



St. Catherine School
Alberta Assurance Statement for the Superintendent
November 2024

Area	School	AB	Diff	Analysis
Student Learning & Engagement <i>The literacy and numeracy skills your child is learning at school are useful, and your child is learning what they need to know.</i>	88.9%	83.7%	+5.2	St. Catherine has traditionally been above the provincial average in this category, and that trend continues. The difference between the two has widened recently, however. St. Catherine is up an additional 2.7% from last year and 5.2% from our three year average. The three year average has also continued to climb over the last three reports, indicating that this improvement is part of a longer term trend. The year-to-year rise is small enough to fall within the “maintained” range, but the cumulative rise over the last few years is very encouraging.
Citizenship <i>Students at your child’s school: follow the rules; help each other when they can; respect each other; are encouraged at school to be involved in activities that help the community; and are encouraged at school to try their best</i>	85.6%	79.4%	+6.2	St. Catherine School continues to be well above the provincial average in Citizenship. Our Citizenship measure is down a bit from last year (small enough to still be in the “Maintained” range) but this year’s result is very close to our three year average. In the meantime, the provincial three year average has gone down 2%, meaning that St. Catherine’s results have risen relative to the province in recent years.
3-Year HS Completion <i>The % of students who graduate high school within 3 years of entering grade 10.</i>	n/a	80.4%	n/a	
5-Year HS Completion <i>The % of students who graduate high school within 5 years of entering grade 10.</i>	n/a	88.1%	n/a	
<u>6 PAT: Acceptable</u>	55.6%	68.5%	-12.9	St. Catherine’s results on this measure are significantly below the province’s results and also well below our own 3-Year average (76.2%). An interaction of two key factors appears to have contributed to this atypical result. First of all, unlike previous years, this year’s measure is based on only one exam: the Social Studies PAT. Interestingly, our grade 6 students also wrote the Science PAT which was not included in the AEAM report but for which school and province results were released. On that exam, our school result of 66.7% was very close to the provincial result of 68.8%. Analysis of the differences between our Social and Science results reveals a second key factor. On the Social exam, only 2 of our 7 English as Additional Language (EAL) students achieved the



				acceptable standard. This was not completely unexpected, since several of last year's grade 6 students immigrated recently and have limited English. On the Science PAT, however, 4 out of the 7 EAL students reached the acceptable standard. Our larger EAL population (41.% compared with the province's 21%) had a harder time on Social than they did on Science, and by basing the results solely on that Social exam, this year's AEAM report put a larger emphasis on that factor.
<u>6 PAT: Excellence</u>	16.7%	19.8%	-3.1	This result is within range of the provincial result and is up more than 2% from our three year average. Again, it is based on a small sample (the Social Studies PAT results of only 17 students). On the Science PAT, which was not included, 41% of St. Catherine grade 6 students met the Excellence standard (compared with 31% for Alberta). The exclusion of the Science PAT from the data this year obscures a surprisingly significant positive result.
<u>9 PAT: Acceptable</u>	75.0%	62.5%	+12.5	The St. Catherine grade 9 PAT measure of students achieving the acceptable standard was well above the provincial results and was also up significantly from the previous year. Our grade 9 results were above the province in all 4 subjects, with the greatest difference in English Language Arts where we were 21.8% above the province.
<u>9 PAT: Excellence</u>	8.7%	15.4%	-6.7	Our school results for Grade 9 PAT Excellence measure were below the province this year. We had just one student (4%) achieve the excellence standard in both Social and in ELA and three students (13%) achieve the standard in Math and in Science. The excellence results are below our three year averages in all four subjects, despite the strong results on the acceptable measure. Since this pattern is consistent across all subjects but is not part of any multi-year trend, it may be due to the nature and make-up of this individual class. We will be monitoring future results to see if it was an anomaly or the start of a trend that needs to be addressed.
<u>Diploma: Acceptable</u>	n/a	81.5%	n/a	
<u>Diploma: Excellence</u>	n/a	22.6%	n/a	
Education Quality <i>Your child: clearly understands what they are expected to learn at school; finds school work challenging; finds school work interesting; and is learning what they need to know. You are satisfied with the quality of</i>	91.0%	87.6%	+3.4	The Education Quality measure has remained relatively stable for St. Catherine School at around 91% since 2021, but the provincial results have dropped a few percentage points over that same period. As a result, St. Catherine's results have risen relative to the province in recent years.



education your child is receiving at school.				
Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, Safe and Caring Learning Environments <i>Students at your child's school: care about each other; respect each other; treat each other well. Teachers care about your child. Your child is safe at school and on the way to and from school and is treated fairly by adults at your school. Your child's school is a welcoming place to be.</i>	86.0%	84%	+2.0	St. Catherine's results for the Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, Safe and Caring Learning Environments (WCRSLE) measure were above the province this year. This difference was less than last year's advantage (+7.8), but was more in line with the previous two years (-0.1 and +1.0). There were significantly fewer parents and students surveyed for last year's measure because our enrollment had grown to the point at which only grades 4 and 7 were surveyed instead of all of grades 4-9. Nevertheless, our overall results remained in line with past results. Digging deeper into the data, we noticed consistent teacher and parent results, slightly higher elementary results, and a decline in junior high results. We will be monitoring this measure to ensure that that decline does not become a long term trend.
Access to Supports and Services <i>At school, there are appropriate supports and services available to your child to help with their learning. When your child needs it, teachers at your child's school are available to help them. You can get the support you need from the school to help your child be successful in their learning. Your child can easily access programs and services at school to get help with school work and can get help at school with problems that are not related to school work.</i>	84.2%	79.9%	+4.3	The results for the Access to Supports and Services measure for St. Catherine School were above the province for a second year in a row. This is encouraging because St. Catherine's results had trended below the province on this measure for several years prior to that.
Parental Involvement <i>To what extent are you involved in decisions about your child's education and decisions at your child's school? How satisfied or dissatisfied are you that your input into decisions at your child's school is considered and you have the opportunity to be involved in decisions about your child's education. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the opportunity to be involved in decisions and at your child's school.</i>	88.6%	79.5%	+9.1	Parental Involvement at St. Catherine's School is at its highest level in many years, and this measure is now well above the province. This measure took a dive at St. Catherine School during the covid pandemic, bottoming out at 58.4% in 2022. For the last two years, St. Catherine School has been 9% above the province and we are now well above our pre-covid results. This is not a surprise as we have seen a resurgence of School Council and Home and School Association participation and activity.



Summary Analysis of School Results

- St. Catherine School results on the AEA Survey continue to be above the province in all areas and the differences have increased on several measures in recent years. The measure that stands out in this regard is Parental Involvement which used to be well below the province a few years ago but is now well above. The Access to Supports and Services measure has also seen a significant increase relative to the provincial results in recent years.
- On last year's AEA, only our grade 4s and 7s were surveyed because our grade 4 to 9 enrollment had risen above 120 students; in previous years, all of the grades 4-9 students (and their parents) were surveyed. This means that we had a much smaller sample size last year and that the responses of a few individuals could sway the overall result to a greater extent. As such, dramatic swings are more likely and we should be cautious in interpreting year-to-year comparisons unless they are part of a longer-term trend. That said, most of our AEA results were in line with past results or showed slight improvement.
- One area that we will continue to watch is the Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, Safe and Caring Learning Environments measure. Although last year's result was still above the province, it was down slightly from the previous year and the junior high responses were lower than the parent, teacher, and elementary student responses. We have discussed this result as a staff and we will be looking at other sources of information to help us monitor how our junior high students are doing in this domain.
- Our PAT results were more of a mixed bag. The results on the Acceptable measure for Grade 9 was very positive, but the number reaching the Excellence range was lower than expected. In grade 6, the only results reported were the grade 6 Social Studies PAT, and our students were low on both the Acceptable and the Excellence measures on that exam. We did also receive the results for Grade 6 Science PAT where our students were similar to the provincial results on the Acceptable measure and above the province on the Excellence measure, but unfortunately those results were not included in last year's AEAM report.
- Because of our small class sizes, St. Catherine PAT results can vary considerably from year to year due to significant differences in the size and composition of each grade. In addition, we have a higher number of English as Additional Language (EAL) students than the provincial average, and in some grades, many of those students are newcomers with limited English. This seems to have had an impact on last year's grade 6 PAT results. We continue to work on strategies to support these students as much as possible. We also try to look beyond that yearly variation to see if there are other trends that emerge which also require attention. For example, we will continue to watch the Excellence measure to ensure that this year's lower results do not develop into a longer term trend. In the meantime, teachers are already working on strategies to bring as many students up to the Excellence standard as possible.