Immersion Five-Year Comparisons (Peel Board)**

- Grade 3 French Immersion students scored 1% lower in reading than in 2004-2005.
- Grade 3 French Immersion students scored 7% higher in writing than in 2004-2005.
- Grade 3 French Immersion students scored 2% higher in mathematics than in 2004-2005.