

**Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)  
October 2002  
Provincial Results  
Previously Eligible Students**

|                                                                                                  | <u>Number</u> | <u>Percent<sup>1</sup></u> |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
|                                                                                                  |               | <u>Method 1</u>            | <u>Method 2</u> |
| Number of Previously Eligible Students Required to Pass One or Both Components of the OSSLT      | 37 592        | N/A                        | N/A             |
| Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing                                                        | 17 075        | 46%                        | 51%             |
| <b>Passed Both Reading and Writing</b>                                                           | <b>5 645</b>  | <b>15%</b>                 | <b>17%</b>      |
| <b>Passed Reading Only</b>                                                                       | <b>1 035</b>  | <b>3%</b>                  | <b>3%</b>       |
| <b>Passed Writing Only</b>                                                                       | <b>4 714</b>  | <b>13%</b>                 | <b>14%</b>      |
| <b>Did Not Pass Reading or Writing</b>                                                           | <b>5 681</b>  | <b>15%</b>                 | <b>17%</b>      |
| Required to Pass Reading Only                                                                    | 10 385        | 28%                        | 31%             |
| <b>Passed Reading</b>                                                                            | <b>5 310</b>  | <b>14%</b>                 | <b>16%</b>      |
| <b>Did Not Pass Reading</b>                                                                      | <b>5 075</b>  | <b>14%</b>                 | <b>15%</b>      |
| Required to Pass Writing Only                                                                    | 5 848         | 16%                        | 18%             |
| <b>Passed Writing</b>                                                                            | <b>5 072</b>  | <b>14%</b>                 | <b>15%</b>      |
| <b>Did Not Pass Writing</b>                                                                      | <b>776</b>    | <b>2%</b>                  | <b>2%</b>       |
| Number Fully Participating in the OSSLT                                                          | 33 308        | 89%                        | 100%            |
| Absent One or Both Days                                                                          | 2 203         | 6%                         |                 |
| Deferred                                                                                         | 1 731         | 5%                         |                 |
| Total Previously Eligible Students<br>(those working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma) | 37 242        | 100%                       |                 |
| Exempt                                                                                           | 350           |                            |                 |

<sup>1</sup>Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

## Explanation of Terms and Categories

**Previously Eligible** students entered Grade 9 during the 2000-2001 school year. These students (and any others who were placed in this cohort) were required to write the OSSLT for the first time in February 2002. Students who were not successful in February 2002 or were absent or deferred became eligible again to write the OSSLT in October 2002. To meet the requirements of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma students must successfully complete both the reading component and the writing component. Schools are responsible for indicating which component(s) the student still requires in order to complete the OSSLT successfully.

**First-Time Eligible** students entered Grade 9 during the 2001-2002 school year. These students (and any others who were placed in this cohort) were required to write the OSSLT for the first time in October 2002.

These groups are reported separately to allow schools to compare cohorts from year to year. Tracking cohorts in this way also enables schools to assess the effectiveness of literacy programs and other strategies for remediation.

**Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing:** Students participated fully in the OSSLT and were required to pass both the reading and writing components. Students are reported in one of the four following subcategories:

- Passed Both Reading and Writing
- Passed Reading Only
- Passed Writing Only
- Did Not Pass Reading or Writing

**Required to Pass Reading Only:** Students participated in the OSSLT and were required to pass the reading component only. Students are reported in one of the two following subcategories:

- Passed Reading
- Did Not Pass Reading

**Required to Pass Writing Only:** Students participated in the OSSLT and were required to pass the writing component only. Students are reported in one of the two following subcategories:

- Passed Writing
- Did Not Pass Writing

**Number Fully Participating in the OSSLT:** Students are designated as having fully participated if they were present on both days of the administration. A student is considered to be present for a day's testing if there was work completed in at least one of the two booklets administered on that day, or if the student is reported as present on the Student Tracking Sheet (STS).

**Absent One or Both Days:** Students who were absent on either day are included in this category. Note that a student is not considered absent from a day's testing if there was work completed in at least one of the two booklets administered on that day, or if the student is reported as present on the STS.

**Deferred:** Students can be deferred under several circumstances, as outlined in EQAO's *Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions*. A student is categorized as deferred only if the Student Information Form (SIF) indicates a deferral and there is no work in any of the student's test booklets. If a student completed any portion of the OSSLT, he or she is not categorized as deferred. If the SIF indicates that a student is both exempt and deferred, the student is categorized as deferred.

**Total Previously Eligible Students:** All students in the cohort who are working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) are referred to as eligible students. This category includes all participating students as well as those categorized as deferred or absent; it does not include exempt students.

**Exempt:** Students can be exempted from the OSSLT if they are not working toward an OSSD. A student is categorized as exempt only if the SIF indicates that the student is exempt and there is no work in any of the test booklets. Note that if a student completed any portion of the OSSLT, he or she is not categorized as exempt.

**Method 1:** This method provides a percentage breakdown of all students in the cohort who are working toward an OSSD. The only students excluded from the percentages in Method 1 are those who were not working toward an OSSD and were, therefore, exempted.

**Method 2:** This method provides a percentage breakdown of those students who fully participated in the OSSLT. Students are considered to have fully participated if they were present on both days of the administration.

### **Protection of Personal Information**

To protect against the disclosure of personal information associated with individual student results, a series of suppression rules are implemented for the public release of OSSLT results. Statistics have been suppressed where the number of respondents is so low that individual results could be determined from the aggregate value.

**Percentages are rounded to the nearest even integer. Percentages of less than 0.5% are shown as <1%.**

### Provincial Results for Previously Eligible Students (Method 1)

|                                                  | Provincial Results<br>(#=37 242) |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing</b> | 46%                              |
| <b>Passed Both Reading and Writing</b>           | 15%                              |
| <b>Passed Reading Only</b>                       | 3%                               |
| <b>Passed Writing Only</b>                       | 13%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Reading or Writing</b>           | 15%                              |
| <b>Required to Pass Reading Only</b>             | 28%                              |
| <b>Passed Reading</b>                            | 14%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Reading</b>                      | 14%                              |
| <b>Required to Pass Writing Only</b>             | 16%                              |
| <b>Passed Writing</b>                            | 14%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Writing</b>                      | 2%                               |
| <b>Absent One or Both Days</b>                   | 6%                               |
| <b>Deferred</b>                                  | 5%                               |

### Provincial Results for Previously Eligible Students (Method 2)

|                                                  | Provincial Results<br>(#=33 308) |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing</b> | 51%                              |
| <b>Passed Both Reading and Writing</b>           | 17%                              |
| <b>Passed Reading Only</b>                       | 3%                               |
| <b>Passed Writing Only</b>                       | 14%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Reading or Writing</b>           | 17%                              |
| <b>Required to Pass Reading Only</b>             | 31%                              |
| <b>Passed Reading</b>                            | 16%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Reading</b>                      | 15%                              |
| <b>Required to Pass Writing Only</b>             | 18%                              |
| <b>Passed Writing</b>                            | 15%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Writing</b>                      | 2%                               |

### Results for Previously Eligible Students - Gender<sup>2</sup> (Method 1)

|                                           | Provincial Results    |                     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
|                                           | Females<br>(#=14 776) | Males<br>(#=21 989) |
| Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing | 45%                   | 46%                 |
| Passed Both Reading and Writing           | 16%                   | 15%                 |
| Passed Reading Only                       | 2%                    | 3%                  |
| Passed Writing Only                       | 13%                   | 12%                 |
| Did Not Pass Reading or Writing           | 14%                   | 16%                 |
| Required to Pass Reading Only             | 31%                   | 26%                 |
| Passed Reading                            | 15%                   | 14%                 |
| Did Not Pass Reading                      | 16%                   | 12%                 |
| Required to Pass Writing Only             | 14%                   | 17%                 |
| Passed Writing                            | 12%                   | 15%                 |
| Did Not Pass Writing                      | 2%                    | 2%                  |
| Absent One or Both Days                   | 6%                    | 6%                  |
| Deferred                                  | 4%                    | 5%                  |

### Results for Previously Eligible Students - Gender<sup>2</sup> (Method 2)

|                                           | Provincial Results    |                     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
|                                           | Females<br>(#=13 318) | Males<br>(#=19 602) |
| Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing | 50%                   | 52%                 |
| Passed Both Reading and Writing           | 18%                   | 16%                 |
| Passed Reading Only                       | 2%                    | 4%                  |
| Passed Writing Only                       | 15%                   | 14%                 |
| Did Not Pass Reading or Writing           | 15%                   | 18%                 |
| Required to Pass Reading Only             | 35%                   | 29%                 |
| Passed Reading                            | 17%                   | 15%                 |
| Did Not Pass Reading                      | 18%                   | 13%                 |
| Required to Pass Writing Only             | 15%                   | 19%                 |
| Passed Writing                            | 13%                   | 17%                 |
| Did Not Pass Writing                      | 2%                    | 3%                  |

<sup>2</sup> Results for gender are based upon students for whom gender data were available.

## Results for Previously Eligible Students - English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development (Method 1)

|                                           | Provincial Results         |                                     |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                           | In<br>ESL/ELD<br>(#=1 935) | All Other<br>Students<br>(#=35 307) |
| Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing | 53%                        | 45%                                 |
| Passed Both Reading and Writing           | 13%                        | 15%                                 |
| Passed Reading Only                       | 2%                         | 3%                                  |
| Passed Writing Only                       | 18%                        | 12%                                 |
| Did Not Pass Reading or Writing           | 20%                        | 15%                                 |
| Required to Pass Reading Only             | 10%                        | 29%                                 |
| Passed Reading                            | 5%                         | 15%                                 |
| Did Not Pass Reading                      | 5%                         | 14%                                 |
| Required to Pass Writing Only             | 1%                         | 16%                                 |
| Passed Writing                            | -                          | 14%                                 |
| Did Not Pass Writing                      | -                          | 2%                                  |
| Absent One or Both Days                   | 3%                         | 6%                                  |
| Deferred                                  | 34%                        | 3%                                  |

## Results for Previously Eligible Students - English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development (Method 2)

|                                           | Provincial Results         |                                     |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                           | In<br>ESL/ELD<br>(#=1 233) | All Other<br>Students<br>(#=32 075) |
| Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing | 83%                        | 50%                                 |
| Passed Both Reading and Writing           | 21%                        | 17%                                 |
| Passed Reading Only                       | 3%                         | 3%                                  |
| Passed Writing Only                       | 28%                        | 14%                                 |
| Did Not Pass Reading or Writing           | 31%                        | 17%                                 |
| Required to Pass Reading Only             | 15%                        | 32%                                 |
| Passed Reading                            | 7%                         | 16%                                 |
| Did Not Pass Reading                      | 8%                         | 16%                                 |
| Required to Pass Writing Only             | 2%                         | 18%                                 |
| Passed Writing                            | -                          | 16%                                 |
| Did Not Pass Writing                      | -                          | 2%                                  |

### Results for Previously Eligible Students - Students with Special Needs<sup>3</sup> (including Gifted) (Method 1)

|                                                  | Provincial Results          |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                                  | Special Needs<br>(#=10 817) | All Other Students<br>(#=26 425) |
| <b>Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing</b> | 52%                         | 43%                              |
| <b>Passed Both Reading and Writing</b>           | 12%                         | 16%                              |
| <b>Passed Reading Only</b>                       | 3%                          | 3%                               |
| <b>Passed Writing Only</b>                       | 15%                         | 12%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Reading or Writing</b>           | 22%                         | 12%                              |
| <b>Required to Pass Reading Only</b>             | 27%                         | 28%                              |
| <b>Passed Reading</b>                            | 12%                         | 15%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Reading</b>                      | 16%                         | 13%                              |
| <b>Required to Pass Writing Only</b>             | 9%                          | 19%                              |
| <b>Passed Writing</b>                            | 7%                          | 16%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Writing</b>                      | 1%                          | 2%                               |
| <b>Absent One or Both Days</b>                   | 5%                          | 6%                               |
| <b>Deferred</b>                                  | 6%                          | 4%                               |

### Results for Previously Eligible Students - Students with Special Needs<sup>3</sup> (including Gifted) (Method 2)

|                                                  | Provincial Results         |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                                  | Special Needs<br>(#=9 577) | All Other Students<br>(#=23 731) |
| <b>Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing</b> | 59%                        | 48%                              |
| <b>Passed Both Reading and Writing</b>           | 14%                        | 18%                              |
| <b>Passed Reading Only</b>                       | 3%                         | 3%                               |
| <b>Passed Writing Only</b>                       | 17%                        | 13%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Reading or Writing</b>           | 25%                        | 14%                              |
| <b>Required to Pass Reading Only</b>             | 31%                        | 31%                              |
| <b>Passed Reading</b>                            | 13%                        | 17%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Reading</b>                      | 18%                        | 14%                              |
| <b>Required to Pass Writing Only</b>             | 10%                        | 21%                              |
| <b>Passed Writing</b>                            | 8%                         | 18%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Writing</b>                      | 2%                         | 3%                               |

<sup>3</sup>Students with special needs are students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP), who may or may not have been identified as “exceptional pupils” by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC), and are receiving special education programs and services (Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 127).

### Results for Previously Eligible Students - Students with Special Needs<sup>3</sup> (excluding Gifted) (Method 1)

|                                                  | Provincial Results          |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                                  | Special Needs<br>(#=10 769) | All Other Students<br>(#=26 473) |
| <b>Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing</b> | 52%                         | 43%                              |
| <b>Passed Both Reading and Writing</b>           | 12%                         | 16%                              |
| <b>Passed Reading Only</b>                       | 3%                          | 3%                               |
| <b>Passed Writing Only</b>                       | 15%                         | 12%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Reading or Writing</b>           | 22%                         | 12%                              |
| <b>Required to Pass Reading Only</b>             | 27%                         | 28%                              |
| <b>Passed Reading</b>                            | 12%                         | 15%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Reading</b>                      | 16%                         | 13%                              |
| <b>Required to Pass Writing Only</b>             | 9%                          | 18%                              |
| <b>Passed Writing</b>                            | 7%                          | 16%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Writing</b>                      | 2%                          | 2%                               |
| <b>Absent One or Both Days</b>                   | 5%                          | 6%                               |
| <b>Deferred</b>                                  | 6%                          | 4%                               |

### Results for Previously Eligible Students - Students with Special Needs<sup>3</sup> (excluding Gifted) (Method 2)

|                                                  | Provincial Results         |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                                  | Special Needs<br>(#=9 531) | All Other Students<br>(#=23 777) |
| <b>Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing</b> | 59%                        | 48%                              |
| <b>Passed Both Reading and Writing</b>           | 13%                        | 18%                              |
| <b>Passed Reading Only</b>                       | 3%                         | 3%                               |
| <b>Passed Writing Only</b>                       | 17%                        | 13%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Reading or Writing</b>           | 25%                        | 14%                              |
| <b>Required to Pass Reading Only</b>             | 31%                        | 31%                              |
| <b>Passed Reading</b>                            | 13%                        | 17%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Reading</b>                      | 18%                        | 14%                              |
| <b>Required to Pass Writing Only</b>             | 10%                        | 21%                              |
| <b>Passed Writing</b>                            | 8%                         | 18%                              |
| <b>Did Not Pass Writing</b>                      | 2%                         | 3%                               |

<sup>3</sup>Students with special needs are students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP), who may or may not have been identified as “exceptional pupils” by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC), and are receiving special education programs and services (Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 127).



### Results for Previously Eligible Students - Students Receiving Accommodations<sup>4</sup> (excluding gifted) (Method 1)

|                                           | Provincial Results                             |                                                       |                                     |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                           | Receiving<br>Accomm.,<br>IEP Only<br>(#=1 916) | Receiving<br>Accomm.,<br>IEP and<br>IPRC<br>(#=7 079) | All Other<br>Students<br>(#=27 836) |
| Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing | 53%                                            | 56%                                                   | 43%                                 |
| Passed Both Reading and Writing           | 17%                                            | 12%                                                   | 16%                                 |
| Passed Reading Only                       | 3%                                             | 3%                                                    | 3%                                  |
| Passed Writing Only                       | 16%                                            | 17%                                                   | 11%                                 |
| Did Not Pass Reading or Writing           | 17%                                            | 24%                                                   | 13%                                 |
| Required to Pass Reading Only             | 31%                                            | 30%                                                   | 27%                                 |
| Passed Reading                            | 16%                                            | 12%                                                   | 15%                                 |
| Did Not Pass Reading                      | 16%                                            | 18%                                                   | 13%                                 |
| Required to Pass Writing Only             | 12%                                            | 9%                                                    | 18%                                 |
| Passed Writing                            | 11%                                            | 7%                                                    | 16%                                 |
| Did Not Pass Writing                      | 2%                                             | 2%                                                    | 2%                                  |
| Absent One or Both Days                   | 4%                                             | 5%                                                    | 6%                                  |
| Deferred                                  | <1%                                            | <1%                                                   | 6%                                  |

### Results for Previously Eligible Students - Students Receiving Accommodations<sup>4</sup> (excluding gifted) (Method 2)

|                                           | Provincial Results                             |                                                       |                                     |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                           | Receiving<br>Accomm.,<br>IEP Only<br>(#=1 838) | Receiving<br>Accomm.,<br>IEP and<br>IPRC<br>(#=6 690) | All Other<br>Students<br>(#=24 427) |
| Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing | 55%                                            | 59%                                                   | 49%                                 |
| Passed Both Reading and Writing           | 18%                                            | 13%                                                   | 18%                                 |
| Passed Reading Only                       | 3%                                             | 3%                                                    | 3%                                  |
| Passed Writing Only                       | 16%                                            | 18%                                                   | 13%                                 |
| Did Not Pass Reading or Writing           | 18%                                            | 26%                                                   | 15%                                 |
| Required to Pass Reading Only             | 32%                                            | 31%                                                   | 31%                                 |
| Passed Reading                            | 16%                                            | 13%                                                   | 17%                                 |
| Did Not Pass Reading                      | 16%                                            | 19%                                                   | 14%                                 |
| Required to Pass Writing Only             | 13%                                            | 9%                                                    | 20%                                 |
| Passed Writing                            | 11%                                            | 8%                                                    | 18%                                 |
| Did Not Pass Writing                      | 2%                                             | 2%                                                    | 3%                                  |

<sup>4</sup>“Students Receiving Accommodations” are students with an IEP, who may or may not have been identified as “exceptional pupils” by an IPRC. Detailed information about accommodations is available in the Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 127 and in the EQAO *Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions*.

### Gender Breakdown of Non-Exempted Previously Eligible Students

|             | Province |     |
|-------------|----------|-----|
|             | Number   | %   |
| Female      | 14 776   | 40% |
| Male        | 21 989   | 59% |
| Unspecified | 477      | 1%  |

### Contextual Information from the Student Questionnaire<sup>5</sup> for Previously Eligible Students

#### Response Rates

| Eligible Students | Province                 |               |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
|                   | Completed Questionnaires | Response Rate |
| 37 242            | 34 844                   | 94%           |

#### Student Computer Use, Language and Background

| Percentage of previously eligible students indicating that   | Province              |                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
|                                                              | Females<br>(#=13 969) | Males<br>(#=20 465) |
| they have a computer in their home.                          | 84%                   | 82%                 |
| English is the first language that they learned in the home. | 67%                   | 70%                 |
| English is the language spoken most frequently in the home.  | 65%                   | 67%                 |
| they were born outside Canada.                               | 29%                   | 26%                 |

<sup>5</sup>Note: Percentages in the following tables are based on the total number of students who completed a questionnaire.

## Reading and Writing Outside School

| Percentage of previously eligible students indicating that                                     | Province              |                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
|                                                                                                | Females<br>(#=13 969) | Males<br>(#=20 465) |
| they read in English outside school for three or more hours in a week (not counting homework). | 26%                   | 24%                 |
| they read the following kinds of material outside school most weeks:                           |                       |                     |
| • biographies or other non-fiction books                                                       | 20%                   | 15%                 |
| • comics                                                                                       | 22%                   | 31%                 |
| • Internet material                                                                            | 69%                   | 63%                 |
| • letters                                                                                      | 53%                   | 23%                 |
| • magazines                                                                                    | 79%                   | 64%                 |
| • manuals, instructions                                                                        | 11%                   | 24%                 |
| • newspapers                                                                                   | 47%                   | 49%                 |
| • novels, fiction, short stories                                                               | 51%                   | 28%                 |
| • poetry, song lyrics                                                                          | 48%                   | 24%                 |
| • religious or spiritual readings                                                              | 14%                   | 10%                 |
| they write in English outside school for three or more hours a week (not counting homework).   | 28%                   | 23%                 |
| they do the following types of writing outside school most weeks:                              |                       |                     |
| • e-mail messages, chat-room conversations                                                     | 79%                   | 73%                 |
| • letters, journals, diaries                                                                   | 59%                   | 14%                 |
| • notes, directions, instructions                                                              | 43%                   | 27%                 |
| • song lyrics, poems                                                                           | 34%                   | 22%                 |
| • stories, fiction                                                                             | 13%                   | 9%                  |