



# News and Information

November 16, 2011

## **School District No. 23 School Completion Rates Continue to Improve**

**Kelowna, B.C.**

Chairperson of the Board of Education, Rolli Cacchioni, is pleased to announce that “school completion rates for students in the Central Okanagan have increased again this year”.

The statistic known as the ‘Six-Year Completion Rate’ shows the percentage of students who earned a B.C. certificate of graduation within six years of starting Grade 8 for the first time. The Provincial overall completion rate has stayed relatively constant since 2003, ranging between 78 and 81 per cent. By contrast, the completion rates for students in the Central Okanagan School District have risen each year since 2004, when they were as low as 76 per cent. Chairperson Cacchioni noted that “It is no coincidence that our District has shown a steady increase in completion rates over the past seven years. This aligns with the time when the District established the improvement of its graduation rates as one of the primary goals in the School District No. 23 Achievement Contract.”

The following shows the trend line for school completion rates within the Central Okanagan School District:

| <b>YEAR</b> | <b>SIX YEAR COMPLETION RATE</b> |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 2004/05     | 76%                             |
| 2005/06     | 77.4%                           |
| 2006/07     | 80.4%                           |
| 2007/08     | 82.2%                           |
| 2008/09     | 82.9%                           |
| 2009/10     | 84.7%                           |
| 2010/11     | 86.2%                           |

According to Cacchioni, “The other encouraging statistic is that we increased in all categories for all cohort groups, including both genders, Aboriginal, English as a Second Language and Special Needs Students”.

| <b>CATEGORY</b> | <b>S.D. NO. 23<br/>2009/10 SCHOOL YEAR</b> | <b>S.D. NO. 23<br/>2010/11 SCHOOL YEAR</b> | <b>PROVINCIAL<br/>AVERAGES<br/>2010/11</b> |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| All Students    | 84.7%                                      | 86.2%                                      | 80.3%                                      |
| Female          | 86.9%                                      | 89.2%                                      | 82.9%                                      |
| Male            | 82.5%                                      | 83.5%                                      | 77.9%                                      |
| Aboriginal      | 60%  | 60.9%                                      | 54.1%                                      |
| ESL             | 75.3%                                      | 87%*                                       | 83.1%                                      |
| Special Needs   | 50.3%                                      | 52.7%                                      | 52.9%                                      |

\*Note the small cohort size of the ESL group has influenced the significant increase in one year.

This year's improvements have placed the Central Okanagan well within the top ten highest performing school districts out of 60 in the Province. Additionally, the five year net gain for the Central Okanagan is one of the highest in the Province, especially amongst the larger school districts.

According to Chairperson Cacchioni, "The positive trend line comes as a result of the hard work of our teachers, administrators and support staff. We also recognize the support students have been getting from their families and the community in ensuring their success. Most importantly, the increase in completion rates means that more than 40 additional students have earned their Dogwood diplomas this year, than would have been the case at last year's graduation levels."

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