

KNOW MORE

...about the success of our publicly funded education system

Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Education Lisa Thompson, and other members of the government have tried to claim Ontario has an “education crisis.” Minister Thompson went so far as to say the government “inherited an education system that absolutely crumbled over the last 15 years.”

But the facts tell a very different story. By every available metric our system of publicly funded education is a resounding success.

Provincially: Based on Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) data, the percentage of Ontario students who achieve the provincial standard – which is a grade of B – has increased dramatically in almost every field over the past 15 years.

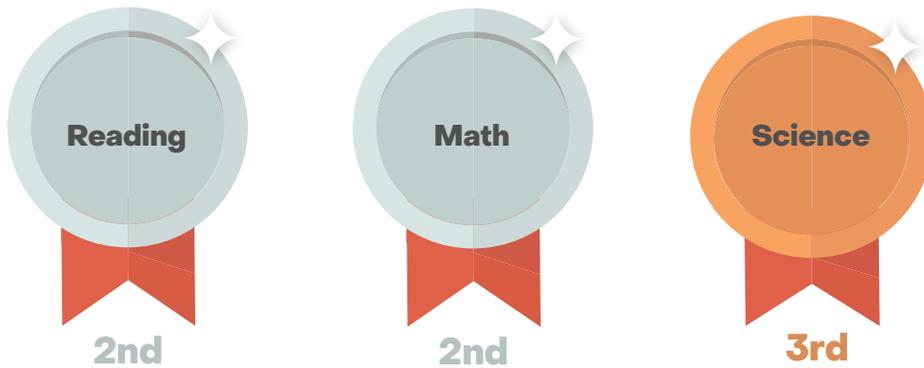
Grade 3	2003	2018	change
Reading	50%	75%	+25%
Math	57%	61%	+4%
Writing	55%	72%	+17%

Grade 6	2003	2018	change
Reading	56%	82%	+26%
Math	53%	49%	-4%
Writing	54%	80%	+26%

Grade 9	2003	2018	change
Math (applied)	21%	45%	+24%
Math (academic)	66%	84%	+18%

When the Premier says “half of Grade 6 students are failing math,” he is not telling the truth and is purposefully mischaracterizing EQAO data to create the appearance of a crisis.

Nationally: Ontario students fare well compared to their peers in other provinces. On the latest Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP), among the 10 provinces, Ontario ranked:



Results from the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) also show overall increases in math and science scores since that study began in 1995.

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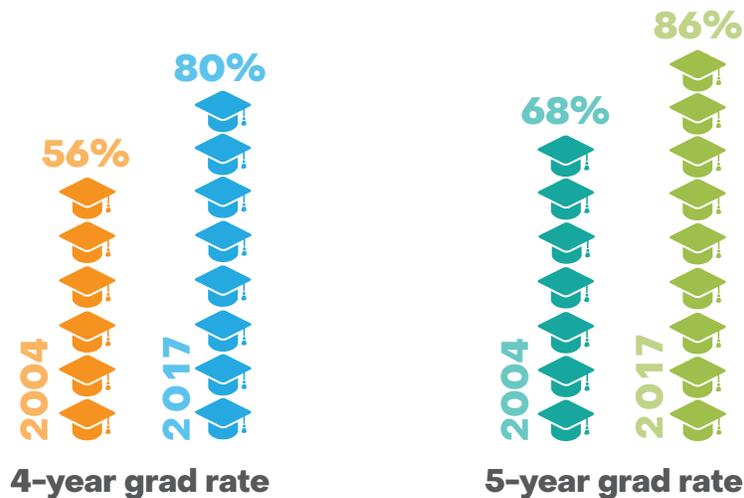
Internationally: Ontario's system of publicly funded education is renowned. We know that experts from different countries travel to Ontario to learn more about our ground-breaking full-day Kindergarten program, and our success in reducing achievement gaps between students from different backgrounds.

We also know that Ontario is one of the top-performing jurisdictions on international assessments. Looking at the most recent results from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), of all participating jurisdictions, representing 79 countries:



Similar results are evident in TIMSS, where in 2015 only six countries scored statistically higher than Ontario in math, and only eight countries scored statistically higher in science.

Overall: the success of Ontario's publicly funded education system, and teachers' commitment to continually improving the system, is plainly evident in the increase to students' four- and five-year graduation rates.



All of the available evidence – provincially, nationally, and internationally – point to an education system we should be proud of, and should celebrate. There is always room to improve; but when the government reduces the results for all of our schools and students to one test result in one grade, and uses these “alternative facts” to propose drastic cuts, we must tell them to know more.

Go to KnowMore.ca to send a message to your MPP and tell them to invest in publicly funded education.