

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, October 2003

Provincial Results

Previously Eligible Students

Demographic Overview ¹	Total Previously Eligible Students: # = 56 034 (Method 1)		Fully Participating in the OSSLT: # = 46 095 (Method 2)	
	#	% ²	#	% ²
Gender				
Female	23 479	42%	19 587	42%
Male	31 813	57%	26 008	56%
Gender not Specified	742	1%	500	1%
English as a Second Language (ESL)/English Literacy Development (ELD)	2 330	4%	1 927	4%
Students with Special Needs (excluding gifted)	15 987	29%	13 285	29%
Students with Special Needs Receiving Accommodations³ (excluding gifted)	13 184	24%	12 077	26%
	#	% ⁴		
First Language:				
• First language learned at home was other than English	13 463	29%		
Home Language:				
• Speak only or mostly English at home	31 133	68%		
• Speak another language (or languages) as often as English at home	9 170	20%		
• Speak only or mostly another (or other languages) at home	4 890	11%		

¹These are selected elements from the Education Quality Indicators Program (EQUIP). All demographic data except language background are provided by schools through the Student Information Form.

Language background is based on student responses to the student questionnaire.

²Percentage may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

³The percentages reported in this line are based on the total number of previously eligible students (Method 1) and the total number of fully participating students (Method 2).

⁴ Percentages are based on total number of students who completed a questionnaire (see page 14).



Education
Quality and
Accountability
Office

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SUMMARY			
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage⁵</u>	
		<u>Method 1</u>	<u>Method 2</u>
Successfully Completed the OSSLT	27 950	50%	61%
Wrote the OSSLT But Were Not Successful	18 145	32%	39%
Number Fully Participating in the OSSLT	46 095	82%	100%
Absent One or Both Days	5 182	9%	
Deferred	785	1%	
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	3 972	7%	
Total Previously Eligible Students (those working toward an OSSD)	56 034	100%	
Exempt	221		

DETAILS			
Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing			
Passed both reading and writing	8 337	31%	40%
Passed reading only	2 267	8%	11%
Passed writing only	3 986	15%	19%
Did not pass reading or writing	6 236	23%	30%
Absent one or both days	4 602	17%	
Deferred	642	2%	
Fulfilling the requirement through OSSLC	1 259	5%	
	27 329	100%	100%
Required to Pass Reading Only			
Passed reading	14 890	69%	75%
Did not pass reading	5 060	23%	25%
Absent one or both days	344	2%	
Deferred	113	1%	
Fulfilling the requirement through OSSLC	1 307	6%	
	21 714	100%	100%
Required to Pass Writing Only			
Passed writing	4 723	81%	89%
Did not pass writing	596	10%	11%
Absent one or both days	236	4%	
Deferred	30	1%	
Fulfilling the requirement through OSSLC	227	4%	
	5 812	100%	100%
Outstanding Component(s) Required to Pass Not Indicated:			
Fulfilling the requirement through OSSLC	1 179		

⁵Percentages may not add to 100, due to rounding.

Explanation of Terms and Categories

To meet the requirements of the OSSD, students must successfully complete both the reading component and the writing component of the OSSLT or complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC).

First-Time Eligible students typically entered Grade 9 during the 2002-2003 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 2003. ***Total First-Time Eligible*** includes all students in the first-time eligible cohort who are working toward an OSSD. This category includes all participating students as well as those deferred or absent.

Previously Eligible students entered Grade 9 during the 2000-2001 (cohort one) or the 2001-2002 (cohort two) school year. Cohort one students (and any others who were placed in this cohort) were required to write the OSSLT for the first time in February 2002. Cohort two students (and any others who were placed in this cohort) were required to write the OSSLT for the first time in October 2002. Students who were not successful in February 2002 and/or in October 2002, or were absent or deferred became eligible again to write the OSSLT in October 2003. ***Total Previously Eligible*** includes all students in the previously eligible cohort who are working toward an OSSD. This category includes all participating students as well as those deferred, absent or fulfilling their OSSD requirement through the OSSLC.

Schools are responsible for indicating which component(s) the student still requires in order to complete the OSSLT successfully. Previously eligible students are reported in one of the three following subcategories:

- Required to Pass Reading and Writing
- Required to Pass Reading Only
- Required to Pass Writing Only

First-time eligible and previously eligible students are reported separately to allow schools to compare the performance of first-time eligible students from year to year. These comparisons will assist schools in assessing the effectiveness of their literacy programs.

Successfully Completed the OSSLT

Students participated in the OSSLT and passed both the reading component and the writing component.

Wrote the OSSLT but Were Not Successful

Students participated fully in the OSSLT but did not pass the reading component or the writing component, or were unsuccessful on both components.

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 a given day.

Absent One or Both Days

Students are considered absent from the test if there was no work completed in the two booklets administered on one or both days of the administration.

Deferred

Students' participation in the OSSLT 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.

Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLT

According to Ministry of Education Guidelines, students who have been eligible to write the OSSLT at least twice and who have been unsuccessful at least once are eligible to take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy (OSSLT) course. Note that if a student completed any portion of the OSSLT, he or she is not categorized as fulfilling the requirement through the OSSLT.

Exempted

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

ESL/ELD

English as a Second Language (ESL)/English Literacy Development (ELD) are students identified by the school as ESL/ELD learners.

Students with Special Needs

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).

Students Receiving Accommodations

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*.

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 exempted students who are 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.

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

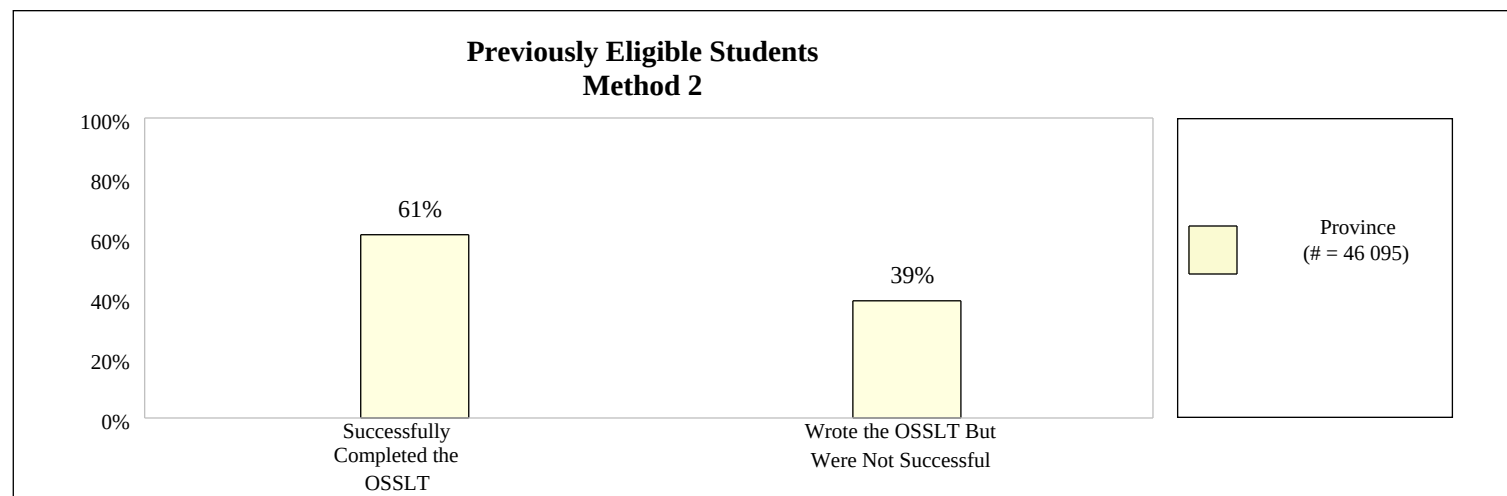
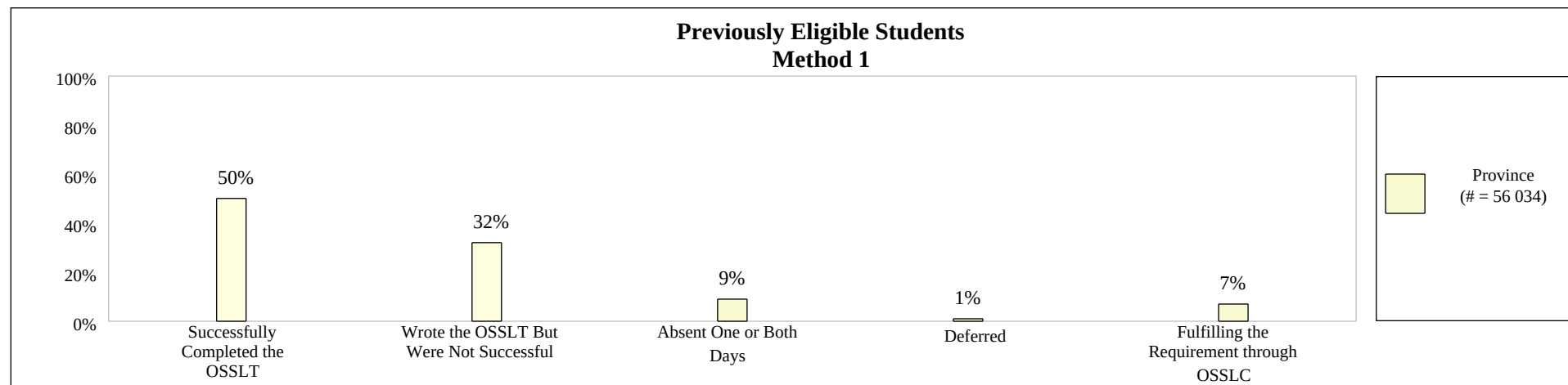
Protection of Personal Information

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.

Provincial Results for Previously Eligible Students

SUMMARY

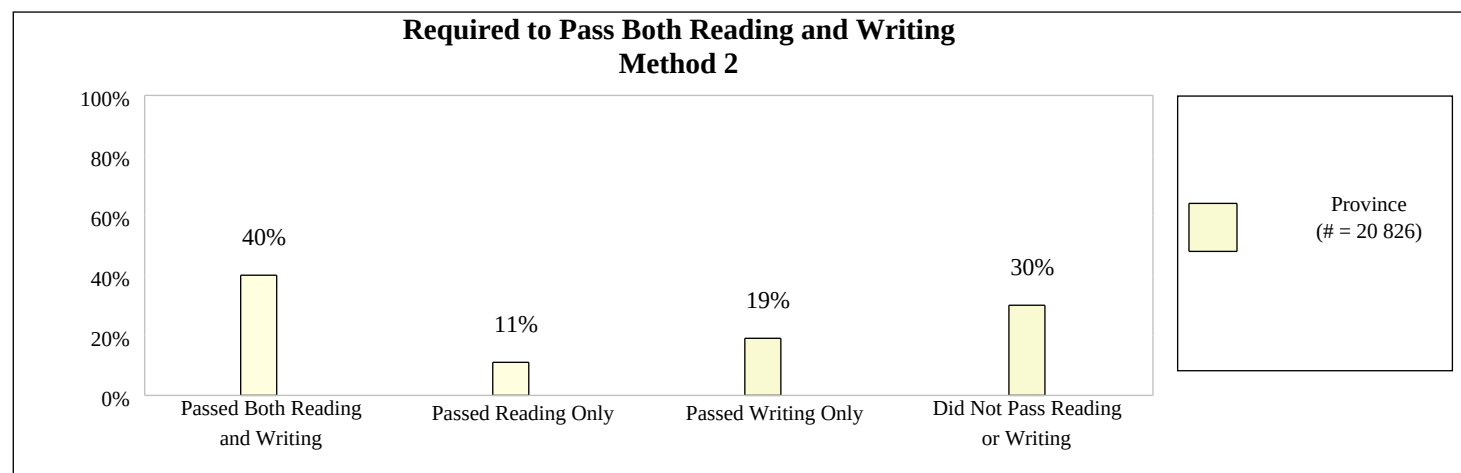
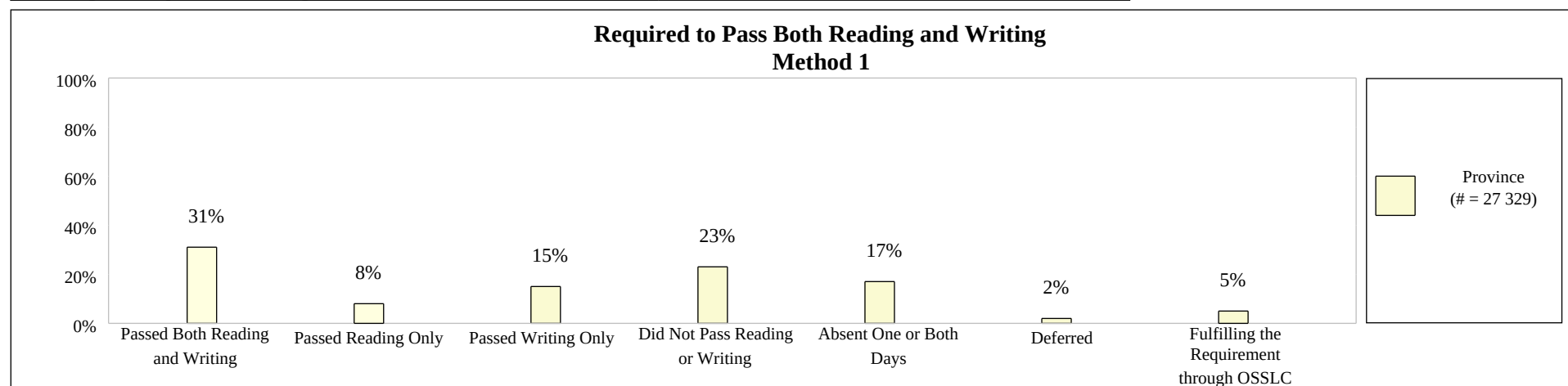
	Method 1	Method 2
	Province (# = 56 034)	Province (# = 46 095)
Successfully Completed the OSSLT	50%	61%
Wrote the OSSLT But Were Not Successful	32%	39%
Absent One or Both Days	9%	
Deferred	1%	
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	7%	



Provincial Results for Previously Eligible Students

DETAILS

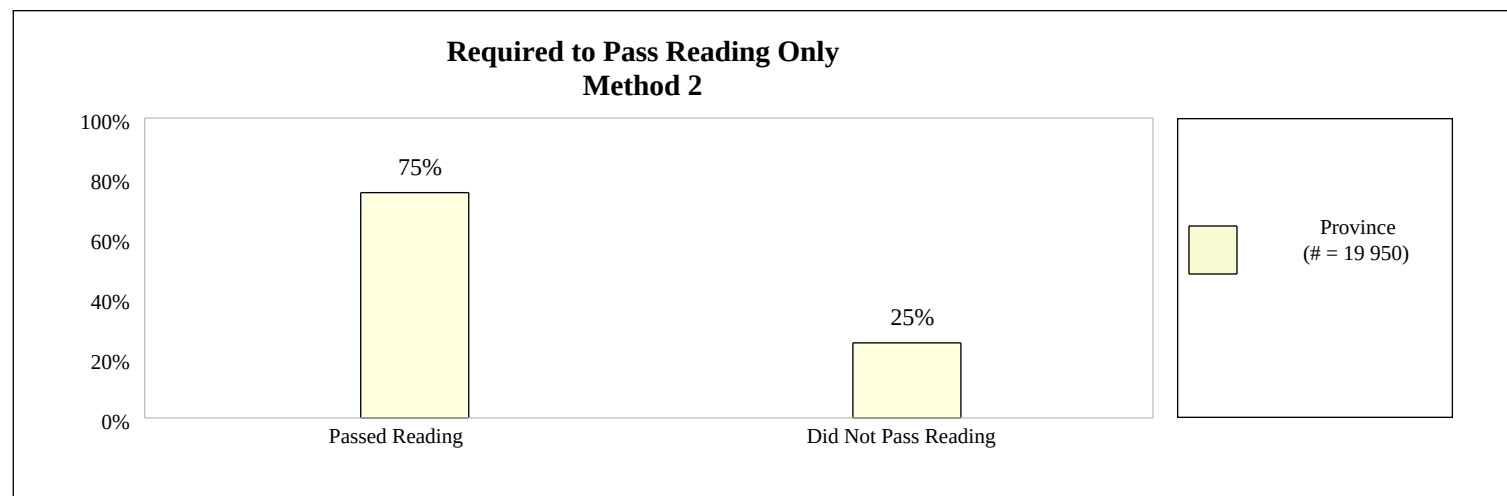
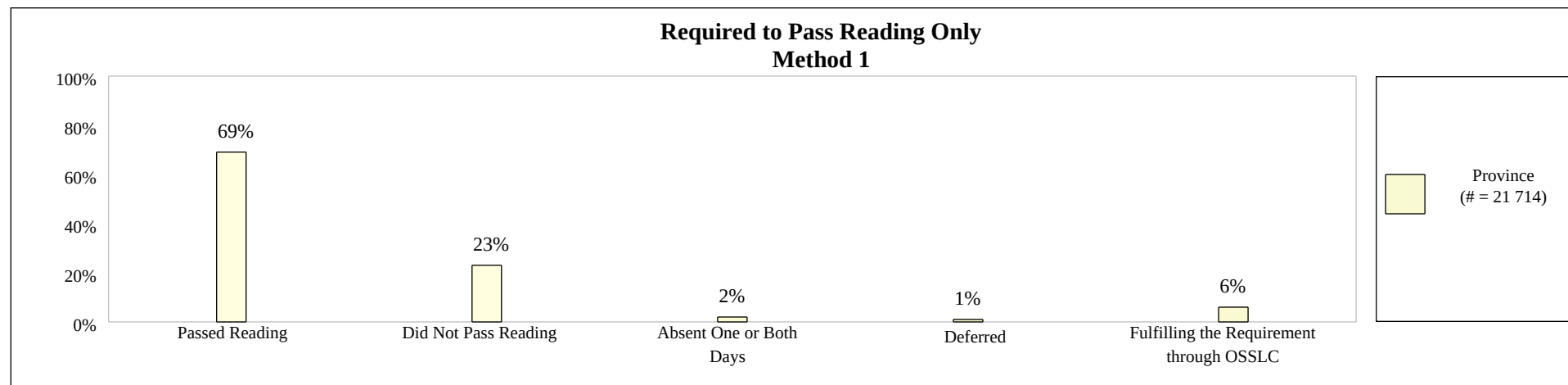
	Method 1	Method 2
Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing	Province (# = 27 329)	Province (# = 20 826)
Passed Both Reading and Writing	31%	40%
Passed Reading Only	8%	11%
Passed Writing Only	15%	19%
Did Not Pass Reading or Writing	23%	30%
Absent One or Both Days	17%	
Deferred	2%	
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	5%	



Provincial Results for Previously Eligible Students

DETAILS

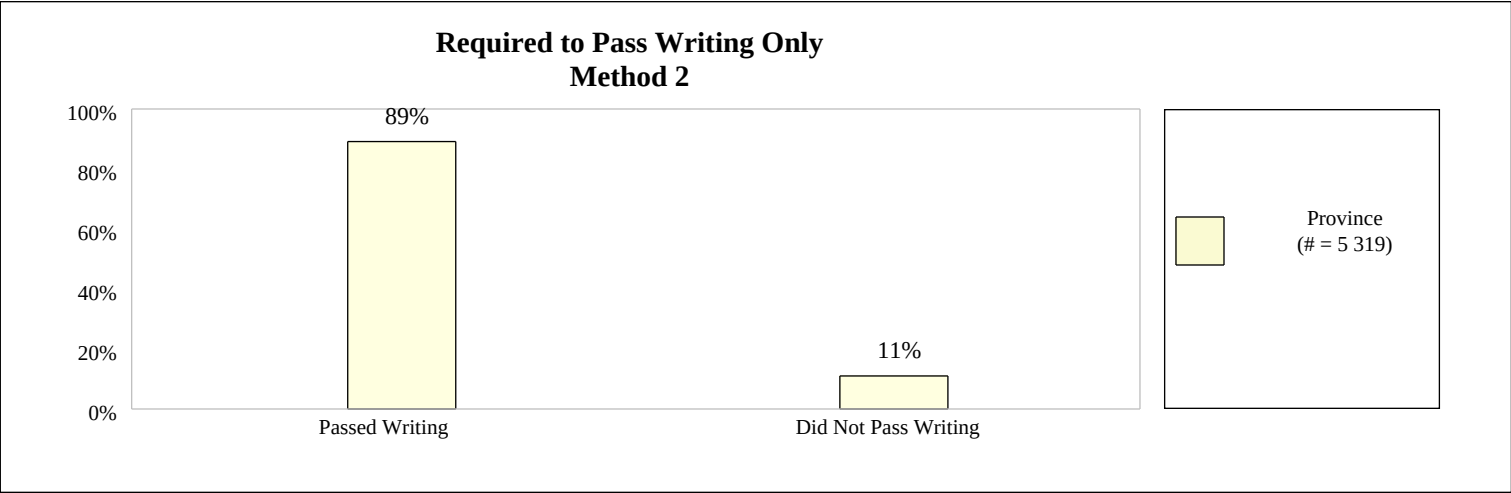
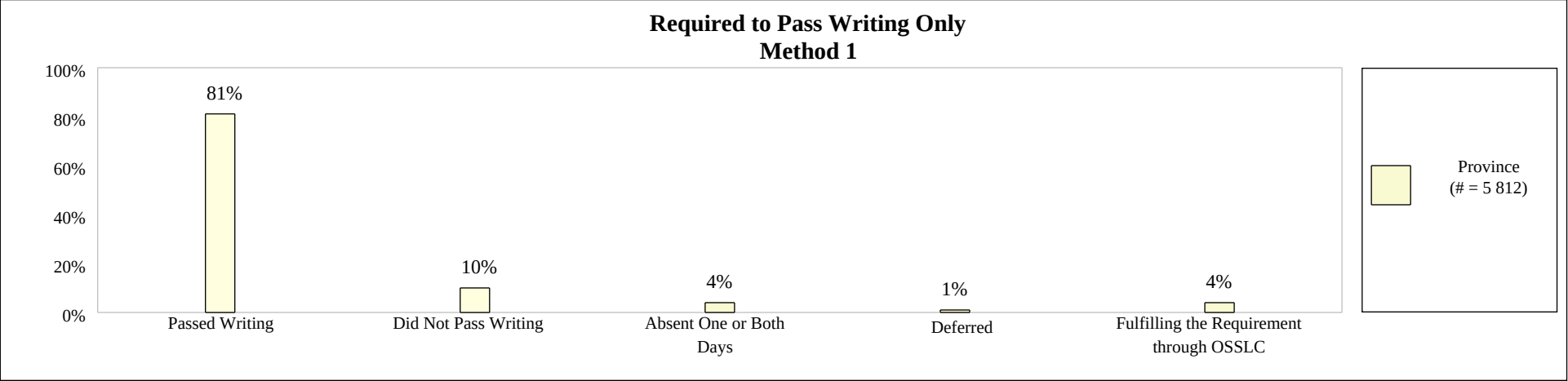
	Method 1	Method 2
	Province (# = 21 714)	Province (# = 19 950)
Required to Pass Reading Only		
Passed Reading	69%	75%
Did Not Pass Reading	23%	25%
Absent One or Both Days	2%	
Deferred	1%	
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	6%	



Provincial Results for Previously Eligible Students

DETAILS

	Method 1	Method 2
	Province (# = 5 812)	Province (# = 5 319)
Required to Pass Writing Only		
Passed Writing	81%	89%
Did Not Pass Writing	10%	11%
Absent One or Both Days	4%	
Deferred	1%	
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	4%	



Results for Previously Eligible Students: Gender⁶

	Method 1		Method 2	
	Province		Province	
	Female (# = 23 479)	Male (# = 31 813)	Female (# = 19 587)	Male (# = 26 008)
SUMMARY				
Successfully Completed the OSSLT	52%	48%	63%	59%
Wrote the OSSLT But Were Not Successful	31%	34%	37%	41%
Absent One or Both Days	8%	10%		
Deferred	1%	1%		
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	7%	7%		
DETAILS				
Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing	(# = 10 773)	(# = 16 254)	(# = 8 276)	(# = 12 358)
Passed Both Reading and Writing	33%	29%	43%	38%
Passed Reading Only	7%	9%	9%	12%
Passed Writing Only	16%	13%	21%	18%
Did Not Pass Reading or Writing	21%	24%	27%	32%
Absent One or Both Days	16%	17%		
Deferred	2%	2%		
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	5%	5%		
Required to Pass Reading Only	(# = 10 138)	(# = 11 299)	(# = 9 358)	(# = 10 342)
Passed Reading	69%	68%	74%	75%
Did Not Pass Reading	24%	23%	26%	25%
Absent One or Both Days	1%	2%		
Deferred	1%	<1%		
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	6%	6%		
Required to Pass Writing Only	(# = 2 116)	(# = 3 630)	(# = 1 953)	(# = 3 308)
Passed Writing	85%	79%	92%	87%
Did Not Pass Writing	7%	12%	8%	13%
Absent One or Both Days	3%	4%		
Deferred	1%	<1%		
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	4%	4%		
Outstanding Component(s) Required to Pass Not Indicated: Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	(# = 452)	(# = 630)		

⁶ Results for gender reflect students for whom gender data were available.

Results for Previously Eligible Students: English as a Second Language (ESL)/English Literacy Development⁷ (ELD)

	Method 1		Method 2	
	Province		Province	
	ESL/ ELD (# = 2 330)	All Other Students (# = 53 704)	ESL/ ELD (# = 1 927)	All Other Students (# = 44 168)
SUMMARY				
Successfully Completed the OSSLT	35%	51%	42%	61%
Wrote the OSSLT But Were Not Successful	48%	32%	58%	39%
Absent One or Both Days	5%	9%		
Deferred	9%	1%		
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	3%	7%		
DETAILS				
Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing	(# = 1 760)	(# = 25 569)	(# = 1 426)	(# = 19 400)
Passed Both Reading and Writing	28%	31%	35%	40%
Passed Reading Only	3%	9%	4%	11%
Passed Writing Only	21%	14%	26%	19%
Did Not Pass Reading or Writing	29%	22%	35%	30%
Absent One or Both Days	6%	18%		
Deferred	11%	2%		
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	2%	5%		
Required to Pass Reading Only	(# = 488)	(# = 21 226)	(# = 449)	(# = 19 501)
Passed Reading	58%	69%	63%	75%
Did Not Pass Reading	34%	23%	37%	25%
Absent One or Both Days	1%	2%		
Deferred	2%	<1%		
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	4%	6%		
Required to Pass Writing Only	(# = 71)	(# = 5 741)	(# = 52)	(# = 5 267)
Passed Writing	55%	82%	75%	89%
Did Not Pass Writing	18%	10%	25%	11%
Absent One or Both Days	6%	4%		
Deferred	13%	<1%		
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	8%	4%		
Outstanding Component(s) Required to Pass Not Indicated: Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	(# = 11)	(# = 1 168)		

⁷ Results for ESL/ELD reflect students identified by the school as ESL/ELD learners.

Results for Previously Eligible Students: Students with Special Needs⁸ (excluding gifted)

	Method 1		Method 2	
	Province		Province	
	Special Needs (# = 15 987)	All Other Students (# = 40 047)	Special Needs (# = 13 285)	All Other Students (# = 32 810)
SUMMARY				
Successfully Completed the OSSLT	40%	54%	48%	66%
Wrote the OSSLT But Were Not Successful	43%	28%	52%	34%
Absent One or Both Days	9%	10%		
Deferred	2%	1%		
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	6%	7%		
DETAILS				
Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing	(# = 8 691)	(# = 18 638)	(# = 6 787)	(# = 14 039)
Passed Both Reading and Writing	23%	34%	30%	45%
Passed Reading Only	8%	9%	10%	11%
Passed Writing Only	16%	14%	21%	18%
Did Not Pass Reading or Writing	31%	19%	40%	25%
Absent One or Both Days	14%	18%		
Deferred	4%	2%		
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	4%	5%		
Required to Pass Reading Only	(# = 5 989)	(# = 15 725)	(# = 5 472)	(# = 14 478)
Passed Reading	58%	72%	64%	79%
Did Not Pass Reading	33%	20%	36%	21%
Absent One or Both Days	2%	1%		
Deferred	1%	1%		
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	6%	6%		
Required to Pass Writing Only	(# = 1 120)	(# = 4 692)	(# = 1 026)	(# = 4 293)
Passed Writing	79%	82%	86%	90%
Did Not Pass Writing	13%	10%	14%	10%
Absent One or Both Days	4%	4%		
Deferred	<1%	1%		
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	4%	4%		
Outstanding Component(s) Required to Pass Not Indicated: Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	(# = 187)	(# = 992)		

⁸ 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 Receiving Accommodations⁹ (excluding gifted) (Method 1)

	Province		
	Students with Special Needs Receiving Accommodations		All Other Students
	IEP Only (# = 2 891)	IEP & IPRC (# = 10 293)	
SUMMARY			
Successfully Completed the OSSLT	52%	42%	52%
Wrote the OSSLT But Were Not Successful	41%	49%	28%
Absent One or Both Days	7%	9%	10%
Deferred	0%	0%	2%
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	0%	0%	9%
DETAILS			
Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing	(# = 1 450)	(# = 5 598)	(# = 20 281)
Passed Both Reading and Writing	33%	24%	32%
Passed Reading Only	9%	8%	8%
Passed Writing Only	18%	18%	13%
Did Not Pass Reading or Writing	28%	35%	19%
Absent One or Both Days	12%	14%	18%
Deferred	0%	0%	3%
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	0%	0%	6%
Required to Pass Reading Only	(# = 1 171)	(# = 4 001)	(# = 16 542)
Passed Reading	68%	61%	70%
Did Not Pass Reading	31%	37%	20%
Absent One or Both Days	1%	2%	1%
Deferred	0%	0%	1%
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	0%	0%	8%
Required to Pass Writing Only	(# = 270)	(# = 694)	(# = 4 848)
Passed Writing	90%	81%	81%
Did Not Pass Writing	8%	15%	10%
Absent One or Both Days	2%	4%	4%
Deferred	0%	0%	1%
Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	0%	0%	5%
Outstanding Component(s) Required to Pass Not Indicated: Fulfilling the Requirement through OSSLC	(# = 0)	(# = 0)	(# = 1 179)

⁹ Students with special needs receiving accommodations are students with an IEP who may or may not have been identified as "exceptional pupils" by an IPRC, or students with a temporary condition requiring an accommodation. Detailed information about accommodations is available in the *EQAO Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions* and in the Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 127.

Results for Previously Eligible Students: Students with Special Needs Receiving Accommodations¹⁰ (excluding gifted) (Method 2)

	Province		
	Students with Special Needs Receiving Accommodations		All Other Students
	IEP Only (# = 2 700)	IEP & IPRC (# = 9 377)	
SUMMARY			
Successfully Completed the OSSLT	56%	47%	65%
Wrote the OSSLT But Were Not Successful	44%	53%	35%
DETAILS			
Required to Pass Both Reading and Writing	(# = 1 282)	(# = 4 801)	(# = 14 743)
Passed Both Reading and Writing	37%	29%	44%
Passed Reading Only	10%	9%	11%
Passed Writing Only	21%	21%	18%
Did Not Pass Reading or Writing	32%	41%	26%
Required to Pass Reading Only	(# = 1 154)	(# = 3 912)	(# = 14 884)
Passed Reading	69%	62%	78%
Did Not Pass Reading	31%	38%	22%
Required to Pass Writing Only	(# = 264)	(# = 664)	(# = 4 391)
Passed Writing	92%	84%	89%
Did Not Pass Writing	8%	16%	11%

¹⁰ Students with special needs receiving accommodations are students with an IEP who may or may not have been identified as "exceptional pupils" by an IPRC, or students with a temporary condition requiring an accommodation. Detailed information about accommodations is available in the *EQAO Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions* and in the Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 127.

Contextual Information¹¹ for Previously Eligible Students

Questionnaire Response Rates

Province		
Eligible Students	Completed Questionnaires	Response Rate
56 034	45 854	82%

Student Computer Use

Percentage of previously eligible students indicating that	Province		
	All (# = 45 854)	Female (# = 20 026)	Male (# = 25 828)
they have a computer in their home.	93%	93%	93%
they use the computer almost every day for school work.	30%	32%	29%

Reading and Writing Outside School by Students

Percentage indicating that they read in English outside school for more than three hours a week (not including homework).	23%	25%	22%
Percentage indicating that they read the following kinds of material outside school most weeks:			
• non-fiction books, e.g., biographies	21%	24%	20%
• comics	28%	23%	32%
• Web sites, e-mail, chat messages	69%	73%	65%
• letters	35%	49%	23%
• magazines	71%	80%	65%
• manuals, instructions	20%	14%	25%
• newspapers	46%	44%	48%
• novels, fiction, short stories	39%	51%	30%
• poetry, song lyrics	40%	54%	29%
• religious or spiritual writings	13%	16%	11%
Percentage indicating that they write in English outside school for more than three hours a week (not including homework).	23%	26%	21%
Percentage indicating that they do the following types of writing outside school most weeks:			
• e-mail messages, chat-room conversations	83%	86%	81%
• letters, journals, diaries	37%	62%	18%
• notes, directions, instructions	32%	37%	29%
• song lyrics, poems	34%	41%	28%
• stories, fiction	14%	16%	12%
• work-related writing	37%	37%	36%

¹¹ These data are based on student questionnaire responses, which are part of EQUIP.