



NEWS RELEASE

Twenty-three of the 25 improving schools in Alberta are public schools

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For Immediate Release

CALGARY—The Fraser Institute today released its popular Report Card on Alberta high schools, the most easily accessible tool for parents to compare the academic performance of their children’s schools.

The *Report Card on Alberta’s High Schools 2016* rates 307 public, private, separate and charter schools based on five academic indicators generated from grade 12 provincewide testing, grade-to-grade transition and graduation rates.

“Alberta parents want the best for their families and having the ability to compare school performance helps them make a more informed decision about the school their children attend,” said Peter Cowley, Fraser Institute director of school performance studies.

Taking into account the last five years, Alberta’s two charter high schools achieved the highest average rating of 8.3 (out of 10), followed by private schools (8.1), separate schools (6.3) and public schools (6.0).

In addition to the rankings, the Report Card illustrates which specific schools are improving or falling behind in academics.

The data suggests that every school is capable of improvement regardless of the type of school, its location and the proportion of students with special needs or students in English as a Second Language (ESL) programs.

For example, the school enjoying the fastest statistically significant improvement over the past five years is École Mallaig School, a public school in north-eastern Alberta. Despite having 25 per cent of its students identified as special needs learners, Mallaig’s overall rating has steadily improved to 7.7 (out of 10) in 2015 from 3.5 in 2011.

Of the 10 fastest-improving schools, all are public schools.

“When parents see the Report Card’s objective evidence that a school’s results are consistently low or declining, they often become very effective advocates for improvement,” Cowley said.

“Every year, every school in the province should find ways to improve student results—it’s as simple as that.”

For detailed results of all 307 schools, go to www.compareschoolrankings.org where you can quickly see how a school performed over the past five years and how it compares to other schools.

Peter Cowley is available for media interviews, from Calgary, on Saturday and Sunday.

The 25 fastest improving schools 2011-2015

School	City	Affiliation
Mallaig	Mallaig	Public
Sexsmith	Sexsmith	Public
Ernest Manning	Calgary	Public
St. Paul	St. Paul	Public
J A Williams	Lac La Biche	Public
Grimshaw	Grimshaw	Public
Lamont	Lamont	Public
Peace Wapiti Academy	Grande Prairie	Public
J. C. Charyk Hanna	Hanna	Public
Willow Creek	Claresholm	Public
J. T. Foster	Nanton	Public
Didsbury	Didsbury	Public
Bishop Carroll	Calgary	Separate
La Crete	La Crete	Public
Tofield	Tofield	Public
Bishop McNally	Calgary	Separate
Wetaskiwin	Wetaskiwin	Public
Grande Prairie	Grande Prairie	Public
Cold Lake	Cold Lake	Public
Chinook	Lethbridge	Public
Frank Maddock	Drayton Valley	Public
Harry Collinge	Hinton	Public
Fort Saskatchewan	Fort Saskatchewan	Public
Central Memorial	Calgary	Public
Olds	Olds	Public

(30)

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