



**Monitoring Report Two
October 6, 2009**

**Provincial Achievement Tests
Grade 12 Diploma Exam & Final Course Results**

OVERVIEW

Alberta Education's Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams and Final Course Marks help schools and jurisdictions monitor student performance in relation to provincial standards for a wide variety of skills and competencies as outlined in the Alberta Education's Program of Studies. For teachers, these assessments provide feedback on program strengths and weaknesses, the effectiveness of instructional techniques and student comprehension levels. Post-secondary institutions use final course marks as an entry-measurement for accepting potential students.

The following report provides an overview of Parkland's achievements on the Provincial Achievement Tests, Diploma Exams and Final Course Marks for the 2008-2009 school year. The analysis shows Parkland's performance compared to the overall provincial level of performance and five year trends.

In the 2008-2009 school year most Parkland students wrote the pilot exam for Social Studies 6 & 9. Cohort (all students enrolled in a grade level or course) results are not available from Alberta Education on the pilot exam. Very few students wrote the old Social Studies Exam and therefore the results have been left out of this report. Social Studies 6, 9, 30 and 33 courses will be replaced by the new Programs of Studies this 2009-2010 school year and these new courses represent a significant shift in teaching philosophy and content, it will therefore be difficult to compare the 2009-2010 results to previous results.

Embedded are the cohort chart results for Achievement Tests, Diploma Exams and Final Course Marks.

PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

The **cohort results** for Provincial Achievement Tests are calculated taking into account students who were absent when the tests were administered; those exempted from writing by the Superintendent if writing would be harmful to the student or the student could not respond to the test instrument; or those students whose results were withheld. Results are measured against targets set by the Division. Cohort results are reported as per provincial requirements.

PROVINCIAL COHORT RESULTS LANGUAGE ARTS:												
	2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009 June		5 Year Division Average	Target 2008- 09
	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results		
L.A. GRADE 3:												
Acceptable Stand.	89.1	82.2	90.0	81.3	86.3	80.3	85.0	80.1	84.0	81.3	86.9	92
Stand. of Excellence	16.2	16.2	13.5	14.1	16.9	17.7	15.4	16.1	15.4	18.2	15.5	20
Participation	95.6	90.2	96.6	90.6	95.4	90.1	94.5	89.8	93.7	90.6	95.2	
L.A. GRADE 3 FI:							**	**	89.5	83.8		
Acceptable Stand.									19.3	15.8		
Stand. of Excellence									100.0	96.5		
Participation												
L.A. GRADE 6:												
Acceptable Stand.	83.9	77.3	84.1	79.0	82.7	80.3	85.0	81.1	83.6	81.8	83.9	92
Stand. of Excellence	13.9	15.5	16.4	15.9	16.6	19.8	17.2	21.0	13.2	18.9	15.5	25
Participation	94.8	89.9	96.4	90.1	94.5	89.8	95.9	89.5	93.9	90.0	95.1	
L.A. GRADE 6 FI:												
Acceptable Stand.	83.3	85.1	93.2	87.5	93.3	87.4	94.3	87.7	88.5	91.5	90.5	92
Stand. of Excellence	8.3	8.8	27.3	11.2	20.0	11.0	9.4	14.2	15.4	15.9	16.1	25
Participation	100	96.1	100	96.1	97.8	96.7	98.1	95.6	98.1	97.6	98.8	
L.A. GRADE 9:												
Acceptable Stand.	85.8	77.9	79.0	77.4	85.2	77.5	80.4	76.5	82.9	78.7	82.7	92
Stand. of Excellence	13.3	14.0	9.9	13.6	13.7	14.8	12.7	14.8	13.5	14.7	12.6	25
Participation	95.3	87.4	90.8	87.7	94.2	87.9	92.6	87.7	93.8	89.7	93.3	
L.A. GRADE 9 FI:												
Acceptable Stand.	97.4	85.9	89.3	83.3	84.2	81.3	100	84.5	80.5	81.8	90.3	97
Stand. of Excellence	25.6	13.6	17.9	10.9	10.5	12.9	34.5	12.4	19.5	10.3	21.6	27
Participation	100	97.1	100	95.9	97.4	93.7	100	96.8	87.5	95.2	96.9	

** - LA Grade 3 FI results are not available to date.

PROVINCIAL COHORT RESULTS MATHEMATICS:												
	2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009 June		5 Year Division Average	Target 2008- 09
	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results		
MATH GRADE 3:												
Acceptable Stand.	84.4	80.0	90.3	81.4	84.3	79.4	85.1	78.3	82.8	79.2	83.3	90
Stand. of Excellence	20.5	26.2	27.9	27.1	21.0	23.3	23.9	24.0	20.7	27.2	22.5	27
Participation	95.9	90.4	97.0	90.2	94.7	89.9	94.9	89.9	94.5	90.6	94.1	
MATH GRADE 3 FI:												
Acceptable Stand.	96.0	84.2	86.0	88.9	95.1	85.0	80.6	83.7	87.7	84.0	88.7	93
Stand. of Excellence	32.0	24.8	21.1	24.4	29.3	25.5	12.9	23.2	21.1	23.2	24.0	34
Participation	100	95.6	98.2	97.6	97.6	97.2	96.8	97.1	100.0	97.7	98.0	
MATH GRADE 6:												
Acceptable Stand.	80.5	77.6	77.9	74.5	71.9	73.3	77.9	73.9	76.1	75.8	76.8	90
Stand. of Excellence	14.4	18.0	12.4	15.3	9.6	14.4	14.5	15.7	11.7	16.5	13.6	20
Participation	95.5	90.5	95.5	90.2	94.4	89.5	95.9	89.4	94.0	90.1	94.1	
MATH GRADE 6 FI:												
Acceptable Stand.	83.3	89.9	90.9	87.7	86.4	85.7	90.4	86.6	92.3	89.0	88.5	92
Stand. of Excellence	22.2	20.6	27.3	20.3	18.2	15.4	21.2	18.7	11.5	20.6	18.7	34
Participation	100	98.3	100	98.4	100	97.9	100	98.1	100.0	98.3	99.7	
MATH GRADE 9:												
Acceptable Stand.	71.5	67.0	69.8	66.4	66.4	65.2	63.1	64.5	63.7	65.9	66.3	80
Stand. of Excellence	17.8	19.1	11.9	17.0	14.3	17.8	14.4	17.8	13.2	18.0	15.8	25
Participation	92.5	87.0	90.7	86.8	92.4	87.4	90.7	87.4	91.7	89.2	90.9	
MATH GRADE 9 FI:												
Acceptable Stand.	92.3	88.7	93.1	86.8	86.5	84.5	82.8	85.3	85.0	85.3	87.1	91
Stand. of Excellence	46.2	30.3	31.0	26.0	16.2	26.2	27.6	28.9	22.5	28.0	28.6	34
Participation	100	98.3	93.1	96.7	100	98.3	100	98.1	97.5	98.5	99.2	

PROVINCIAL COHORT RESULTS SCIENCE:												
	2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009 June		5 Year Division Average	Target 2008- 09
	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results		
SCIENCE GRADE 6:												
Acceptable Stand.	87.3	79.6	86.2	77.7	78.7	74.7	79.4	74.3	79.1	76.1	82.1	90
Stand. of Excellence	25.8	26.4	27.4	28.1	25.5	26.8	23.9	24.4	21.4	25.2	24.8	26
Participation	95.5	90.3	96.6	89.5	94.1	88.6	95.8	88.4	93.7	89.0	95.1	
SCIENCE GRADE 6 FI:												
Acceptable Stand.	77.1	82.9	88.6	85.2	88.6	82.3	94.2	82.9	75.0	83.5	84.7	95
Stand. of Excellence	17.1	19.1	31.8	20.0	31.8	23.0	17.3	19.6	21.2	18.7	23.8	27
Participation	100	95.9	100	97.8	100	97.1	100	97.4	98.1	97.9	99.6	
SCIENCE GRADE 9:												
Acceptable Stand.	73.0	66.9	67.1	66.7	71.3	68.8	70.4	68.4	74.4	71.6	71.2	80
Stand. of Excellence	14.3	12.9	9.2	13.5	11.1	14.6	9.8	12.9	14.7	15.8	11.8	18
Participation	94.4	87.7	93.3	87.6	94.1	88.2	93.9	88.4	93.6	90.0	93.9	
SCIENCE GRADE 9 FI:												
Acceptable Stand.	81.5	79.0	62.1	80.5	86.5	82.7	86.2	84.1	85.0	82.1	80.3	90
Stand. of Excellence	14.8	10.3	6.9	10.4	5.4	15.9	17.2	14.8	17.5	15.6	12.4	25
Participation	100	98.3	93.1	97.2	100	98.5	100	98.4	97.5	98.5	98.1	



PROVINCIAL COHORT RESULTS SOCIAL STUDIES:												
	2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009 June		5 Year Division Average	Target 2008- 09
	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results		
OLD CURRICULUM SOCIAL GRADE 6:												
Acceptable Stand.	83.2	78.1	83.9	78.2	79.1	77.0	81.1	77.4	50.0	64.1		
Stand. of Excellence	18.9	21.8	19.8	23.2	18.8	22.7	19.7	24.2	0.0	21.5		90
Participation	94.9	89.6	96.3	90.1	94.7	89.1	95.5	88.6	60.0	76.0		21
NEW CURRICULUM SOCIAL GRADE 6:												
Acceptable Stand.												
Stand. of Excellence												
Participation									N/A			
SOCIAL GRADE 6 FI:												
Acceptable Stand.	91.4	82.8	84.1	84.8	88.6	84.1	86.5	85.5				
Stand. of Excellence	20.0	15.6	29.5	17.3	29.5	15.9	9.6	18.4				98
Participation	100	98.0	100	98.2	100	97.6	100	97.8	N/A			25
OLD CURRICULUM SOCIAL GRADE 9:												
Acceptable Stand.	77.0	70.6	72.5	71.9	69.9	70.6	69.4	71.0	10.0	64.5		
Stand. of Excellence	16.7	18.5	13.9	19.0	14.8	19.0	12.1	19.2	0.0	20.9		85
Participation	95.0	87.3	93.4	88.0	93.2	87.8	92.2	88.3	10.0	78.4		25
NEW CURRICULUM SOCIAL GRADE 9:												
Acceptable Stand.												
Stand. of Excellence												
Participation									N/A			
SOCIAL GRADE 9 FI:												
Acceptable Stand.	97.4	84.0	89.7	83.1	91.9	83.2	69.0	82.6				
Stand. of Excellence	35.9	14.7	24.1	15.5	10.8	14.5	13.8	14.2				92
Participation	100	98.1	93.1	97.3	100	98.2	100	98.2	N/A			31

STRENGTHS / CELEBRATIONS

- PAT participation rates continue to be within 1% or exceed that of the province with the exception of FLA grade 9.
- PSD Grade three students had a **higher** participation rate and **higher** percentage of students attaining the acceptable standard than their provincial counterparts.
- With the exception of Math, PSD grade three students are within 5% of their provincial counterparts in the standard of excellence in all areas.
- 100% of PSD students participated in FLA 3, Math 3 FI, and Math 6 FI.
- The following courses indicate a 5% or more **increase** from the 2007-2008 to the 2008-2009 school year:
 - Math 3 FI - Acceptable Standard (+7.1%)
 - Math 3 FI – Standard of Excellence (+8.2%)
 - FLA 6 – Standard of Excellence (+6.0)
- Five-Year trends in grade 6 indicate an **increase** of 7% or more in:
 - Math 6 FI Acceptable Standard (+7%)
- Five-Year trends in grade 9 indicate an **increase** of 7% or more in:
 - Science 9 FI Acceptable Standard (+10%)

CHALLENGES

- The following courses indicate a 5% or more **decrease** from the 2007-2008 to the 2008-2009 school year:
 - FLA 6 – Acceptable Standard (-5.8%)
 - Math 6 FI – Standard of Excellence (-9.7%)
 - Science 6 FI – Acceptable Standard (-19.2)
 - FLA 9 – Acceptable Standard (-19.5%)
 - FLA 9 – Standard of Excellence (-15.0%)
 - Math 9 FI – Standard of Excellence (-5.1%)
- Five-Year trends in grade 3 indicate a **decrease** of 7% or more in:
 - Math FI Acceptable Standard (-9%)
 - Math FI Standard of Excellence (-12%)
- Five-Year trends in grade 6 indicate a **decrease** of 7% or more in:
 - Science 6 Acceptable Standard (-9%)
- Five-Year trends in grade 9 indicate a **decrease** of 7% or more in:
 - Math 9 Acceptable Standard (-8%)
 - Math 9 FI Acceptable Standard (-9%)
 - Math 9 FI Standard of Excellence (-20%)

DIPLOMA RESULTS GRADE 12

The participation rate reflects the percentage of students enrolled in their third year of high school. Chemistry 30 and Physics 30 are new exams; therefore results from previous years are not included.

GRADE 12 DIPLOMA EXAMS:												
	2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009 June		5 Year Division Average	TARGET (2008-09)
	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results		
ENGLISH L.A. 30-1:												
Acceptable Standard:	92.9	89.1	91.5	88.0	91.5	87.7	92.8	87.1	92.0	86.1	92.1	94.0
Standard of Excellence:	19.2	17.8	16.4	19.3	23.4	19.0	18.1	15.5	10.1	12.3	17.4	21.0
Participation Rate:	49.3	59.4	49.5	59.8	48.8	59.7	48.4	58.9	52.2	59.8		52.0
ENGLISH L.A. 30-2:												
Acceptable Standard:	93.7	89.4	86.1	86.1	94.3	88.6	92.8	88.9	94.8	88.2	92.3	94.0
Standard of Excellence:	13.3	10.1	6.4	8.1	9.5	9.7	8.6	8.8	10.8	8.5	9.7	16.0
Participation Rate:	34.1	26.2	35.5	26.0	33.9	26.1	37.5	26.8	36.2	27.4		34.0
FRENCH L.A. 30												
Acceptable Standard:	100	95.1	82.6	95.0	86.4	95.6	90.9	94.9	90.0	95.1	90.0	92.0
Standard of Excellence:	0.0	19.1	8.7	21.8	22.7	23.1	9.1	24.5	5.0	18.9	9.1	7.0
Participation Rate:	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.6	3.0		5.0
SOCIAL 30:												
Acceptable Standard:	89.6	85.2	85.0	85.5	86.0	86.2	86.8	84.7	87.3	84.2	86.9	91.0
Standard of Excellence:	21.5	24.3	18.2	23.9	26.5	24.6	22.3	21.5	18.0	21.4	21.3	27.0
Participation Rate:	40.5	53.7	42.9	54.0	39.9	53.9	41.6	51.7	41.8	53.2		47.0
SOCIAL 33:												
Acceptable Standard:	91.0	85.0	85.6	83.5	92.3	84.9	87.0	85.3	90.4	85.6	89.3	91.0
Standard of Excellence:	18.7	17.6	21.8	19.0	22.3	19.6	22.4	18.9	21.6	20.2	21.4	21.0
Participation Rate:	43.0	32.4	44.7	31.9	43.3	32.2	42.7	32.2	46.7	34.1		46.0
APPLIED MATH 30:												
Acceptable Standard:	92.7	87.6	82.6	77.5	76.7	77.6	76.0	76.3	86.9	79.4	83.0	94.0
Standard of Excellence:	22.7	21.8	13.7	11.8	13.3	12.1	13.7	10.7	16.6	13.5	16.0	24.0
Participation Rate:	21.6	22.0	20.9	21.6	25.4	21.6	18.8	21.3	23.4	22.0		24.0
PURE MATH 30:												
Acceptable Standard:	84.2	80.6	84.6	82.8	81.3	81.1	78.4	81.3	88.0	82.1	83.3	87.0
Standard of Excellence:	20.2	25.7	19.3	26.5	24.4	24.7	19.7	25.8	19.7	26.3	20.7	24.0
Participation Rate:	37.5	45.6	36.2	46.3	32.9	46.2	35.8	45.8	35.8	45.8		40.0
BIOLOGY 30:												
Acceptable Standard:	86.2	81.9	86.1	81.4	86.2	83.5	85.3	82.3	83.2	83.0	85.4	89.0
Standard of Excellence:	24.7	26.6	22.9	26.4	24.5	27.4	27.5	26.3	19.6	26.6	23.8	27.0
Participation Rate:	30.5	43.3	30.8	43.6	30.9	43.8	33.1	43.3	35.3	44.3		33.0
CHEMISTRY 30:												
Acceptable Standard:									82.1	76.3	N/A	92.0
Standard of Excellence:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	29.3	27.7		32.0
Participation Rate:									25.6	33.3		33.0
PHYSICS 30:												
Acceptable Standard:									90.8	79.3	N/A	90.0
Standard of Excellence:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	31.0	23.1		27.0
Participation Rate:									10.9	19.8		22.0
SCIENCE 30:												
Acceptable Standard:	91.9	88.1	86.1	82.8	91.7	87.2	96.8	88.6	87.7	86.0	90.9	92.0
Standard of Excellence:	30.8	22.1	16.3	17.3	25.8	18.0	26.6	21.6	22.2	20.9	24.3	27.0
Participation Rate:	23.2	7.8	22.0	7.8	15.8	7.7	16.4	8.2	20.5	9.3		26.0

STRENGTHS/CELEBRATIONS

- The percentage of students who achieved the Acceptable Standard on Diploma exams was **higher** in Parkland than it was in the province in all but one High School category.
- Parkland School Division students achieved **higher** than provincial results in the Acceptable Standard by 5% or more in:
 - ELA 30-1 (+5.9%)
 - ELA 30-2 (+6.6%)
 - Applied Math 30 (+7.5%)
 - Pure Math 30 (+5.9%)
 - Chemistry 30 (+5.8%)
 - Physics 30 (+11.5%)
- Parkland School Division students achieved **higher** than provincial results in the Standard of Excellence by 5% or more in:
 - Physics 30 (+7.9%)
- The following courses indicate a 5% or more **increase** from the 2007-2008 to the 2008-2009 school year:
 - Applied Math 30 – Acceptable Standard (+10.9%)
 - Pure Math 30 – Acceptable Standard (+9.6%)

CHALLENGES

- Parkland School Division students achieved **lower** than provincial results in the Acceptable Standard by 5% or more in:
 - FLA 30 (-5.1%)
- Parkland School Division students achieved **lower** than provincial results in the Standard of Excellence by 5% or more in:
 - FLA 30 (-13.9%)
 - Pure Math 30 (-6.6%)
 - Biology 30 (-7%)
- The following courses indicate a 5% or more **decrease** from the 2007-2008 to the 2008-2009 school year:
 - English 30-1 – Standard of Excellence (-8%)
 - Biology 30- Standard of Excellence (-7.9%)
- Five-Year Diploma trends indicate a **decrease** of 7% or more in:
 - ELA 30-1 Standard of Excellence (-7%)
 - Applied Math 30 Acceptable Standard (-7%), however there was an 11% increase from the 2007-2008 to the 2008-2009 school year

FINAL COURSE MARKS GRADE 12

This chart shows Parkland's student achievement levels at both the "Acceptable Standard" and the "Standard of Excellence" based on students' final course mark (an average of the diploma mark and the school awarded mark). The participation rate represents the percentage of students who wrote the exam compared to the total number of students in the grade.

GRADE 12 FINAL COURSE MARKS:		2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009 June		5 Year Division Average	TARGET (2010)
	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results	Div. Results	Prov. Results			
ENGLISH 30-1:													
Acceptable Standard:	98.6	97.6	98.6	97.3	98.9	97.1	98.9	97.2	98.5	96.3	98.7	100	
Standard of Excellence:	19.7	21.0	17.8	22.2	24.5	21.7	21.4	19.4	17.2	17.8	20.1	20	
ENGLISH 30-2:													
Acceptable Standard:	98.1	95.8	95.9	94.4	98.5	95.8	97.6	95.3	99.3	94.4	97.9	98	
Standard of Excellence:	11.1	5.7	4.1	5.1	6.1	5.8	5.5	5.5	7.5	5.1	6.9	7.5	
FRENCH L.A. 30													
Acceptable Standard:	100.0	99.4	100.0	99.1	100.0	99.4	95.5	98.9	N/A			100	
Standard of Excellence:	0.0	29.6	13.0	30.0	22.7	32.5	18.2	34.2				16	
SOCIAL 30:													
Acceptable Standard:	98.3	96.8	97.1	96.6	97.4	97.1	97.0	96.8	96.1	96.0	97.2	97	
Standard of Excellence:	17.7	25.7	16.9	25.7	27.9	26.4	24.7	24.9	15.7	25.2	20.6	22	
SOCIAL 30 FI:													
Acceptable Standard:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	96.5	100.0	96.0	N/A		
Standard of Excellence:							35.7	24.8	16.7	25.2			
SOCIAL 33:													
Acceptable Standard:	95.5	94.3	94.3	93.4	96.3	93.9	96.2	94.0	97.0	91.7	95.9	95	
Standard of Excellence:	11.7	11.2	13.2	11.5	16.4	12.9	18.0	13.0	19.6	13.8	15.8	16	
SOCIAL 33FI:													
Acceptable Standard:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	91.8	100.0	91.7	N/A		
Standard of Excellence:							0.0	12.3	0.0	13.8			
APPLIED MATH 30:													
Acceptable Standard:	96.7	94.2	89.4	89.4	92.2	89.9	90.4	88.3	96.6	89.1	93.1	95	
Standard of Excellence:	13.3	14.6	9.9	10.0	13.3	10.8	13.7	10.3	14.9	12.3	13.0	16	
PURE MATH 30:													
Acceptable Standard:	90.8	91.9	94.0	92.5	92.4	91.9	91.1	92.0	98.4	90.8	93.3	95	
Standard of Excellence:	25.0	28.6	22.5	29.8	29.0	28.8	26.0	29.7	21.7	28.7	24.8	28	
BIOLOGY 30:													
Acceptable Standard:	95.4	92.8	95.7	93.0	96.0	93.7	94.6	93.2	94.1	92.8	95.2	97	
Standard of Excellence:	27.2	29.8	29.4	29.9	26.1	30.5	29.5	29.3	26.8	30.5	27.8	30	
CHEMISTRY 30:													
Acceptable Standard:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	91.8	88.5	N/A	97	
Standard of Excellence:									20.9	29.8		34	
PHYSICS 30:													
Acceptable Standard:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	92.2	N/A	97	
Standard of Excellence:									39.1	31.0		35	
SCIENCE 30:													
Acceptable Standard:	95.9	93.8	93.4	93.5	97.5	93.9	98.4	94.4	98.2	94.6	96.7	96	
Standard of Excellence:	23.8	17.5	16.9	15.9	18.3	16.9	21.0	19.0	23.0	19.8	20.6	21	



FINAL COURSE MARKS GRADE 12

STRENGTHS/CELEBRATIONS

- The percentage of students who achieved the Acceptable Standard in Final Course Marks was **higher** in Parkland than it was in the province **in all 12 High School categories**.
- 100% of PSD students scored the acceptable standard or higher in Social Studies 30 FI, Social Studies 33 FI, and Physics 30.
- Parkland School Division students achieved **higher** than provincial results in the Acceptable Standard by 5% or more in:
 - Social Studies 33 (+5.3%)
 - Social Studies 33 FI (+8.3%)
 - Applied Math 30 (+7.5%)
 - Pure Math 30 (+7.6%)
 - Physics 30 (+7.8%)
- Parkland School Division students achieved **higher** than provincial results in the Standard of Excellence by 5% or more in:
 - Social Studies 33 (+5.8%)
 - Physics 30 (+8.1%)
- The following courses indicate a 5% or more **increase** from the 2007-2008 to the 2008-2009 school year:
 - Applied Math 30 – Acceptable Standard (+6.2%)
 - Pure Math 30 – Acceptable Standard (+7.3%)
- Five-Year Participation Rate trends indicate an increase in Language Arts (ELA 30-1, FLA 30, ELA 30-2) combined and Social Studies 30 & 33.
 - More third year high school students in Language Arts and Social are achieving Acceptable Standard over time which indicates there are a greater number of high school students on track to graduate in three years.
- Five-Year Participation Rate ratio of students who enroll in Social Studies 30 over 33 indicates an increasing trend; more students are taking Social 30 than Social 33.

CHALLENGES

- Parkland School Division students achieved **lower** than provincial results in the Standard of Excellence by 5% or more in:
 - Social Studies 30 (-9.5%)
 - Social Studies 30 FI (-8.5%)
 - Pure Math 30 (-7%)
 - Chemistry 30 (-8.9%)
- The following courses indicate a 5% or more **decrease** from the 2007-2008 to the 2008-2009 school year:
 - Social 30 – Standard of Excellence (-9%)
 - Social 30 FI – Standard of Excellence (-19%)



- Five-Year Participation Rate ratio of students who enroll in English 30-1 over 30-2 indicates a consistent trend of fewer students who enroll in English 30-1 than that of the province.

DIVISIONAL ACTION PLAN

The following actions are an extension of the goals and strategies established in the Parkland School Division 2009-2012 Education Plan.

Cross-Curricular Focus Areas

Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) - Focus on Critical Thinking

- Improvement Goal:
 - To improve student achievement and engagement in grades K-12 through the promotion of critical thinking.
- Outcomes:
 - Students are problem solvers and critical thinkers.
 - Students are motivated to learn.
 - Teachers are embedding critical thinking in their teaching practice.
 - A common language around critical thinking exists in Parkland School Division.
 - Students are well prepared for life and work environments.
- Provide and promote in-service and program development in Critical Thinking through our partnership with The Critical Thinking Consortia (TC²).
- Some TC² Resources purchased for schools.

As critical thinking strategies become a part of students' repertoire, students will become more engaged in their learning and as a result achievement in the Standard of Excellence and the Acceptable Standard in both English and French Immersion programs should increase.

Assessment Focus

- Develop common *Math Performance Based Assessment Instruments*, the focus this year is on Grade 5.
- Develop common *Social Studies Performance Based Assessment instruments*, the focus this year is on grade two and four.
- Comprehensive Reporting – Schools extend their knowledge of good classroom assessment practices to the reporting process.
- Promote the use of Alberta Assessment Consortia Materials and workshops.

When students and teachers can articulate the intended learning outcomes, and when specific feedback is provided in relation to those outcomes, student learning and engagement increases.

French Immersion

- Applied for a Metro Edmonton Regional French Immersion Program (MERFIP) Grant- 0.2 FTE “Literacy Specialist in Training” at each of our FI schools.



- Expand teacher recruitment areas through Human Resources to access more French Immersion teachers.
- Explore ways of expanding participation of French Immersion teachers in English PD opportunities.
- Continue to explore French Immersion resources to support teacher practice.

These actions will address challenges identified in the PAT and DIP analysis.

Subject Specific Focus Areas

Language Arts

- Balanced Literacy Training (expanded into middle years as a pilot this year).
- Precision Reading workshops as requested.
- Workshops as requested by schools.
- Discuss with High School students their reasons for taking their chosen course level in English.

Social Studies (New Social Studies Program of Studies: mandatory for all grades. Grades 6/9/12 became mandatory in September 2009.)

- Grade-level “Learn Alberta and the Social Studies Curriculum” Sessions K-9.
- Discuss with High School students their reasons for taking their chosen course level in Social Studies.

Mathematics (New Mathematics Program of Studies: mandatory this year for grades K/1/2/4/5/7/8 only. Optional implementation this year for grades 3/6/9.)

- Workshops for grades 3/6/9 teachers on changes to the new curriculum.
- Workshops for grades 4-9 teachers on using manipulatives in the new curriculum.
- Workshop for administrators on supporting teachers in the new curriculum.
- A book study for teachers K-3 on John Van de Walle’s *Teaching Student Centered Mathematics*.
- A book study for teachers 5-8 on John Van de Walle’s *Teaching Student Centered Mathematics*.
- First Steps in Math Teacher Course (Grades K-8).
- Breakthrough Mathematics Teacher Course (Grades 3-12).
- Various workshops on the different math strands.

Continued support in the implementation of the new Social Studies and Math programs promotes the use of sound pedagogy and practice.

Summary

Students and staff of Parkland School Division have reason to be proud of their academic performance on provincial exams. Results from the 2008-2009 school year demonstrate that the percentage of Parkland School Division students who received an acceptable standard on provincial exams is **consistently higher than that of the province** in the majority of subject areas. Five-year trends indicate that we have maintained high levels of achievement in most subject areas. Mathematics, French Immersion and the Standard of Excellence will receive additional support through the Division Action Plan. Division priorities, goals and initiatives continue to support schools on their journey towards excellence in education.

