



NEWS RELEASE

October 5, 2011

Livingstone Range School Division Student Results Released

Each year Alberta students write the Alberta Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams. Grade 3 students write tests in Language Arts and Mathematics; Grade 6 and 9 students write tests in four areas - Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Grade 12 students write Diploma Exams in 10 core courses.

Achievement Tests and Diploma Exam results help teachers and schools to plan instruction, improve learning, inform Albertans about student achievement and, over time, show trends within the province and jurisdiction. Results are reported in two ways: the 'acceptable standard' - students passing the exam; and the 'standard of excellence' - students who achieve 80% or greater. In reporting success, the percentage of students achieving the 'acceptable standard' includes the percentage of students achieving the 'standard of excellence.'

Dick Peterson, Board Chairperson said, "There is a lot to celebrate in the Diploma Exam results for LRSD students". He noted that the Board was pleased with the considerable improvement in Physics 30, Biology 30 and Science 30 over last year's results. Further student results demonstrated a three year high in English 30-1, English 30-2, Applied Math 30, Physics 30 and a five year high in Biology 30. Peterson added, "Though there is much to celebrate in the Grade 12 diploma results, the grade 9 PAT results are an area in which we must continue to put effort into in order to improve".

Of the 10 Diploma Exams that were written in the 2010-2011 school year, LRSD students performed above the Provincial average in attaining the acceptable standard, as defined by Alberta Education, in 8 of 10 exams.

Of particular note is LRSD student performance at the acceptable standard in the following courses:

- ⇒ 88% met the acceptable standard in English 30-1
- ⇒ 89% met the acceptable standard in English 30-2
- ⇒ 84% met the acceptable standard in Pure Math 30
- ⇒ 81% met the acceptable standard in Applied Math 30
- ⇒ 89% met the acceptable standard in Biology 30
- ⇒ 78% met the acceptable standard in Physics 30
- ⇒ 87% met the acceptable standard in Social Studies 30-1
- ⇒ 87% met the acceptable standard in Social Studies 30-2

Additionally, LRSD student performance at the standard of excellence (80% or more), in the following courses:

- ⇒ 31% met the standard of excellence in Biology 30
- ⇒ 21% met the standard of excellence in Pure Math 30
- ⇒ 26% met the standard of excellence in Physics 30
- ⇒ 30% met the standard of excellence in Science 30

Provincial Achievement Test Results

In Livingstone Range School Division, in accordance with our assessment procedure and practice, Provincial Achievement Tests are one of many measures of a student's overall performance. On-going classroom assessments are used to measure student performance within given school curriculum.

Overall, Livingstone Range elementary (grades 3 and 6) students have maintained consistent results.

- ⇒ At Grade 3, students continue to perform at the provincial level in Language Arts,
- ⇒ At the Grade 6 level, students performed at the acceptable standard in 3 of 4 achievement tests (Language Arts, Social Studies and Science). In Science and Language Arts, student performance reached a five year high.
- ⇒ New mathematics curricula were implemented in 2009-2010. With one year of data available, students are performing slightly below provincial average in both grades 3 and 6.

At Grade 9, our student performance is a concern. In all four provincial exams students performed below expectations and the provincial acceptable level. A thorough analysis of both jurisdictional and school data is underway to determine areas of strength and areas of need along with required support.

“Each year school staff examine data from the Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams and use it to help identify areas of celebration and areas for improvement,” said Ellie Elliott, Superintendent of Schools. “Schools will dig deeper into the data and include strategies to address areas of growth.”

Livingstone Range School Division #68 has 15 schools and 12 Hutterite colony schools in southwestern Alberta. The division office is located in Claresholm, Alberta.

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