

CBE 2013-14 Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma exam highlights

Oct. 9, 2014

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Calgary Board of Education students continue to demonstrate solid academic performance on provincial achievement tests and diploma exams for the 13th consecutive year.

Provincial Achievement Tests in Grades 6 and Grade 9

- The results show that solid achievement was maintained again this year.
- In Grade 6, **the percentage of** CBE students achieving the **acceptable standard** equaled or exceeded that of the province in all five of the subjects and two out of the five subjects at the **standard of excellence**.
- In Grade 9, the percentage of CBE students achieving the **acceptable standard** equaled or exceeded that of the province in four out of five subjects and five out of five subjects at the **standard of excellence**.
- The percentage of CBE students with identified special education needs who achieved at the acceptable standard equaled or exceeded that in the province as a whole on seven out of ten measures and at the standard of excellence on nine out of ten measures.
- Last year, the Knowledge and Employability (KAE) tests were cancelled because of the flood. Knowledge and Employability will continue to be a focus, but when compared with our results in 2011-12 there are many encouraging signs:
 - In KAE English Language Arts, achievement is up by 7.6 percentage points at the acceptable standard; at the standard of excellence, our achievement is up by 1.2 percentage points and equals that of the province.
 - In KAE Math, the percentage of students achieving the acceptable standard increased by 6.4 percentage points.
 - In KAE Science, the percentage of students achieving the acceptable standard increased by 6 percentage points and is now 0.2 percentage points above that of the province.

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- In KAE Social Studies, the percentage of students achieving the acceptable standard increased by 11.3 percentage points and is above that of the province by 0.6 percentage points. The percentage of students achieving the standard of excellence increased by 1.4 percentage points and is now 0.3 percentage points above that of the province.

Diploma examinations

Diploma Exam results were very strong again this year. The percentage of CBE students exceeds that of the province in 8 out of 11 subjects at the acceptable standard and 10 out of 11 subjects at the standard of excellence.

- In nine of the eleven examinations, over 85 per cent of CBE students achieved the acceptable standard.
- In Biology 30, Chemistry 30 and Physics 30, over 40 per cent of CBE students achieved the standard of excellence.
- In Social 30-1, Social 30-2, Math 30-1, Biology 30, Chemistry 30 and Physics 30, the percentage of CBE students achieving the standard of excellence is above that of the province by between 7.8 and 10.8 percentage points.

Focused improvement since 2011-12

- Focused attention given to areas of concern continues to produce positive results. Science 30 was identified as an area of concern in 2011-12. (No comparison can be made with 2012-13 results because the Science 30 exam was one of those impacted by the flood.) This year's results are therefore particularly encouraging. The percentage of CBE students achieving the acceptable standard was 85.1, equal to the province and 7.2 percentage points above our achievement in 2011-12. The percentage of CBE students achieving the standard of excellence was up by 6.9 percentage points over 2011-12.

Areas for growth

- We will continue to strive for improvement in achievement in Knowledge and Employability courses. Efforts focus on providing appropriate instructional and assessment strategies and resources for registered students.
- This year's results for our English Language Learners prompt us to a deeper analysis of results in order to uncover the areas in which we can provide greater support and the strategies we can best use to provide that support.
- Results declined in some PATs this year in CBE and in the province. Examples are Grade 6 Science and Social Studies. Alberta Education noted there had been a decline, but pointed out that only future results will show whether this is just a current year phenomenon or part of a pattern.