

Yukon Schools Ranked

by Peter Cowley

The Fraser Institute issues report cards on school performance that rate and rank elementary and secondary schools in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick. It has always been the program's objective to provide school performance information to all parents, regardless of where they live or the grade level at which their children are enrolled. Sometimes this program expands in giant leaps, such as in 2003 when the introduction of the *Report Card on Ontario's Elementary Schools* added over 2,800 schools serving more than 1,000,000 students. The newest addition to the report card family is more modest, although just as important to the families concerned.

The Yukon's secondary schools generally follow the British Columbia curriculum and its grade 12 students participate in the same final exams in key academic courses as British Columbian students do. Since these exam results form the basis for the annual *Report Card on British Columbia's Second-*

ary Schools and since all the data to calculate the overall rating out of 10 are now available, we will include the Yukon schools in the BC Report Card starting with the 2006 edition to be released next spring.

In the meantime, tables 1 to 4 below provide detailed reports on academic performance at the four Yukon schools that met the enrollment criterion¹ for inclusion in the 2005 edition of the Report Card.

The news is not good. Table 5 provides the average values for each of the indicators and the overall rating out of ten for all the BC and Yukon schools. Among the Yukon schools, only Vanier Catholic Secondary in Whitehorse comes close to the all-schools' average rating. The other three are consistently and substantially below average.

However, experience tells us that the introduction of a report card encourages parents to demand improvement and motivates educators and education officials to refocus on student

Table 1: Vanier Catholic Secondary, Whitehorse

Gr 12 Enrollment: 80						
Overall academic ranking: 2003-04: 175/286; Last 5 Years: 173/258						
Academic Performance	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Trends
Average exam mark	68.5	64.3	69.1	65.9	65.7	—
Percentage of exams failed	17.2	19.0	15.3	16.4	16.1	—
School vs exam mark difference	8.2	10.5	9.9	9.9	8.9	—
English 12 gender gap	F 7.9	F 6.9	F 7.3	F 6.2	F 5.1	▲
Math 12 gender gap	F 4.8	F 1.0	M 1.5	F 0.5	F 4.2	—
Exams taken per student	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.3	—
Graduation rate	91.3	91.8	86.7	98.4	94.7	—
Delayed advancement rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sports participation rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Overall rating out of 10	5.9	5.4	5.2	6.5	5.9	—

Table 2: Porter Creek Secondary, Whitehorse

Gr 12 Enrollment: 182						
Overall academic ranking: 2003-04: 250/286; Last 5 Years: 230/258						
Academic Performance	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Trends
Average exam mark	64.5	65.8	66.9	65.2	65.1	—
Percentage of exams failed	17.8	16.9	16.4	20.3	15.4	—
School vs exam mark difference	7.3	7.5	9.2	9.8	9.4	—
English 12 gender gap	F 5.7	F 9.2	F 2.0	F 8.1	F 1.3	—
Math 12 gender gap	F 0.1	F 2.1	M 1.4	M 0.5	F 2.3	—
Exams taken per student	2.2	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.1	—
Graduation rate	86.1	94.6	95.2	88.6	89.1	—
Delayed advancement rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sports participation rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Overall rating out of 10	4.8	5.2	5.3	4.0	4.7	—



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Table 3: F.H. Collins Secondary, Whitehorse

Gr 12 Enrollment: 140
Overall academic ranking: 2003-04: 260/286; Last 5 Years: 235/258

Academic Performance	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Trends
Average exam mark	64.5	62.3	63.3	65.9	63.4	—
Percentage of exams failed	19.6	22.9	23.5	15.9	23.5	—
School vs exam mark difference	8.0	8.9	9.2	8.6	8.7	—
English 12 gender gap	F 1.4	F 3.5	F 7.1	F 9.4	F 5.3	—
Math 12 gender gap	M 0.3	F 6.6	F 3.8	M 4.1	M 0.4	—
Exams taken per student	3.1	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.4	▼
Graduation rate	93.1	92.6	88.7	90.8	90.7	▼
Delayed advancement rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sports participation rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Overall rating out of 10	6.1	4.4	3.7	4.7	4.4	—

Table 5: Average Values for All Schools 2003/04

Average Gr 12 Enrollment: 166

Academic Performance	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Trend
Average exam mark	68.1	69.0	69.3	69.7	69.6	▲
Percentage of exams failed	12.1	11.4	9.9	10.1	9.9	▲
School vs exam mark difference	6.4	5.8	5.5	6.2	6.4	—
English 12 gender gap*	2.5	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.6	—
Math 12 gender gap*	3.8	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.4	▲
Exams taken per student	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	—
Graduation rate	92.6	93.8	94.1	94.7	94.8	▲
Delayed advancement rate	25.6	23.1	22.2	21.5	22.5	—
Sports participation rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	32.0	n/a
Overall rating out of 10	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	—

*These results reflect the average size of the gender gaps. In 2003-2004, the English gender gap favoured females at 70.7% of schools, males at 28.2% of schools, and was even at 1.1% of schools. The Math gender gap favoured females at 70.5% of schools, males at 26.0% of schools, and was even at 3.5% schools.

Table 4: Watson Lake Secondary, Watson Lake

Gr 12 Enrollment: 25
Overall academic ranking: 2003-04: 281/286; Last 5 Years: n/a

Academic Performance	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Trends
Average exam mark	56.5	53.5	n/a	43.7	47.7	n/a
Percentage of exams failed	29.4	50.0	n/a	55.0	54.8	n/a
School vs exam mark difference	23.9	13.0	n/a	17.4	19.6	n/a
English 12 gender gap	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Math 12 gender gap	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Exams taken per student	1.1	0.8	0.5	1.3	1.2	—
Graduation rate	71.4	54.6	n/a	50.0	73.7	n/a
Delayed advancement rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sports participation rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Overall rating out of 10	0.0	0.0	n/a	0.0	0.0	n/a

achievement. So, perhaps the news is good after all. The Report Card shows that there is considerable opportunity for improvement at all four Yukon schools. With its annual audit of performance, the Report Card will help make it happen.

A full explanation of how to interpret these tables is included in the *Report Card on British Columbia's Secondary Schools*, 2005 edition, and can be found on the Institute's web site at: <http://www.fraserinstitute.ca/reportcards/index.asp?snav=rc>

Notes

¹In order to be included in the Report Card, a school must have enrolled at least 15 grade 12 students in September of the most recent school year for which data are reported. This minimum requirement assures us of a reasonable amount of data upon which to rate the schools. Of the twelve Yukon schools enrolling grade 12 students in 2003-2004, four met the minimum enrollment criterion.

²The delayed advancement rate and sports participation rate cannot yet be calculated for Yukon schools. However, neither are required for the calculation of the overall rating out of 10.

Wherever data are not available, "n/a" appears in the tables. 📖

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