



Creating Futures

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News Release

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South Slave Students Achieving Positive Test Results for 2005 *Results Reinforce South Slave Schools Providing Quality Education for Students*

Fort Smith, NT – A higher percentage of South Slave students met or exceeded the Alberta standard on the 2005 Alberta Achievement Tests than in previous years. This year's achievement test results show that South Slave schools are offering a quality education program as the majority of South Slave students are meeting or exceeding Alberta and national standards in language arts and math.

This year's results highlight a significant increase in grades 3 & 6 language arts and math scores, as illustrated by grade 3 language arts results where 66% of students met Alberta's standard, and grade 3 math results where 67% of students met the standard. Curtis Brown, Superintendent of the South Slave Divisional Education Council notes, "I am convinced that South Slave DEAs and schools are on the right track and are providing a quality education to South Slave students, evidently producing students capable of meeting and exceeding the Alberta standards."*

Although this year's results are encouraging, the Council recognizes the continued need for ongoing improvement. "Our Council's commitment to school improvement and student success is steadfast. We are learning from the results and adjusting our priorities and practices in our region, schools and classrooms. We have been implementing a structured Balanced Literacy program in most of our primary classrooms as a means to improve instruction and learning. We have also begun the expansion of the SSDEC Literacy Project to include a focus on numeracy in order to improve math achievement," comments Brown.

Although standardized tests are an instructive tool, Brown observes that many important learning outcomes cannot be measured by time limited paper and pencil tests alone. He notes, "Ongoing classroom based assessment gives us much more valuable information than a snapshot-in-time standardized test. We must strive to ensure that improving student achievement is not limited to just these test results. Student success in school and in life remains the shared responsibility of parents, teachers, administrators, education authorities, and the students themselves."

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* Alberta literacy standards and results are ranked the highest not only in Canada, but in the world. 2004 Canadian Education Association (CEA) Policy Brief, The Promise and Problem of Literacy for Canada: An Agenda for Action, p5.