



Creating Futures

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Slave Students Achieving Stronger Test Results

Results Reinforce Council, Schools, and Parents are Creating Futures for Students

Hay River, NT – A higher percentage of South Slave students met or exceeded the Alberta standard on the 2003 Alberta Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams than in previous years. Achievement results were recently released at the Council's regular meeting on November 29th. The Council took the opportunity to review the results, trends and considerations of the most recent Grade 3, 6 and 9 Alberta Achievement Tests and grade 12 Alberta Diploma Exam results.

According to the Council's Superintendent of Education, Curtis Brown, "This year's standardized testing results show that South Slave schools are offering a quality education program, producing a majority—more than 50% of South Slave students—who are meeting or exceeding Alberta and national standards in language arts and math." Brown adds, "I am convinced that South Slave schools are on the right track, and that our focus over the past few years on program and staff development, and school improvement planning have had a positive impact on the achievements of our staff and students. The Council, its DEAs, and staffs should feel proud of our collective achievements... while recognizing the continued need for ongoing improvements."

Ann Pischinger, Council Chairperson, echoes Brown's sentiments. "It is good to see that the continued focus on the education of the students is resulting in improvements. The Council remains committed to further improvement so that even more South Slave students are meeting the Alberta standard each year, and more students are staying in school through graduation."

Council priorities currently include *Literacy, Homework & Study Skills, Career Development, and Student Assessment, Evaluation & Reporting*. This year for example, *Student Assessment, Evaluation & Reporting* guidelines are being implemented in all South Slave schools. "We are excited about developing greater consistency in student assessment and reporting to parents, and continually improving student achievement results," notes Brown.

Brown reminds that these test results are limited in that they show achievement of a particular group of South Slave students on a single day and in a limited number of subjects. He comments, "While it is important that schools analyze their data to determine student strengths and areas needing further growth, and setting priorities for improvement accordingly, we need to be careful not to overemphasize the importance of this limited data and inadvertently detract from other important areas of student achievement such as aboriginal culture and language, fine arts, vocational programs, physical education, and citizenship."

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