

## NATIONAL TESTING PROGRAM

### School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP)

Since 1993, Alberta has participated in SAIP, conducted across Canada by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC). Through SAIP, CMEC has administered assessments of achievement in mathematics, reading/writing, and science for students aged 13 and 16 across Canada.

#### **2004 Science SAIP**

Alberta's students have significantly outscored their Canadian counterparts on the Science assessment.

#### **2002 Writing SAIP**

Alberta students scored among the highest in the country in writing. Alberta had the third highest percentage of students achieving the target levels for both age groups tested, finishing behind Ontario and Manitoba for age 13 and Quebec and Manitoba for age 16.

#### **2001 Math SAIP**

Alberta led the country with their best ever results in mathematics. Alberta students improved from the 1997 assessment when compared to nearly every other province and territory.

#### **1999 Science SAIP**

Alberta's students continue to out-perform students across Canada, according to a nation-wide science assessment. While Alberta students typically have done well in science, the province's students in 1999 significantly improved on results from the 1996 assessment and surpassed what 13 and 16-year-old students are expected to know in the subject.

#### **1998 Reading and Writing SAIP**

Alberta's students continue to do as well as other Canadian students in reading and writing, with 13-year-olds performing significantly better in writing at the highest levels.

Results of the reading assessment show that among 13-year-olds, 78.2 per cent of Alberta students achieved at level 2 or above, compared with 76.7 per cent of Canadian students. In writing, results showed 95.3 per cent of Alberta students achieved at level 2 or above, compared with 95.6 per cent nationally.

Results among 16-year-olds show 67.4 per cent of Alberta students achieved at level 3 or above in reading, compared with 69.3 per cent nationally. In writing, 83.8 per cent of Alberta students achieved at level 3 or above, compared with 86 per cent nationally.

### **1997 Math SAIP**

Alberta's students continue to do well relative to other Canadian students in a nation-wide mathematics assessment.

Results of the mathematics assessment show that, among 13-year-olds, 64.7 per cent of Alberta students achieved at level 2 or above, compared to 59.4 per cent of Canadian students overall. In problem solving, results showed 57.8 per cent of Alberta students achieved at level 2 or above, compared to 52.2 per cent nationally.

Among 16-year-olds, 61.4 per cent of Alberta students achieved at level 3 or above in math content, compared to 59.8 per cent nationally. In problem solving, 44.8 per cent of Alberta students achieved at level 3 or above, compared to 39.8 per cent nationally.

### **1996 Science SAIP**

Alberta's students have achieved significantly higher science results than their Canadian counterparts.

## **INTERNATIONAL TESTING**

### **[Programme for International Student Assessment \(PISA\)](#)**

PISA is administered every three years by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and assesses the international achievement of 15-year-old students in reading, mathematics and science.

#### **2006**

Alberta placed among the world's best on international tests. Alberta's students have jumped from fourth to second place in science, the focus subject for the 2006 tests. Alberta scored second highest in the world behind Finland. Alberta is the only province whose overall science score, as well as each individual test score, is significantly higher than the Canadian average. In the two minor areas of study, Alberta tied for third in reading and tied for fifth in mathematics.

#### **2003**

Alberta students continue to achieve excellent results on international tests, sharing the highest scores in reading, improving from third to second in mathematics and ranking fourth in science. "These test results confirm that Alberta students are among the best in the world," said Minister of Education, Gene Zwozdesky. Alberta is the only province whose average scores are significantly higher than the Canadian average in every area tested.

#### **2000**

Alberta students scored the highest marks in reading and were among the top three in science and mathematics. In science, Alberta students had the third highest score, behind their counterparts in Korea and Japan. In mathematics, Alberta students also scored third highest, behind Japan and Quebec. In both science and math, the Alberta results were not significantly different from the top two. Alberta students scored significantly above the national average in all three subjects.

## [2006 Progress in International Reading Literacy Study \(PIRLS\)](#)

Alberta Grade 4 students achieved top three in the world in the latest international literacy tests. On the Progress in the International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2006, Alberta scored third highest in the world with very little difference in the performance among the top five participants (Russia, Hong Kong-China, Alberta, Singapore and British Columbia). Alberta students excelled in reading for literacy and in the higher level of comprehension processes such as interpreting, integrating and evaluating.

## [Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study \(TIMSS\)](#)

### **1999**

Alberta's Grade 8 students are among the best in the world, which has been verified in the largest global study of comparative educational achievement in science and mathematics.

Results from the 1999 Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS-99) shows Alberta's results in science are in the top handful around the globe. No other country scored significantly higher than Alberta. Our province's students ranked alongside Taiwan and Singapore.

In math, only six countries and the province of Quebec scored significantly higher than Alberta. Those countries are Singapore, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan and Belgium (Flemish).

### **1995 – Grade 12**

In the largest comparative international study of achievement to date, the **Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)**, Alberta students achieved the third highest score in science literacy and the fifth highest score in mathematics literacy, compared to students in the 24 countries and provinces taking part in the study.

### **1995 – Grade 4**

Alberta's grade 4 students outranked all other English speaking participants in the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). Alberta students achieved third in science, placing third with an overall achievement score of 68 per cent. Korea came first with a score of 74 per cent and Japan came second at 70 per cent.

The students placed seventh in mathematics, compared to students in the 26 countries and provinces taking part in the study. Alberta's grade 4 students tied with students in Austria for seventh place, both scoring 65 per cent. This score places Alberta students in the top one-third of participating countries for mathematics.

### **1995 – Grade 8**

Alberta's grade 8 students rank third in science and in the top one-third of participating countries for mathematics. Results show Alberta's grade 8 science students with an overall achievement score of 65 per cent. Singapore came first with a score of 70 per cent, Korea came second at 66 per cent and Alberta and Japan tied for third at 65 per cent.

In mathematics, Alberta's grade 8 students outperformed their counterparts in all English-speaking populations except British Columbia, to earn a place in the top one-third of participating countries.