



School Board Report

First-Time Eligible Students



Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, March 2008

Board: Limestone DSB (66206)

I am pleased to provide you with this report which shows the achievement of students on the March 2008 OSSLT and the previous four administrations.

Designed in close collaboration with Ontario educators, EQAO assessments ensure that the achievement of all students in publicly funded schools across the province is measured against a common benchmark at key stages in their education. By providing this snapshot of how well Ontario students are learning the expectations of *The Ontario Curriculum*, EQAO's large-scale testing results have become an important tool to support student achievement.

Literacy is a gift for life. That is why EQAO strives to provide objective and reliable information that helps identify and address learning needs so that students may reach their full potential.

EQAO's literacy test results are to be used in conjunction with school-based data, such as that from regular classroom assessments. When used together, these sources provide a more complete picture of student knowledge and skills than they would separately. I trust this report will contribute to building strong literacy skills—skills that are so essential to living a fulfilling life.

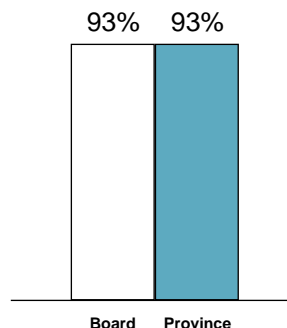
Sincerely,

Marguerite Jackson
 Chief Executive Officer
 Education Quality and Accountability Office

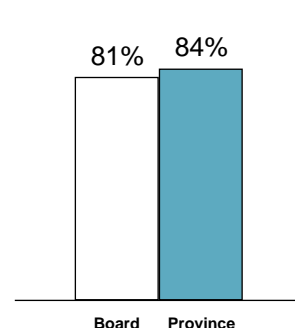
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FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS, MARCH 2008: PARTICIPATION RATE AND ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

Percentage of Eligible Students Who Participated Fully

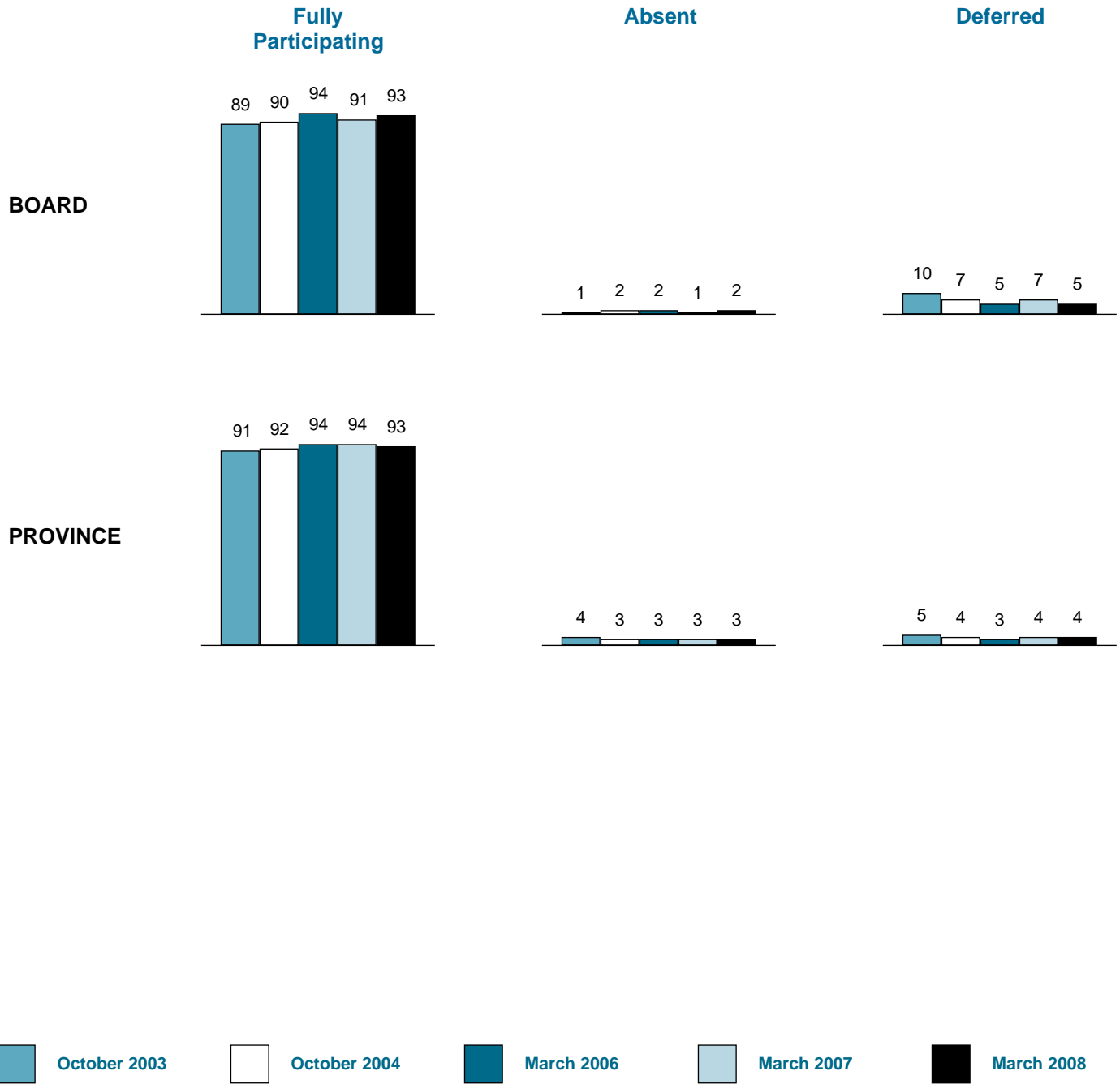


Percentage of Fully Participating Students Who Were Successful



PARTICIPATION RATES FOR ALL FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS OVER TIME

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS*



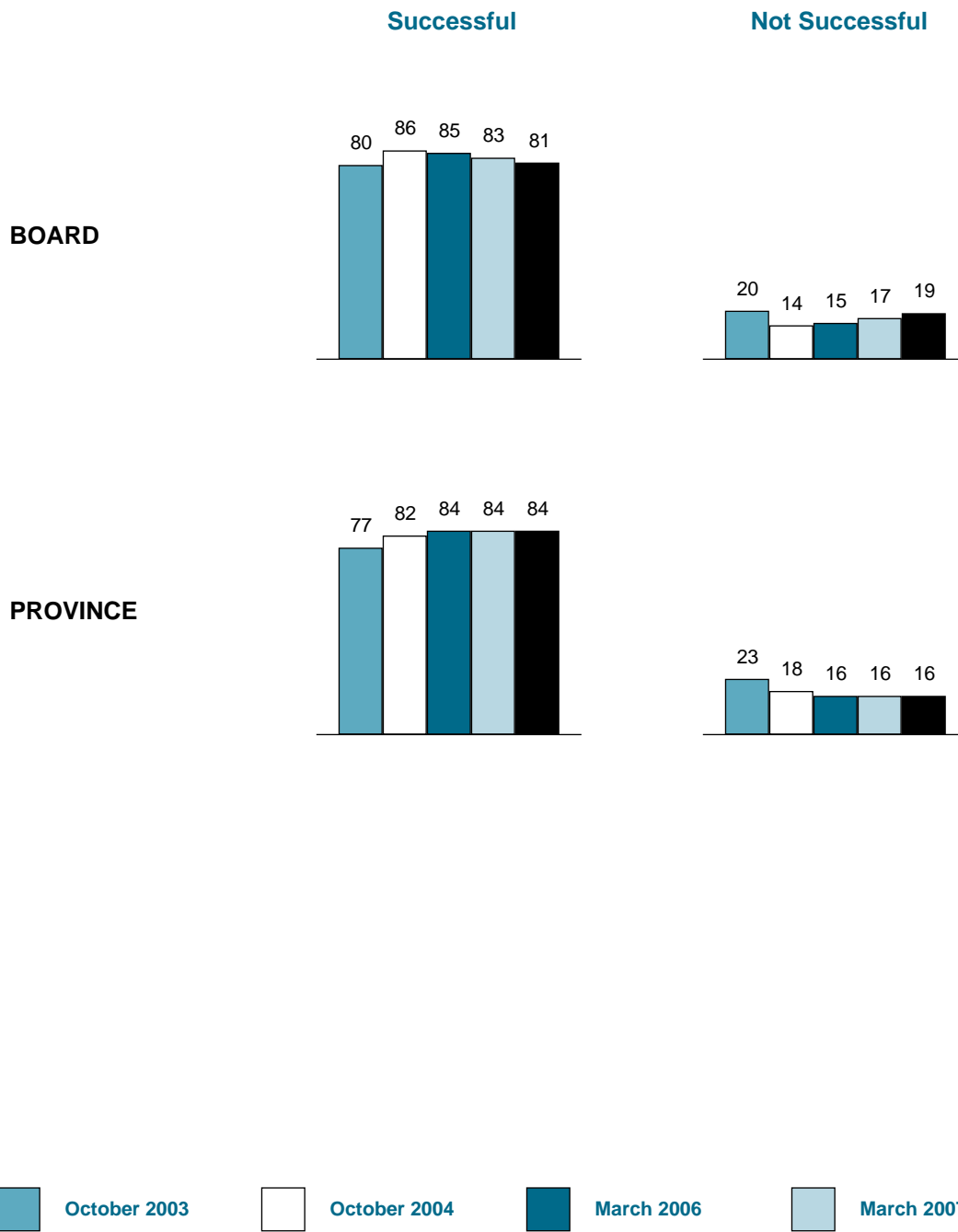
Number of First-Time Eligible Students

	<u>October 2003</u>	<u>October 2004</u>	<u>March 2006</u>	<u>March 2007</u>	<u>March 2008</u>
Board	1 809	1 772	1 795	1 784	1 843
Province	157 464	160 088	158 817	155 906	156 151

* Percentages in graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR FULLY PARTICIPATING FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS OVER TIME

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS*



Number of Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students

	<u>October 2003</u>	<u>October 2004</u>	<u>March 2006</u>	<u>March 2007</u>	<u>March 2008</u>
Board	1 607	1 602	1 681	1 626	1 711
Province	143 025	147 781	149 098	146 173	145 603

* Percentages in graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

TIPS

Each board is unique. To appreciate the distinctive character of a board, look at the contextual information to understand the features and characteristics of the community it serves.



This test captures the performance of students at one point in time each year. Consider the results along with other information about students' performance.



Exercise caution when interpreting results for small boards. Results may vary considerably from year to year, and differences may look exaggerated. For example, in a board of 100 students, a difference of 10% represents only ten students.



Trends may be difficult to identify or to interpret. This is especially true in small boards or in schools where there is a high turnover in the student population.



EQAO values students' privacy. Results are not reported publicly for schools and boards where fewer than 15 students fully participated, because it might be possible to identify individual students.

WHAT IS IN THIS REPORT?

This report shows how well students in this board have met the minimum standard for literacy to the end of Grade 9 as set out in *The Ontario Curriculum*.

This report includes

- ◆ results for this board compared to the province;
- ◆ a comparison of results over the past five administrations of the test to aid in monitoring improvement and
- ◆ information about the characteristics of the students who participated.

Specifically, you will find

- ◆ summary graphs showing participation and success rates;
- ◆ detailed tables and graphs showing results for various groups of students, e.g., by gender, English language learners;
- ◆ student questionnaire results and
- ◆ an explanation of all terms used in this report.

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

- ◆ Examine the contextual information to understand the similarities and differences between the board and the province. Consider the challenges that any differences might present.
- ◆ Examine the board results.
 - Are these results consistent with what you would expect?
 - How do these results compare to the provincial results?
 - How do these results compare over time?
 - What influence might students' attitudes have on student performance (refer to the questionnaire results)?
- ◆ Speak to the board chair about the goals for improving student performance.

The Education Quality and Accountability Office is an independent agency that gathers information about student achievement through province-wide assessments.

Learn more about us at www.eqao.com.

OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008

Contextual Information

This information provides a context for interpreting the board's results.

	Board		Province	
Enrolment				
Number of first-time eligible students	1 843		156 151	
Number of schools with first-time eligible students	12		782	
Number of students who were exempted	39		1 759	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Participation in the Test				
Of all first-time eligible students, those who participated fully in the assessment	1 711	93%	145 603	93%
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were absent	38	2%	4 357	3%
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were deferred	94	5%	6 191	4%
Gender[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students				
Female	892	48%	76 226	49%
Male	951	52%	79 904	51%
Gender not specified	0	0%	21	<1%
Student Status[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students				
English language learners*	40	2%	6 121	4%
English language learners receiving special provisions**	15	1%	2 558	2%
Students with special needs (excluding gifted)*	487	26%	23 322	15%
Students with special needs receiving accommodations (excluding gifted)**	382	22%	17 719	12%
Level of Study for English[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students				
Academic	1 119	61%	103 774	66%
Applied	544	30%	38 834	25%
Locally developed	109	6%	5 838	4%
ESL/ELD	33	2%	4 283	3%
Other	32	2%	3 351	2%
Language^{††} Based on Student Questionnaire data				
	Number of Respondents:		1 685	
			143 535	
First language learned at home was other than English	102	6%	30 991	22%
Speak only or mostly English at home	1 557	92%	110 122	77%
Speak another language (or languages) as often as English at home	87	5%	23 038	16%
Speak only or mostly another language (or other languages) at home	39	2%	9 636	7%

[†] Demographic information is provided by schools and/or boards through the Student Data Collection process. Some data may be missing because they were not reported by schools.

* See Explanation of Terms.

** Percentages are based on fully participating students.

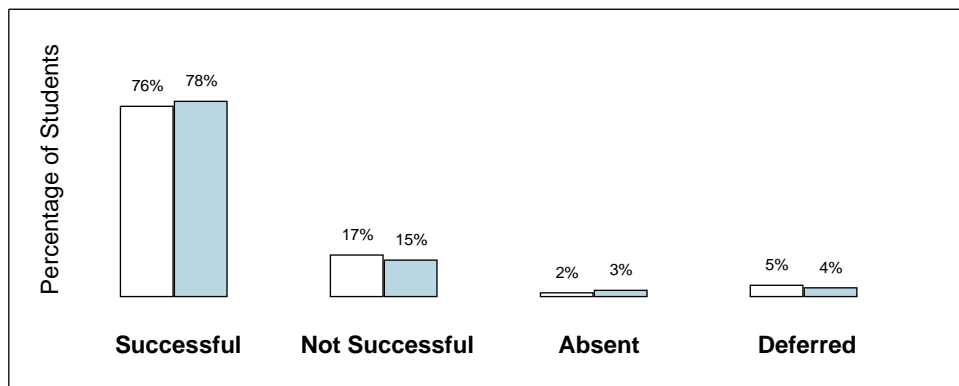
^{††} Demographic information pertaining to "language" is gathered from the Student Questionnaire completed by students. Some data may be missing because they were not provided by students.

OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008

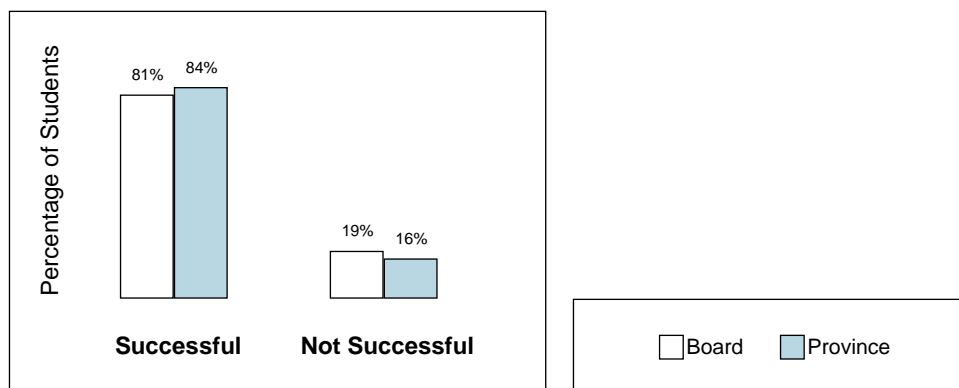
Results for All First-Time Eligible Students*

	First-Time Eligible Students				
	All		Fully Participating		
	Board # = 1 843	Province # = 156 151	Board # = 1 711	Province # = 145 603	
Successful	1 393	76%	78%	81%	84%
Not Successful	318	17%	15%	19%	16%
Fully Participating	1 711	93%	93%		
Absent	38	2%	3%		
Deferred	94	5%	4%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students



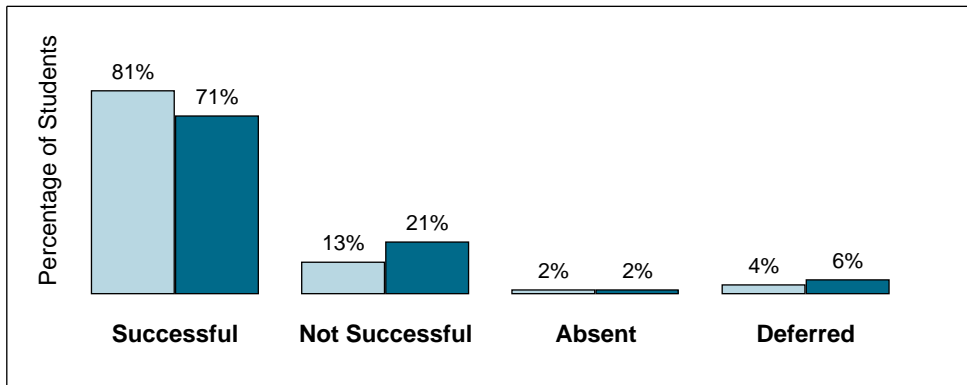
* Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008

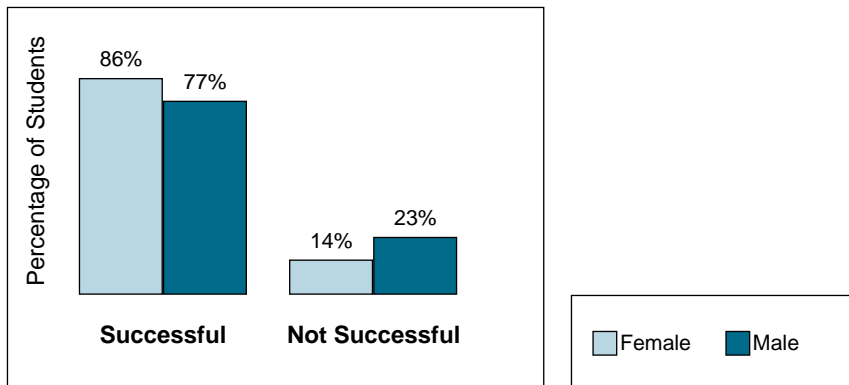
Board Results by Gender*†

Board Results by Gender First-Time Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	Female # = 892		Male # = 951		Female # = 837	Male # = 874
Successful	721	81%	672	71%	86%	77%
Not Successful	116	13%	202	21%	14%	23%
Fully Participating	837	94%	874	92%		
Absent	17	2%	21	2%		
Deferred	38	4%	56	6%		

Board Results for All First-Time Eligible Students by Gender



Board Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students by Gender



* Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

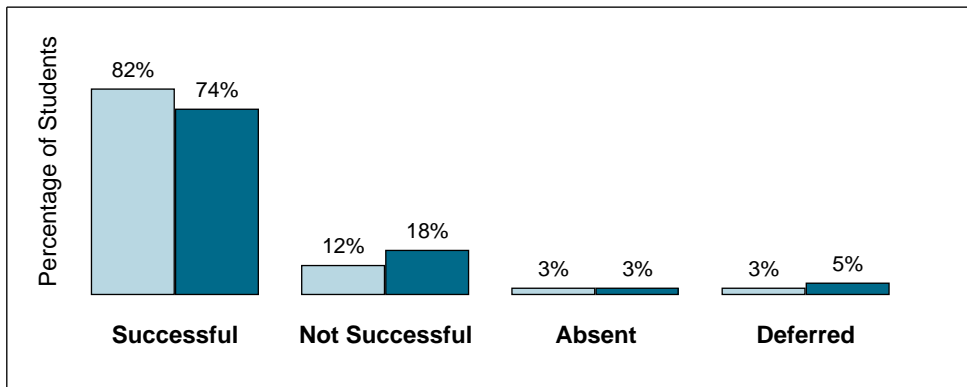
† Based on information provided by schools through the Student Data Collection process. Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008

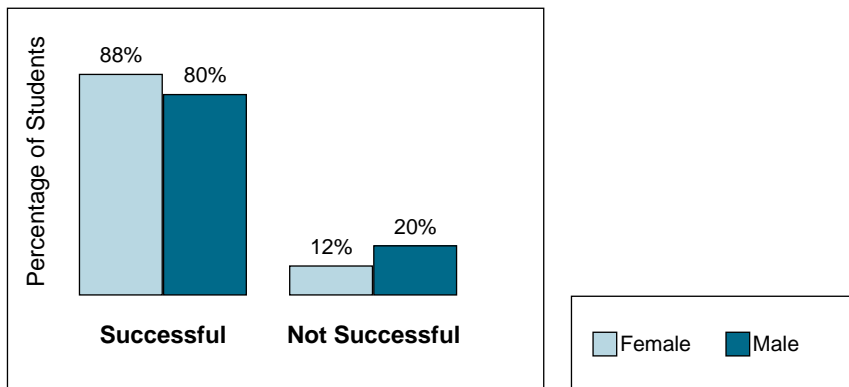
Provincial Results by Gender*†

Provincial Results by Gender First-Time Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	Female # = 76 226		Male # = 79 904		Female # = 71 615	Male # = 73 969
Successful	62 806	82%	59 503	74%	88%	80%
Not Successful	8 809	12%	14 466	18%	12%	20%
Fully Participating	71 615	94%	73 969	93%		
Absent	2 131	3%	2 224	3%		
Deferred	2 480	3%	3 711	5%		

Provincial Results for All First-Time Eligible Students by Gender



Provincial Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students by Gender



* Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

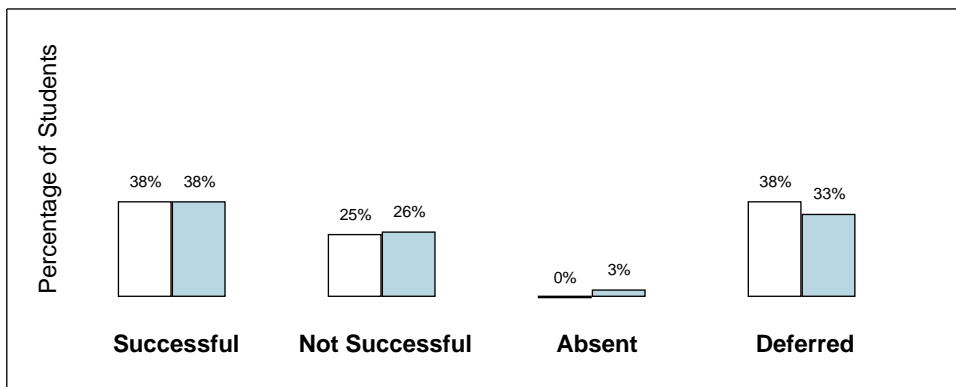
† Based on information provided by schools through the Student Data Collection process. Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008

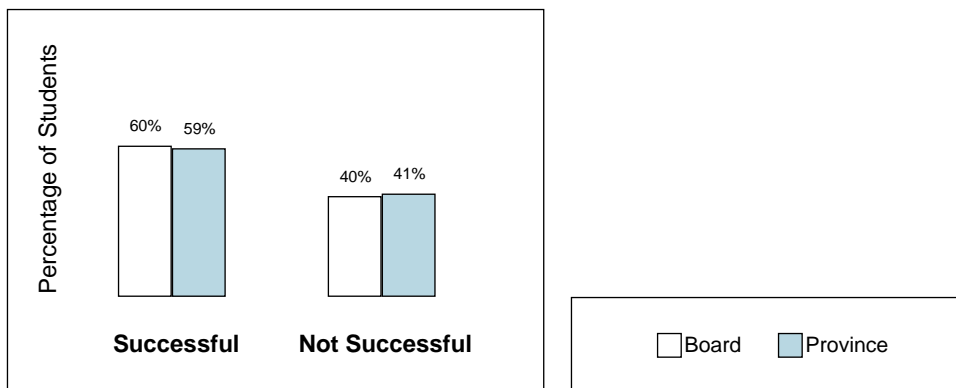
Results for English Language Learners*†

Results for English Language Learners First-Time Eligible Students					
	All			Fully Participating	
	Board # = 40	Province # = 6 121		Board # = 25	Province # = 3 918
Successful	15	38%	38%	60%	59%
Not Successful	10	25%	26%	40%	41%
Fully Participating	25	62%	64%		
Absent	0	0%	3%		
Deferred	15	38%	33%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible English Language Learners



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible English Language Learners



*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

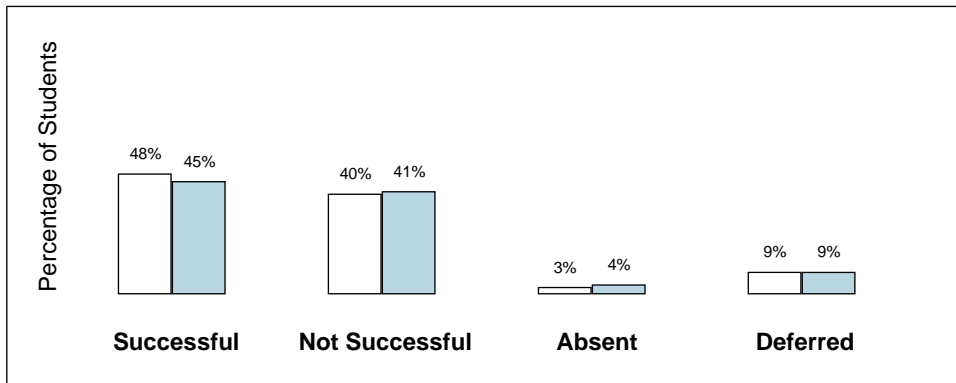
†Based on information provided by schools through the Student Data Collection process.

OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008

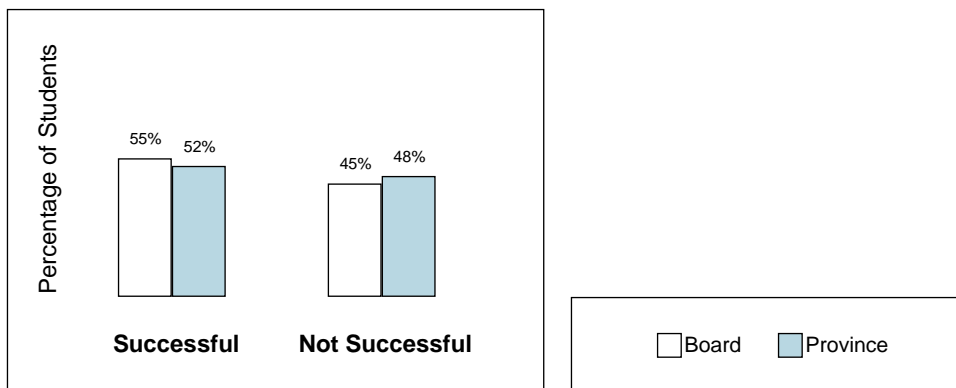
Results for Students with Special Needs (excluding gifted)*†

Results for Students with Special Needs (excluding gifted) First-Time Eligible Students					
	All			Fully Participating	
	Board # = 487	Province # = 23 322		Board # = 428	Province # = 20 240
Successful	235	48%	45%	55%	52%
Not Successful	193	40%	41%	45%	48%
Fully Participating	428	88%	87%		
Absent	13	3%	4%		
Deferred	46	9%	9%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students with Special Needs (excluding gifted)



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students with Special Needs (excluding gifted)



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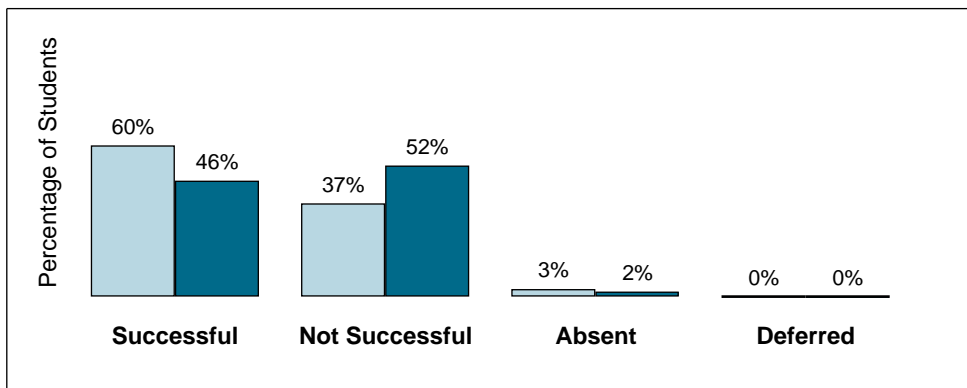
†Based on information provided by schools through the Student Data Collection process.

OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008

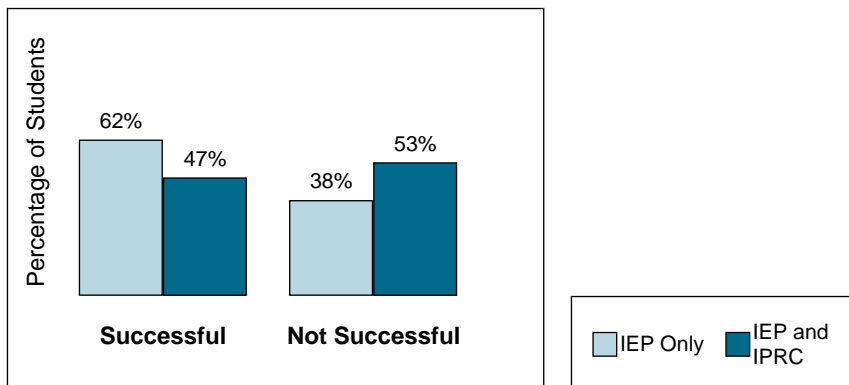
Board Results for Students with Special Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)*†

Board Results for Students with Special Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted) First-Time Eligible Students				
	All		Fully Participating	
	IEP Only # = 207	IEP and IPRC # = 185	IEP Only # = 200	IEP and IPRC # = 182
Successful	124	60%	86	46%
Not Successful	76	37%	96	52%
Fully Participating	200	97%	182	98%
Absent	7	3%	3	2%
Deferred	0	0%	0	0%

Board Results for All First-Time Eligible Students with Special Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)



Board Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students with Special Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)



*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

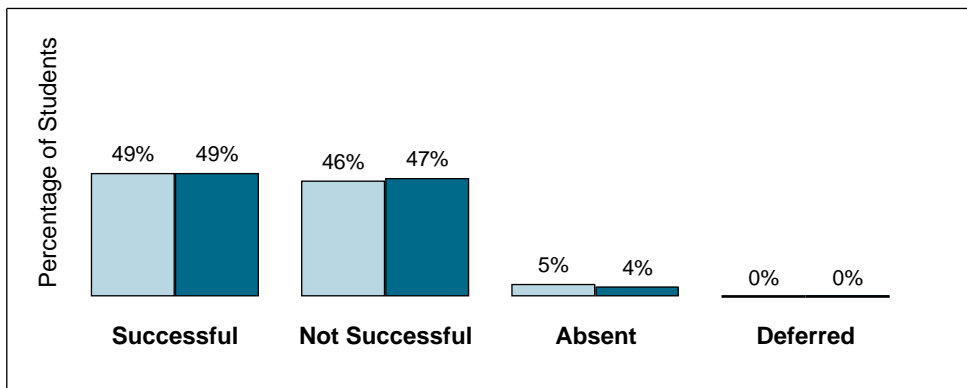
†Based on information provided by schools through the Student Data Collection process.

OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008

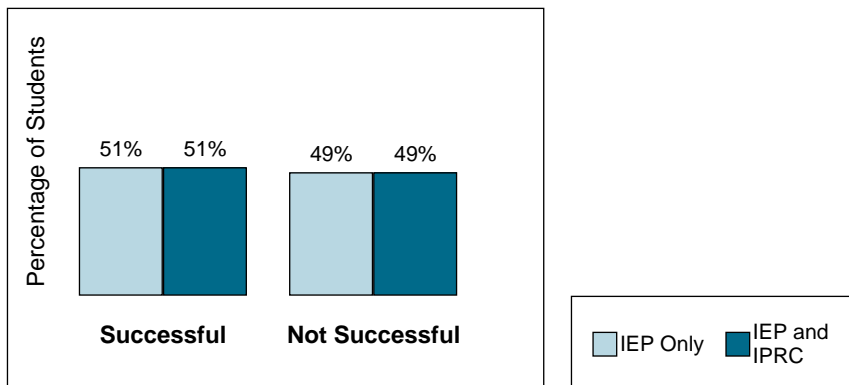
Provincial Results for Students with Special Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)*†

Provincial Results for Students with Special Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted) First-Time Eligible Students						
	All				Fully Participating	
	IEP Only # = 5 752		IEP and IPRC # = 12 720		IEP Only # = 5 462	IEP and IPRC # = 12 257
Successful	2 794	49%	6 222	49%	51%	51%
Not Successful	2 668	46%	6 035	47%	49%	49%
Fully Participating	5 462	95%	12 257	96%		
Absent	290	5%	463	4%		
Deferred	0	0%	0	0%		

Provincial Results for All First-Time Eligible Students with Special Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)



Provincial Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students with Special Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)



*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

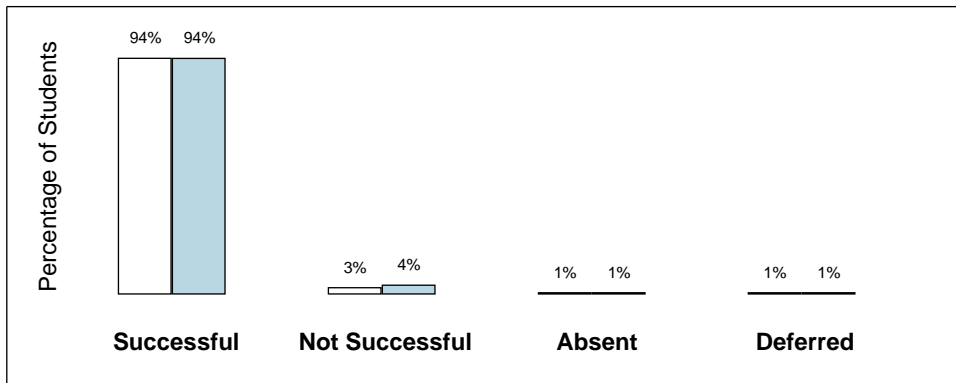
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OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008

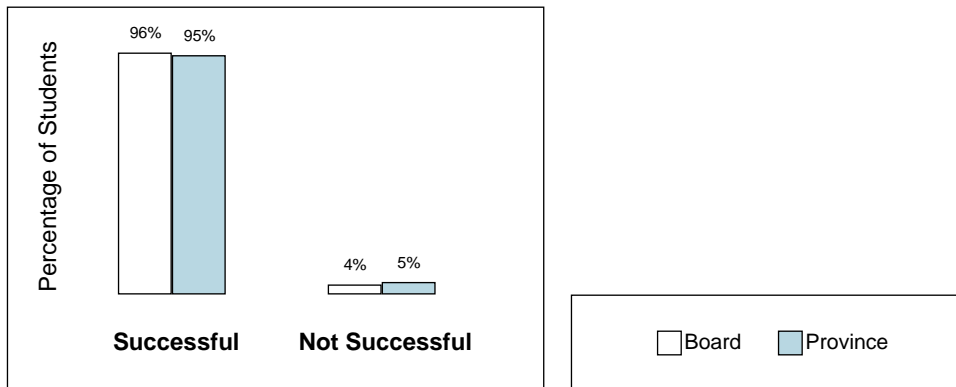
Results for Students Taking Academic English Course*†

Results for Students Taking Academic English Course First-Time Eligible Students					
	All		Fully Participating		
	Board # = 1 119	Province # = 103 774	Board # = 1 092	Province # = 101 698	
Successful	1 053	94%	94%	96%	95%
Not Successful	39	3%	4%	4%	5%
Fully Participating	1 092	98%	98%		
Absent	12	1%	1%		
Deferred	15	1%	1%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students Taking Academic English Course



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students Taking Academic English Course



*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

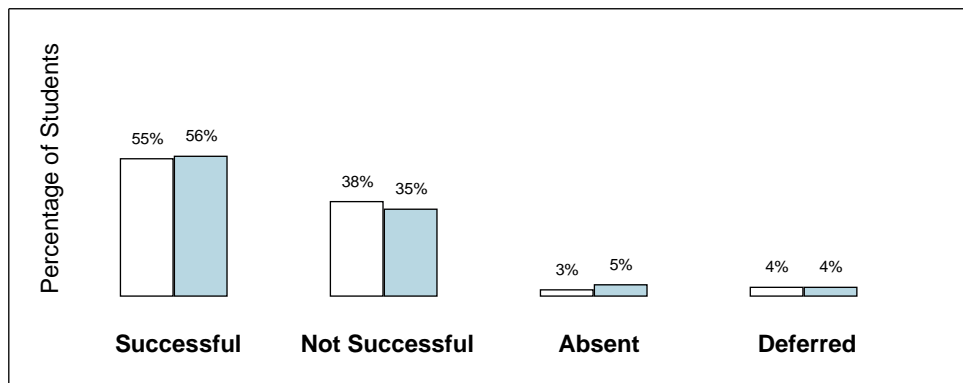
†Based on information regarding level of study in English provided by schools through the Student Data Collection process.

OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008

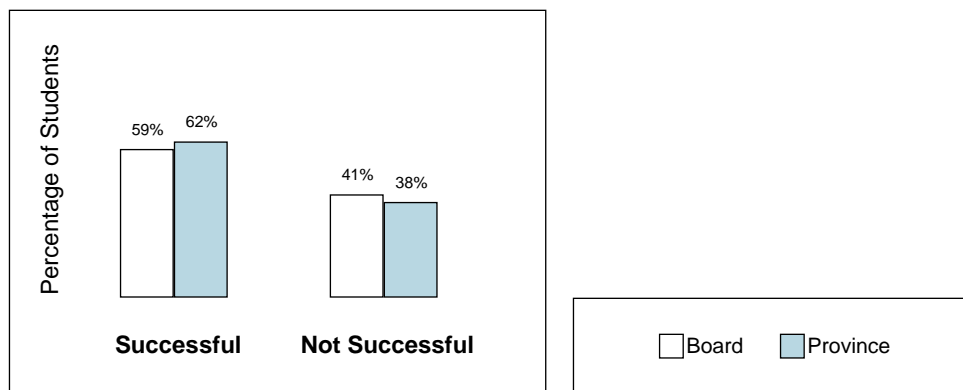
Results for Students Taking Applied English Course*†

Results for Students Taking Applied English Course First-Time Eligible Students					
	All			Fully Participating	
	Board # = 544	Province # = 38 834		Board # = 507	Province # = 35 515
Successful	298	55%	56%	59%	62%
Not Successful	209	38%	35%	41%	38%
Fully Participating	507	93%	91%		
Absent	15	3%	5%		
Deferred	22	4%	4%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students Taking Applied English Course



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students Taking Applied English Course



*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

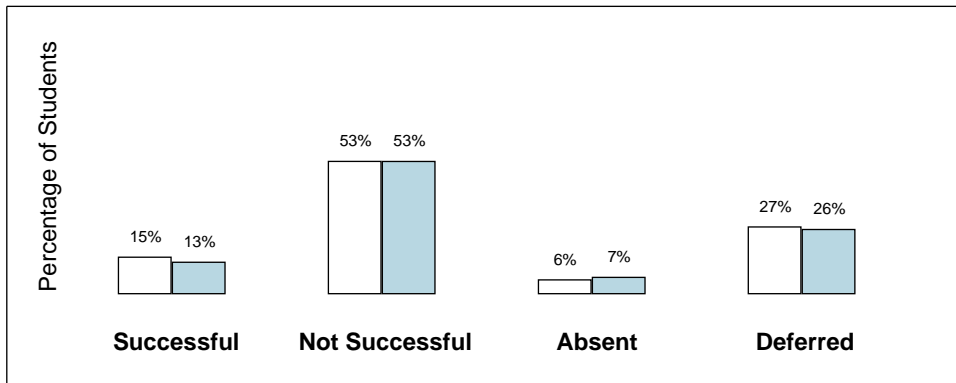
†Based on information regarding level of study in English provided by schools through the Student Data Collection process.

OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008

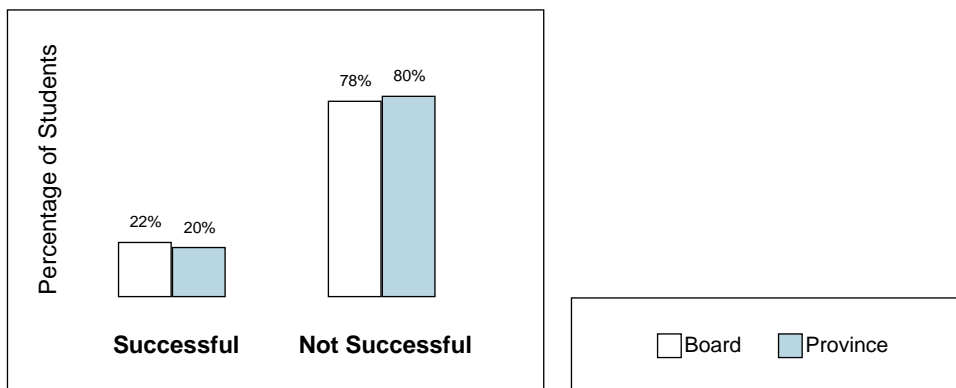
Results for Students Taking Locally Developed English Course*†

Results for Students Taking Locally Developed English Course First-Time Eligible Students					
	All			Fully Participating	
	Board # = 109	Province # = 5 838		Board # = 74	Province # = 3 905
Successful	16	15%	13%	22%	20%
Not Successful	58	53%	53%	78%	80%
Fully Participating	74	68%	67%		
Absent	6	6%	7%		
Deferred	29	27%	26%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students Taking Locally Developed English Course



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students Taking Locally Developed English Course



*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

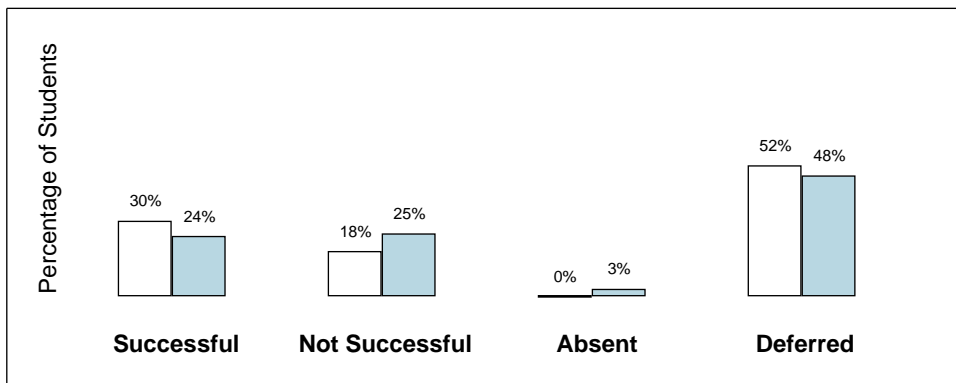
†Based on information regarding level of study in English provided by schools through the Student Data Collection process.

OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008

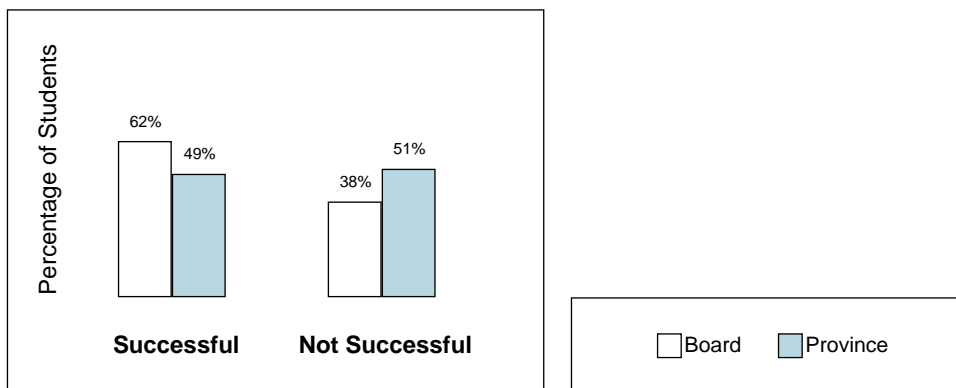
Results for Students Taking ESL/ELD Course*†

Results for Students Taking ESL/ELD Course First-Time Eligible Students					
	All			Fully Participating	
	Board # = 33	Province # = 4 283		Board # = 16	Province # = 2 114
Successful	10	30%	24%	62%	49%
Not Successful	6	18%	25%	38%	51%
Fully Participating	16	48%	49%		
Absent	0	0%	3%		
Deferred	17	52%	48%		

Results for All First-Time Eligible Students Taking ESL/ELD Course



Results for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students Taking ESL/ELD Course



*Percentages in tables and bar graphs may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

†Based on information regarding level of study in English provided by schools through the Student Data Collection process.

OSSLT Results over Time, October 2003–March 2008

Contextual Information for Board

This information provides a context for interpreting the board's results over the past five administrations.

	Oct. 2003	Oct. 2004	Mar. 2006	Mar. 2007	Mar. 2008
Enrolment					
Number of first-time eligible students	1 809	1 772	1 795	1 784	1 843
Number of schools with first-time eligible students	n/a	n/a	12	12	12
Number of students who were exempted	42	38	38	36	39
Participation in the Test					
Of all first-time eligible students, those who participated fully in the assessment	89%	90%	94%	91%	93%
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were absent	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Of all first-time eligible students, those who were deferred	10%	7%	5%	7%	5%
Gender[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students					
Female	48%	51%	48%	48%	48%
Male	50%	49%	52%	52%	52%
Gender not specified	1%	<1%	0%	0%	0%
Student Status[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students					
English language learners*	3% [‡]	2%	2%	3%	2%
English language learners receiving special provisions**	n/a	1%	2%	1%	1%
Students with special needs (excluding gifted)*	22%	18%	23%	23%	26%
Students with special needs receiving accommodations (excluding gifted)**	18%	18%	21%	20%	22%
Level of Study for English[†] Based on number of first-time eligible students					
Academic	61%	61%	62%	63%	61%
Applied	30%	30%	30%	28%	30%
Locally developed	6%	5%	5%	6%	6%
ESL/ELD	n/a	1%	2%	1%	2%
Other	n/a	n/a	n/a	2%	2%
Language^{††} Based on Student Questionnaire data					
Number of Respondents:	1 593	1 587	1 663	1 621	1 685
First language learned at home was other than English	5%	5%	8%	6%	6%
Speak only or mostly English at home	93%	93%	91%	92%	92%
Speak another language (or languages) as often as English at home	5%	4%	6%	5%	5%
Speak only or mostly another language (or other languages) at home	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%

[†] Demographic information is provided by schools and/or boards through the Student Data Collection process. Some data may be missing because they were not reported by schools.

* See Explanation of Terms.

** Percentages are based on fully participating students.

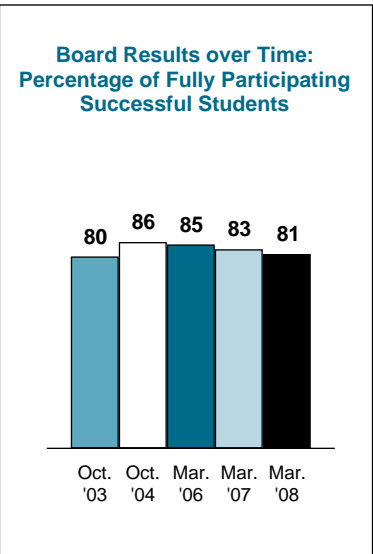
^{††} Demographic information pertaining to "language" is gathered from the Student Questionnaire completed by students. Some data may be missing because they were not provided by students.

[‡] The percentage of students in October 2003 may not be comparable with those of later years as the definition for the ESL/ELD group changed in 2004 from "students enrolled in an ESL/ELD program" to "students designated as ESL/ELD learners".

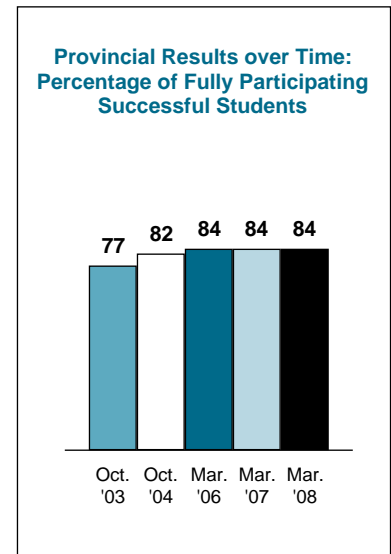
n/a Information not available.

OSSLT Results over Time, October 2003–March 2008

Board Results: All First-Time Eligible Students*										
	October 2003		October 2004		March 2006		March 2007		March 2008	
<i>Number of Students</i>	1 809		1 772		1 795		1 784		1 843	
Successful	1 282	71%	1 377	78%	1 428	80%	1 350	76%	1 393	76%
Not Successful	325	18%	225	13%	253	14%	276	15%	318	17%
Fully Participating	1 607	89%	1 602	90%	1 681	94%	1 626	91%	1 711	93%
Absent	22	1%	44	2%	29	2%	26	1%	38	2%
Deferred	180	10%	126	7%	85	5%	132	7%	94	5%
Fully Participating Successful	1 282	80%	1 377	86%	1 428	85%	1 350	83%	1 393	81%



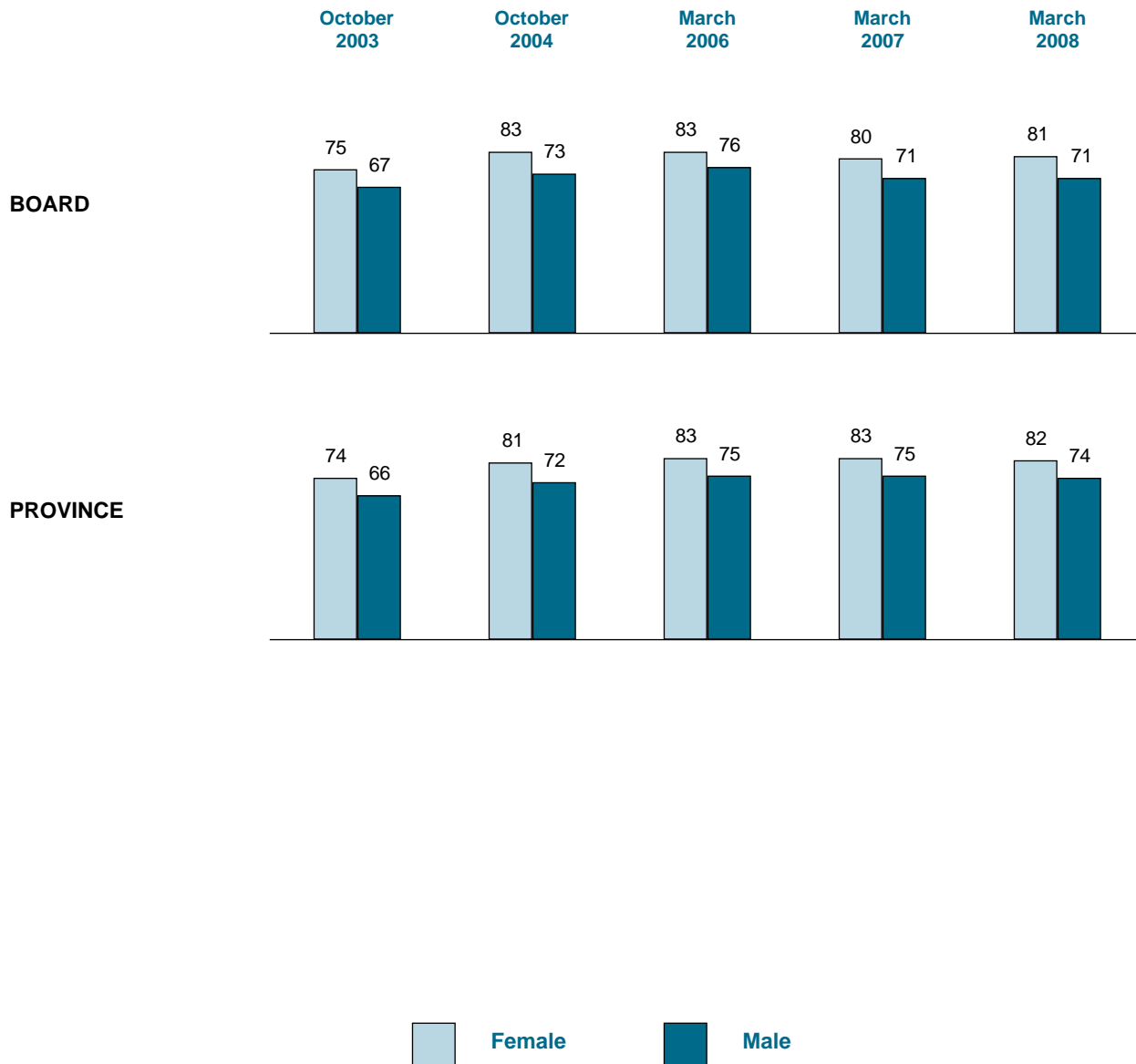
Provincial Results: All First-Time Eligible Students*										
	October 2003		October 2004		March 2006		March 2007		March 2008	
<i>Number of Students</i>	157 464		160 088		158 817		155 906		156 151	
Successful	109 609	70%	121 855	76%	125 830	79%	122 475	79%	122 324	78%
Not Successful	33 416	21%	25 926	16%	23 268	15%	23 698	15%	23 279	15%
Fully Participating	143 025	91%	147 781	92%	149 098	94%	146 173	94%	145 603	93%
Absent	6 612	4%	5 435	3%	4 715	3%	3 932	3%	4 357	3%
Deferred	7 827	5%	6 872	4%	5 004	3%	5 801	4%	6 191	4%
Fully Participating Successful	109 609	77%	121 855	82%	125 830	84%	122 475	84%	122 324	84%



* Percentages in tables may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS OVER TIME BY GENDER†

PERCENTAGE OF ALL FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO WERE SUCCESSFUL



Female Male

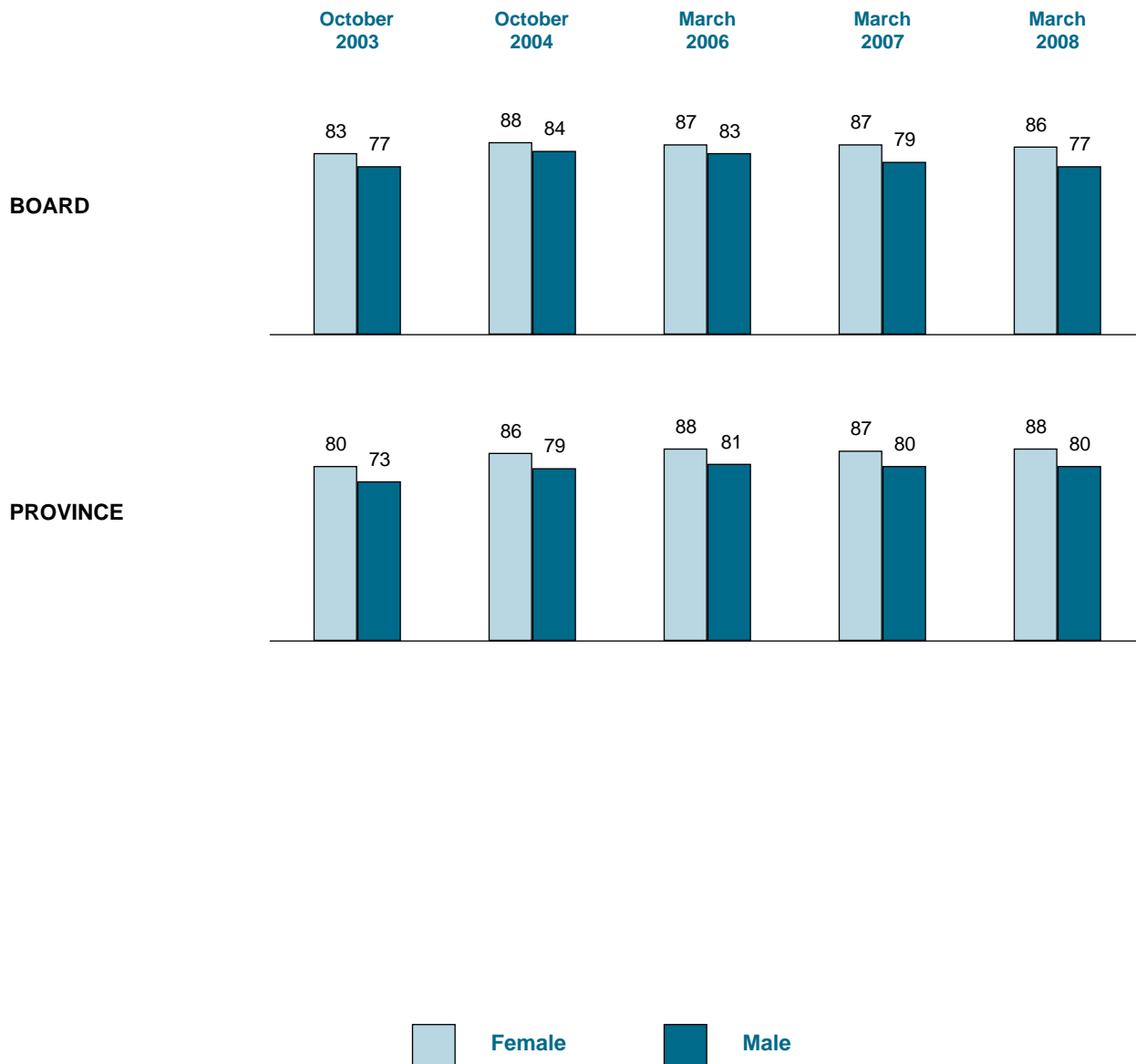
Number of First-Time Eligible Students†

	<u>October 2003</u>		<u>October 2004</u>		<u>March 2006</u>		<u>March 2007</u>		<u>March 2008</u>	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Board	877	905	906	864	867	928	849	935	892	951
Province	75 023	79 904	77 110	81 469	77 358	81 402	76 252	79 638	76 226	79 904

† Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS OVER TIME BY GENDER†

PERCENTAGE OF FULLY PARTICIPATING FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO WERE SUCCESSFUL

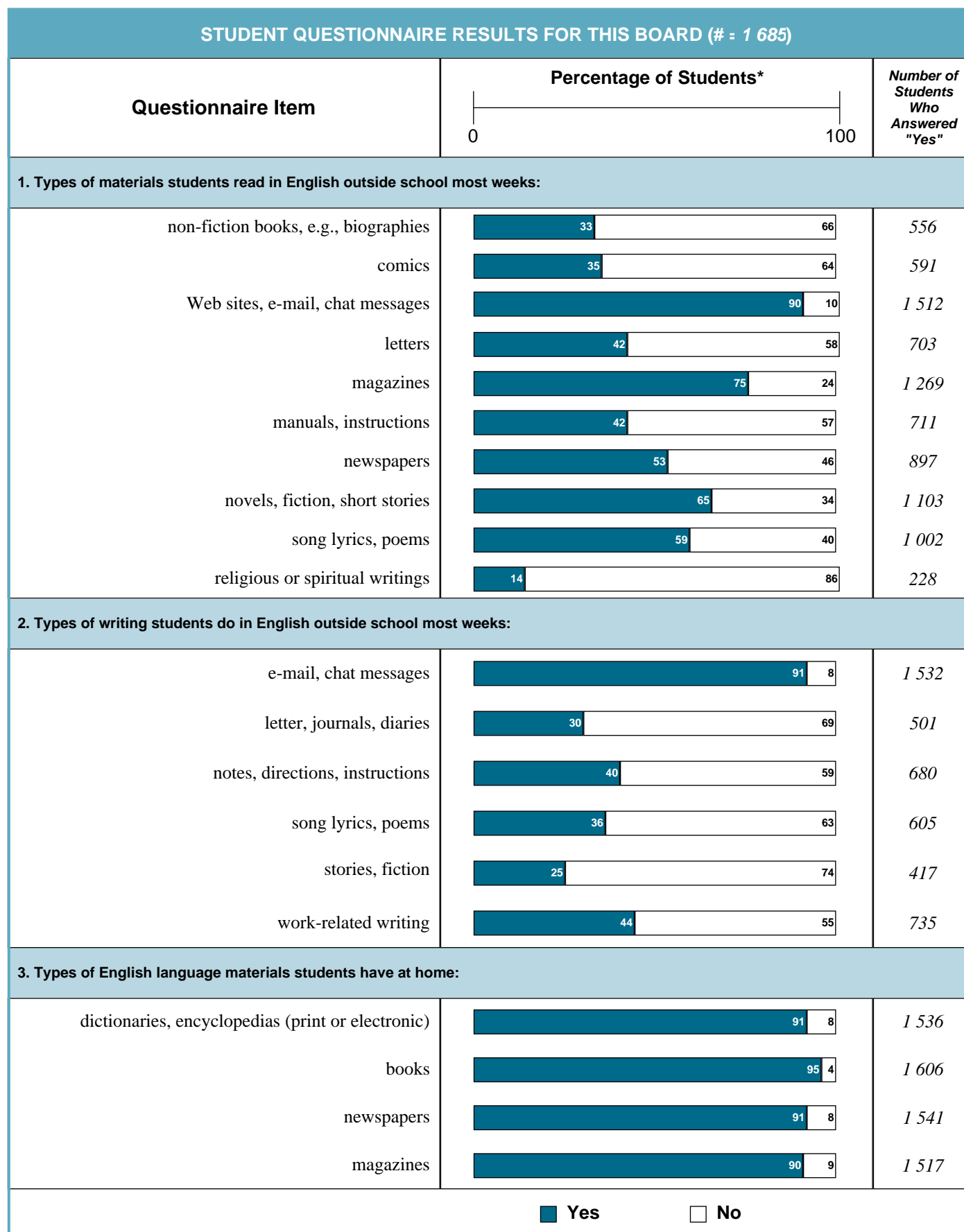


Number of Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students†

	<u>October 2003</u>		<u>October 2004</u>		<u>March 2006</u>		<u>March 2007</u>		<u>March 2008</u>	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Board	793	789	851	750	826	855	781	845	837	874
Province	69 529	71 961	72 296	74 659	73 081	75 966	72 031	74 129	71 615	73 969

† Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008



* Percentages may not add to 100, due to a lack of or ambiguous responses. Where there is no number in a box, the percentage of responses is smaller than 4.

OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008

STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS FOR THIS BOARD (# = 1 685)			
Questionnaire Item	Percentage of Students*		Number of Students
4. Number of hours a week students read materials written in English outside school, not including homework:			
one hour or less	28	468	
more than one hour but less than three hours	32	532	
more than three hours but less than five hours	21	350	
five hours or more	19	323	
5. Number of hours a week students write in English outside school, not including homework:			
one hour or less	40	671	
more than one hour but less than three hours	32	542	
more than three hours but less than five hours	15	245	
five hours or more	13	218	
6. How often students use a computer at home for homework:			
don't have a computer at home	3	55	
never or hardly ever use a computer for homework	14	237	
use a computer once or twice a month for homework	23	387	
use a computer once or twice a week for homework	38	633	
use a computer almost every day for homework	22	370	
7. First language students learned at home was English:			
yes	94	1 583	
no	6	102	
8. Language(s) students speak at home:			
only or mostly English	92	1 557	
another language (or languages) as often as English	5	87	
only or mostly another language (or other languages)	2	39	

* Percentages may not add to 100, due to a lack of or ambiguous responses.

OSSLT Results for First-Time Eligible Students, March 2008

STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS FOR BOARD AND PROVINCE (all students, female, male)	Board			Province		
	All (#= 1 685)	Female* (#= 827)	Male* (#= 858)	All (#= 143 535)	Female* (#= 70 815)	Male* (#= 72 701)
Percentage of students indicating that they						
have a computer at home.	97%	97%	96%	98%	98%	97%
use the computer almost every day for homework.	22%	26%	18%	30%	32%	28%
Percentage of students indicating that they read the following types of materials in English outside school most weeks:						
non-fiction books, e.g., biographies	33%	34%	32%	34%	34%	35%
comics	35%	31%	39%	36%	31%	41%
Web sites, e-mail, chat messages	90%	94%	85%	92%	95%	90%
letters	42%	46%	37%	41%	47%	36%
magazines	75%	87%	64%	73%	84%	63%
manuals, instructions	42%	33%	51%	43%	34%	52%
newspapers	53%	53%	53%	53%	51%	55%
novels, fiction, short stories	65%	76%	55%	67%	79%	55%
song lyrics, poems	59%	72%	48%	63%	76%	50%
religious or spiritual writings	14%	15%	12%	21%	23%	20%
Percentage of students indicating that they read materials written in English outside school, not including homework, for						
more than three hours a week.	40%	47%	33%	39%	45%	33%
Percentage of students indicating that they have the following English language materials at home:						
dictionaries, encyclopedias (print or electronic)	91%	93%	89%	92%	93%	90%
books	95%	97%	93%	94%	97%	92%
newspapers	91%	93%	90%	86%	87%	86%
magazines	90%	94%	87%	87%	91%	83%
Percentage of students indicating that they do the following types of writing in English outside school most weeks:						
e-mail, chat messages	91%	95%	87%	94%	96%	91%
letters, journals, diaries	30%	47%	13%	30%	46%	14%
notes, directions, instructions	40%	46%	35%	45%	49%	41%
song lyrics, poems	36%	45%	27%	37%	45%	30%
stories, fiction	25%	30%	20%	28%	32%	24%
work-related writing	44%	44%	43%	49%	49%	48%
Percentage of students indicating that they write in English outside school, not including homework, for						
more than three hours a week.	27%	33%	22%	30%	35%	26%
Percentage of students indicating that the first language they learned at home was						
other than English.	6%	6%	7%	22%	22%	21%
Percentage of students indicating that they speak the following language(s) at home:**						
only or mostly English	92%	93%	91%	77%	77%	77%
another language (or languages) as often as English	5%	4%	6%	16%	17%	15%
only or mostly another language (or other languages)	2%	2%	3%	7%	6%	7%

* Includes only students for whom gender data were available.

** Percentages may not add to 100, due to a lack of or ambiguous responses.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

First-Time Eligible Students	First-time eligible students typically entered Grade 9 during the 2006–2007 school year. These students (and any others who were placed in this cohort) were required to write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for the first time in March 2008. First-time eligible includes all students in the first-time eligible cohort who are working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).
Previously Eligible Students	Previously eligible includes all students who were not successful during a previous administration, or who were absent or deferred, and who were eligible to write the OSSLT in March 2008 (i.e., those working toward an OSSD).
All Eligible Students	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	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.
Successful	Students who fully participated in the OSSLT and received a score that met the expected standard.
Not Successful	Students who fully participated in the OSSLT and received a score that did not meet the expected standard.
Absent	Students are deemed to be absent if there is no work for one or both sessions of the administration.
Deferred	Students' participation in the OSSLT can be deferred under several circumstances, as outlined in EQAO's <i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i> . A student is categorized as deferred only if the school indicates a deferral. If a student completed any portion of the OSSLT, he or she is not categorized as deferred.
OSSLC	Students are placed in this category of reporting if the school indicated that the students would be fulfilling the literacy requirement through the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC). For details about the OSSLC, see the Ministry of Education Web site (www.edu.gov.on.ca). If a student completed any portion of the OSSLT, he or she is not categorized as OSSLC.
Exempted	Students can be exempted from the OSSLT only if they are not working toward an OSSD. A student is categorized as exempted only if the school indicates that the student is exempted. If a student completed any portion of the OSSLT, he or she is not categorized as exempted.
English Language Learners	These are students who have been identified by the school in accordance with <i>English Language Learners: ESL and ELD Programs and Services: Policies and Procedures for Ontario Elementary and Secondary Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12</i> (2007). English language learners were formerly called English as a second language (ESL)/English literacy development (ELD) learners.
English Language Learners Receiving Special Provisions	These are English language learners identified by the school as receiving special provisions. Detailed information about special provisions is available in EQAO's <i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i> .
Students with Special Needs (excluding gifted)	These are students who have been formally identified by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC), as well as students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students identified as gifted are not included.
Students with Special Needs Receiving Accommodations (excluding gifted)	These are students with special needs identified by the school as receiving test accommodations. Students identified as gifted are not included. Detailed information about accommodations is available in the Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 127 and in EQAO's <i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i> .
N/R	"Not reported" indicates that the number of students fully participating (fewer than 15 in a group) or responding to the Student Questionnaire (fewer than six in a group) is so small that identification of individual student results might be possible; therefore results are not reported.
N/D	"No data available" is used to indicate that there were no students in the group or year specified.