



NEWS RELEASE

73 Ontario high schools experienced declining performance in 2019; more than improved

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For Immediate Release

TORONTO—The Fraser Institute today released its annual rankings of Ontario secondary schools, and it shows that a greater number of Ontario high schools declined in performance in 2019 than improved.

The *Report Card on Ontario's Secondary Schools 2020*, the most accessible tool for parents to compare the academic performance of the province's schools, ranks 739 anglophone and francophone public and Catholic schools (and a small number of independent and First Nations schools) based on seven academic indicators derived from annual provincewide math and literacy tests.

"The Report Card offers parents information they can't easily get anywhere else, about how their child's school performs over time and compares to other schools across Ontario," said Peter Cowley, a Fraser Institute senior fellow.

This year, 73 schools around the province experienced declining performance, while 47 schools showed improvement.

But contrary to common misconceptions, the data suggest every school is capable of improvement regardless of where it's located, where it ranks, or the students it serves.

For example, Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute in Toronto improved from a score of 3.6 out of 10 in 2015 to 5.6 in 2019, even though 47.3 per cent of its students—nearly half—have special needs.

Similarly, over the same period, École secondaire Hanmer, a French-language high school north of Sudbury that this year ranks 658 out of 739, is the third-fastest improver across the entire province and has improved its rating from 0 to 3.7 from 2015 to 2019.

"We often hear excuses that some schools can't improve because of the communities and students they serve, but all over Ontario, there are schools with students facing significant challenges that still find ways to improve their performance every year," Cowley said.

For the complete results on all ranked schools and to compare the performance of different schools, visit www.compareschoolrankings.org.

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