



# UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## Program Services

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**Memorandum To:** Martha Rogers, Director of Education

**From:** Doug Morrell, Superintendent of Program  
Tracey Lindsay, Principal of Program  
Christina Schilling, Curriculum Leader, Secondary

**Re:** **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)  
Preliminary Results 2011 - 2012**

**Report Classification:** Information

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### Background

The **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)** is administered annually to Grade 10 students and others who have not yet met the literacy requirement for graduation. The test was administered on the morning of March 29, 2012 and was written in two sessions (seventy five minutes each).

The OSSLT is designed to assess reading and writing skills that students are expected to have learned across all subjects by the end of Grade 9, as outlined in *The Ontario Curriculum*. Successful completion of the OSSLT is one of the thirty-two requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

All system partners in the Upper Grand District School Board focus on the preparation of students for the test so that they may approach the task with confidence. All secondary schools have literacy teams in place to assist students. School Improvement Plans include goals for improved student achievement in literacy. Professional Learning Communities are established at the school level to discuss strategies for assisting students who struggle to learn and to incorporate EQAO data in their strategic planning. The Student Success Literacy Sub-Committee meets regularly to review, plan and co-ordinate literacy initiatives including the Smart Start after-school literacy course, literacy mentor training to support targeted groups of students, and regular meetings of the OSSLC (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course) teachers.

### Issue

To provide Trustees with a preliminary report on the 2011 - 2012 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for the Upper Grand District School Board.

### Recommendation

That the report entitled "**The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), Preliminary Results 2011 - 2012**" dated June 12, 2012 be received.

## Results

EQAO determines results in two ways:

**All Eligible Students (M1):** This method of reporting provides percentages based on all students in the cohort who are working toward an OSSD. The only students excluded are those who are not working toward an OSSD (exempt students).

**Fully Participating Students (M2):** This method of reporting provides percentages based on students for whom there is work for both sessions of the administration of the OSSLT and who were assigned an achievement result (successful, not successful). Students who are not working toward an OSSD, those who were absent, and those who were deferred are excluded.

### Participation Data of all First-Time Eligible Students (M1)

Participation Data	Province 2010-11	UGDSB 2010-11	Province 2011-12	UGDSB 2011-12
Total number of students working toward a diploma	153 365	2703	147 306	2611
Percentage of eligible students who fully participated	93%	94%	93%	95%
Percentage of students absent	2%	3%	2%	3%
Percentage of students deferred	5%	2%	5%	2%

### Demographic Overview of (M1) - First Time Eligible Students in the UGDSB

	2010-11	2011-12	
Gender	female male	48% 52%	49% 51%
English Language Learners	1%	1%	
Identified students With Special Needs (excluding gifted)	16%	19%	
Identified students With Special Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)	13%	15%	
Programs of Study*	Academic Applied Locally Developed English as a Second Language Other	62% 29% 6% 1% 3%	64% 29% 4% 1% 3%

*(Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding)*

**OSSLT Results - all First-Time Eligible (M1)**

	<b>Province 2010-11</b>	<b>UGDSB 2010-11</b>	<b>Province 2011-12</b>	<b>UGDSB 2011-12</b>
Successful	77%	79%	77%	79%
Not Successful	16%	16%	16%	15%
Absent	2%	3%	2%	3%
Deferred	5%	2%	5%	2%

**OSSLT Results - Fully Participating, First-Time Eligible (M2)**

	<b>Province 2010-11</b>	<b>UGDSB 2010-11</b>	<b>Province 2011-12</b>	<b>UGDSB 2011-12</b>
Successful	83%	84%	82%	84%
Not Successful	17%	16%	18%	16%

**OSSLT Success Rates - Fully Participating (M2), First-Time Eligible**

	<b>Province 2010-11</b>	<b>UGDSB 2010-11</b>	<b>Province 2011-12</b>	<b>UGDSB 2011-12</b>
Female	87%	87%	86%	90%
Male	80%	80%	78%	78%
English Language Learners	68%	81%	66%	62%
Special Needs (excluding gifted)	52%	48%	52%	52%

**OSSLT Success Rates - Fully Participating (M2), First-Time Eligible,  
Level of Study**

	<b>Province 2010-11</b>	<b>UGDSB 2010-11</b>	<b>Province 2011-12</b>	<b>UGDSB 2011-12</b>
Academic	95%	97%	93%	97%
Applied	55%	65%	53%	63%
LDCC	15%	11%	14%	22%
ESL/ELD	51%	n/r	44%	n/r

*(Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding)*

**OSSLT Results - All Previously Eligible (M1)**

	<b>Province 2010-11</b>	<b>UGDSB 2010-11</b>	<b>Province 2011-12</b>	<b>UGDSB 2011-12</b>
Successful	27%	30%	24%	26%
Not Successful	28%	28%	26%	26%
Absent	11%	19%	9%	12%
Deferred	13%	9%	12%	12%
Opting for the OSSLC	22%	15%	28%	24%

**OSSLT Results - Fully Participating (M2), Previously Eligible**

	<b>Province 2010-11</b>	<b>UGDSB 2010-11</b>	<b>Province 2011-12</b>	<b>UGDSB 2011-12</b>
Successful	49%	51%	48%	51%
Not Successful	51%	49%	52%	49%

**OSSLT Success Rates - Fully Participating (M2), Previously Eligible**

	<b>Province 2010-11</b>	<b>UGDSB 2010-11</b>	<b>Province 2011-12</b>	<b>UGDSB 2011-12</b>
Female	54%	59%	53%	55%
Male	46%	45%	45%	48%
English Language Learners	49%	43%	43%	33%
Special Needs (excluding gifted)	34%	32%	34%	42%

*(Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding)*

**Summary**

Overall, Board results are consistent with last year's results. Students in Academic level courses are excelling. Although students in Applied level, LDCC and ESL courses performed above the provincial average, it is important to note that these students, and students with special needs, will always require continuous support and early targeted intervention. Girls continue to outperform boys, achieving higher success rates. This year, boys in the previously eligible group increased their overall success rate from last year. Teachers will need to continue to differentiate their instruction to meet boys' needs. Students with special needs experienced increased success this year in both groups of first time eligible writers and previously eligible writers. Classroom teachers, special education and resource teachers will need to work together to ensure that students receive the accommodations and support they require for best success.

**Rationale**

The release of the results of the 2012 OSSLT provides important information for the system and its schools. The information offers an opportunity to conduct an analysis of the results in order to identify best instructional practices, which in turn should prompt the best possible student achievement. The collection and preliminary reporting of the data is the necessary first step in the process of critical analysis.

The next step in this process will be to continue the identification of areas of focus. Groups such as the Literacy Sub-Committee of the Student Success initiative, school literacy teams, and Curriculum Leaders will use these areas to direct efforts. Planning for increased student success will then occur at both the school and system level.

**OSSLT Release Dates, 2012:**

**May 28**

- Preliminary Student Summary (available to directors and principals)

**June 5**

- Application to submit an appeal will be available to principals

**June 6**

- Highlights of the Provincial Results
- Detailed School and Board results (confidential until June 13)

**June 12**

- Detailed school and board results (confidential until June 13)
- Public reports: school and board results (confidential until June 13)
- Summary of Results over Time (available to directors)
- Profile of strengths and areas for improvement reports

**June 13**

- Public Reports: School and Board Results

**June 18-22**

- Individual Student Reports

**June 20**

- Item Information Reports: Student Roster (available to principals)
- Files containing data from student roster reports (available to directors)
- Profile of Strengths and Areas for Improvement Report
- Results for students with special needs and students receiving accommodations
- Tracking a cohort's achievement (available to principals and directors)
- Detailed results for aboriginal students