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2008 Report Card for Edmonton Catholic Schools

The 2008 Provincial Achievement Test results and the 2008 Diploma Examination results were released this morning at a special public Board meeting.

Annually, the provincial government also releases an ‘Accountability Pillar,’ which is a summary of a District’s overall performance and in the 2007/08 school year, the provincial government did not identify any areas for improvement in the Edmonton Catholic School District.

Provincial Achievement Tests

Students in Grades 3, 6 and 9 who achieved the acceptable standard exceeded the provincial percentage of students in all subjects in all grades and in 12 out of 12 standards! In addition, students achieving the standard of excellence exceeded or met the provincial percentage in 10 out of 12 standards.

“We are extremely pleased with our Provincial Achievement Test results as they show continued growth for our students and reflect the hard work that takes place in the classroom,” said Board Chairperson Debbie Engel.

Diploma Examination Results

The 2008 Diploma Examination Results show that Edmonton Catholic Schools improved in 15 out of 22 standards as compared with last year. There was also continued strength in the Humanities (English and Social Studies) and that strength has continued over the past five years.

For the past three years, however, Diploma Examination marks and Diploma Final Course marks have been slightly lower, in both the acceptable standard and standard of excellence, in all diploma math and science courses. Although the gap between District and Provincial Diploma results in Math and Science has narrowed, we are continuing to work on strategies to improve our Math and Science Diploma results. These include:

- **Targeted School Focus:** Schools where examination results are below expectations have been targeted for support.
- **Staff Recruitment:** new and promising secondary Math and Science teachers will be recruited to continue our strong teaching focus.
- **Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) Projects:** Two AISI projects were created in 2007. The first project, Pathways to Learning through Formative Assessment, focuses on improving grade 7 to 12 student learning and achievement in math and science. The results provide District consultants with the tools to identify areas for growth. The second project, Students in Transition Supports, identifies students who do not successfully make the transition from junior to senior high school and also those non-completers who are transitioning into 4th and 5th year senior high school programs

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“When students are surrounded by the supports they need, they will succeed,” said Joan Carr, Superintendent of Edmonton Catholic Schools. “We are committed to helping students achieve to the best of their ability,” Joan Carr went on to say.