



HALIFAX WEST HIGH SCHOOL Community Report 2014-2015



Provincial Assessments		
	School (%) 2014-15	Board (%) 2014-15
Literacy Assessments		
Grade 10 Provincial		
Reading	78%	79%
Writing - Ideas	76%	72%
Writing - Organization	68%	65%
Writing - Language Use	71%	66%
Writing - Conventions	69%	65%
Math Assessments		
Grade 10 Provincial		
Mathematics	82%	69%
Mathematics At Work	50%	51%

The data in this table reflects the percentage of students who performed at and above provincial expectations. For math overall, reading overall, and writing (four areas) students received a score of 1 (below expectations), 2 (approaching expectations), 3 (at expectations) or 4 (above expectations). These percentages are the levels 3 and 4 combined.

Graduation Rates	
School Year	Rate
2014-2015	94%
Destination after High School	Rate
Community College	8%
University	49%
Other Education or Training	4%
Join Work Force	---
Unknown	35%

YEAR FOUR OF OUR CONTINUOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

Halifax West has now completed Year 4 of our second Continuous School Improvement plan. We are targeting improved student achievement in the areas of literacy and mathematics.

Our literacy goal states: "Students will improve their reading comprehension and ability to discern deeper meaning in all aspects of reading across the curriculum."

We support our students by teaching them strategies to assist with deeper reading comprehension, analytical thinking and improved writing skills. Based on teacher observation, anecdotal reports and assessment results, it is clear that there is a wide variety of competency in reading comprehension amongst our students. Our literacy goal encompasses all students, however we are redirecting our

resources towards our English as an Additional Language learners based on evidence that they experience significant challenges midway through their high school career. We have put strategies and resources in place to help them improve their reading comprehension, and to develop their skills with comprehending and analyzing English literature.

Our math goal is: "To improve students' ability and habits-of-mind to make connections to other disciplines, other areas of mathematics, and the world around them."

Making connections is integral to success in math. Just as we learn in our first years of school that there is a correlation between adding and subtracting, so must our high school students learn to make connections between concepts in mathematics, and in other subject areas. Throughout the year, teachers worked to develop ways to help students have a greater understanding in math by making connections and communicating their understanding to others. Teachers gathered evidence of student learning through observation and formal assessment to help direct teaching to enhance understanding. Working in school-based groups and at board sessions, math teachers have learned about the new direction for math curriculum in Nova Scotia. All of our Grade 11 math teachers met regularly to support the implementation of the new math 11 curriculum. These meetings focused on student achievement and successful teaching strategies. The same model will be put in place to support the introduction of the new math 12 curriculum this coming year.

Our Student Services Department has completed a second year of a new method of providing resource support to our students, reaching far greater numbers of students than before with an in-class support model. They have been able to help students develop both their comprehension skills in their courses as well as provide real life connections to their math coursework. This model is also being implemented in our EAL support. Next year Halifax West will be piloting a new model of EAL support and new course offerings. These strategies will increase the ability for new English language learners to thrive and continue on academic pathways by focusing on their use of academic language, and providing a longer pathway for learning English and the skills required to engage with academic English literature.

WHAT THE GRADE 10 PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT DATA IS TELLING US:

The math assessment data show that we are strong overall in the area of academic math. Our results in Math at Work 10 suggest that there is a need to further support students who are choosing this mathematics pathway. Teachers will be using the information that was gathered about each learner's strengths and challenges to inform their teaching practice. Many students in Math at Work 10 were near meeting the expectations for the exam and teachers will continue to work with them on these necessary skills in Math at Work 11.

The literacy assessment data show that we were above the board averages in most areas of the English 10 assessment. Our school goals focused on comprehension and reading and we will continue to support students in these areas as they move forward. The grade 10 assessment data about each learner will benefit teachers as they work to support students who were not meeting or just meeting the expectations. This information will be used as a valuable tool by grade 11 and 12 teachers.