

2015–2016 Nova Scotia Assessment

Reading, Writing and Mathematics in Grade 8



About the Assessment

Grade 8 students wrote this assessment in May/June 2016. The assessment required four 90-minute periods spread over four days. For the reading portion of the assessment, students read different types of texts and answered questions about what they read. They also completed two writing tasks. For the mathematics portion, students answered questions in each of the mathematics strands (number and operations, patterns and relations, measurement, geometry, and statistics and probability).

Nova Scotia teachers work with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to develop this assessment, to score the writing tasks, and to set the assessment expectation. The expectation is what students should know and be able to do on their own at the end of grade 8. All of the items and texts on the assessment are aligned with selected reading, writing, and mathematics outcomes in the curriculum up to grade 8. Please note that a new expectation was established for Mathematics in Grade 8 in 2015–16 (see page 4 for details).

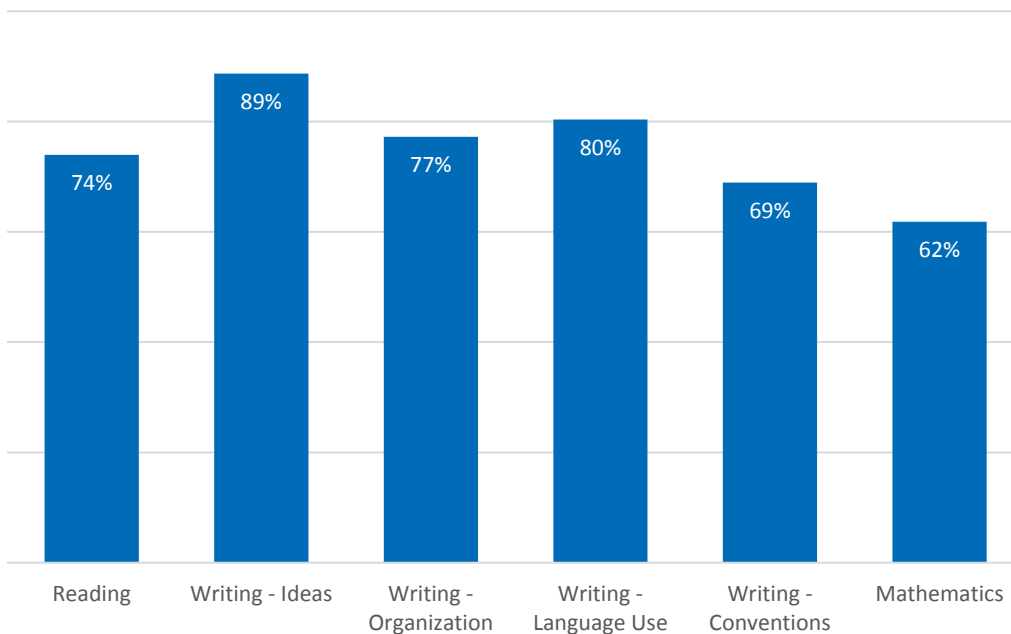
The 2015–16 assessment results will form the baseline for Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education 2015 (<http://www.ednet.ns.ca/education-actionplan>). The results will also provide:

- teachers with information to inform instructional planning;
- parents and guardians with information on their child's performance;
- the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and school boards with information to inform educational decisions.

These results should be used in combination with other reliable measures of school and classroom achievement. For more information about the assessment, visit <https://plans.ednet.ns.ca/grade8>.

Provincial Results

Percentage of students at or above the assessment expectation



Did you know?

Nova Scotia Assessments and Examinations are developed and scored in Nova Scotia by our teachers working with department staff.

Students write Nova Scotia Assessments in grade 3, grade 4, grade 6, and grade 8.

Samples of reading and mathematics questions can be found on our website.

<https://plans.ednet.ns.ca/grade8/documents>

Lessons Learned documents support teachers and administrators in using the information from this assessment to inform next steps.

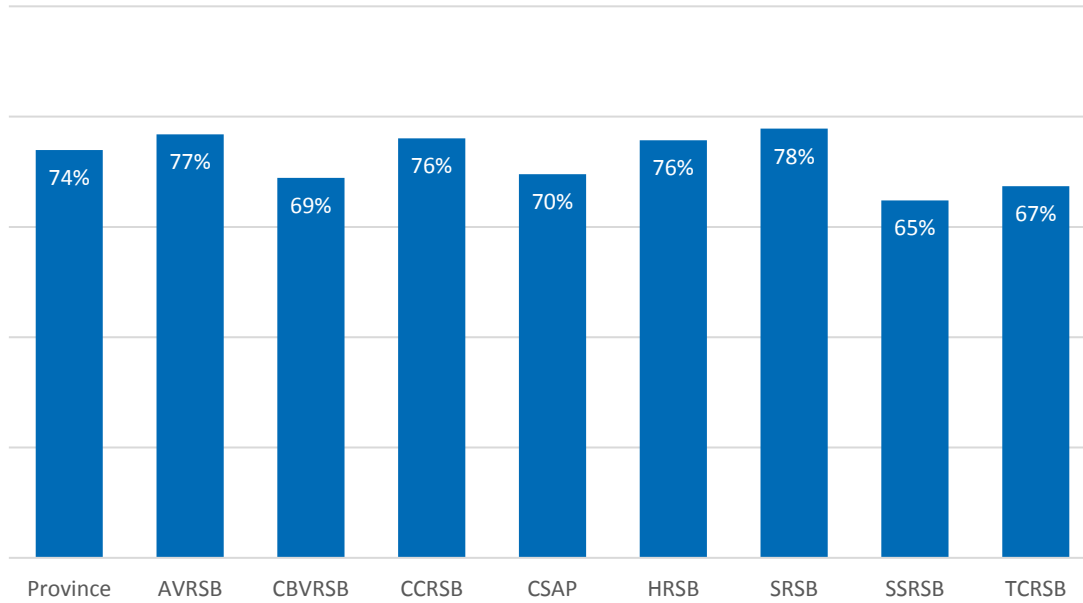
<https://plans.ednet.ns.ca/grade8/documents>

Assessment results do not affect report card grades or decisions about promotion or retention.

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Reading

Percentage of students at or above the assessment expectation (province and school boards)



Participation for Reading and Writing in Grade 8 2015—2016

	Province	AVRSB	CBVRSB	CCRSB	CSAP	HRSB	SRSB	SSRSB	TCRSB
Number of students in grade	8642	967	996	1482	328	3420	500	476	473
Number of students participating	7985	889	894	1384	315	3176	460	452	415
Participation rate	92%	92%	90%	93%	96%	93%	92%	95%	88%

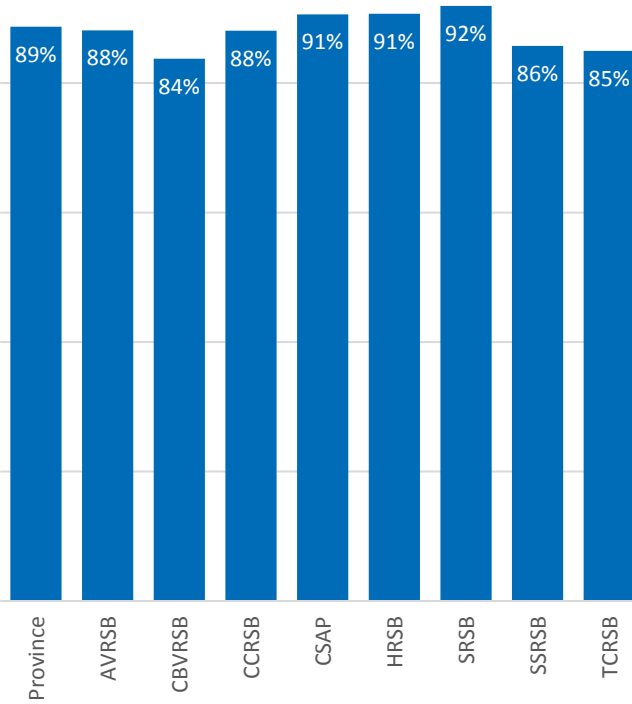
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Reading, Writing and Mathematics in Grade 8

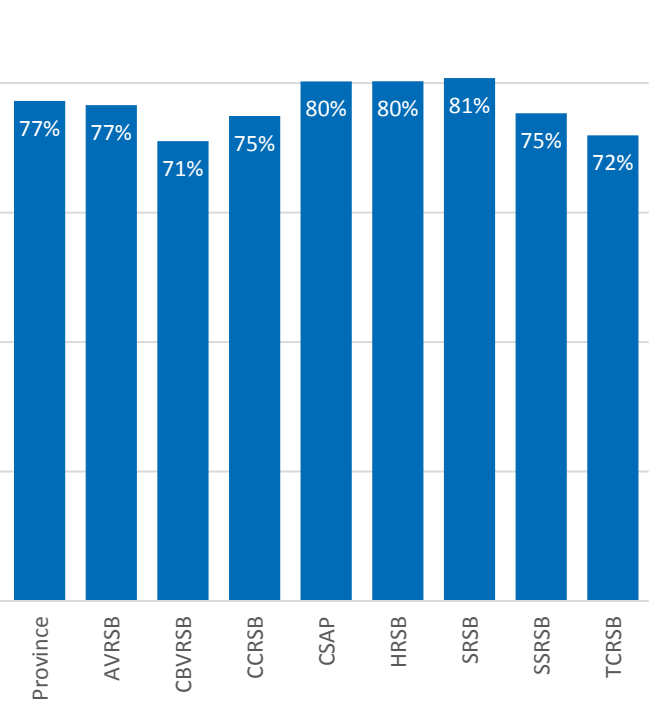
Writing

Percentage of students at or above the assessment expectation (province and school boards)

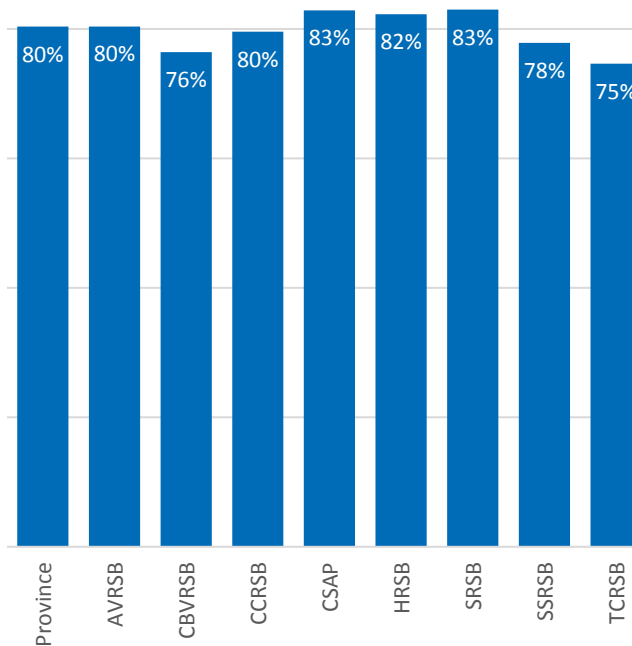
Ideas



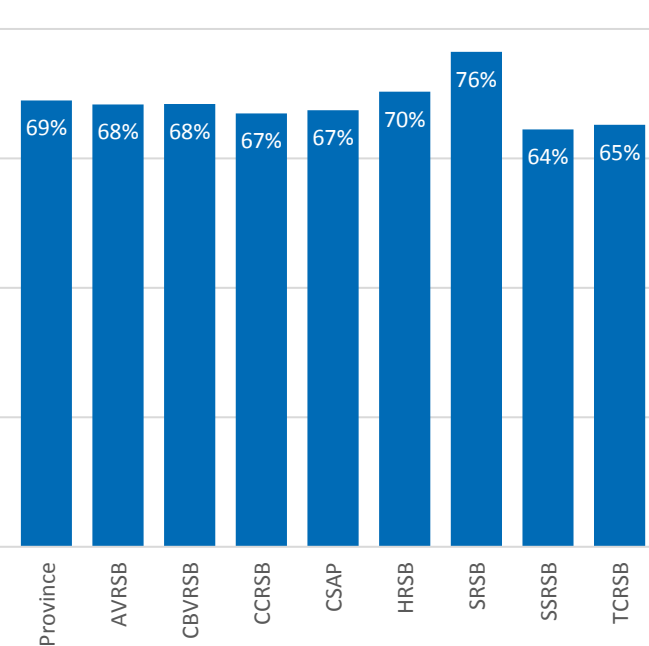
Organization



Language Use



Conventions

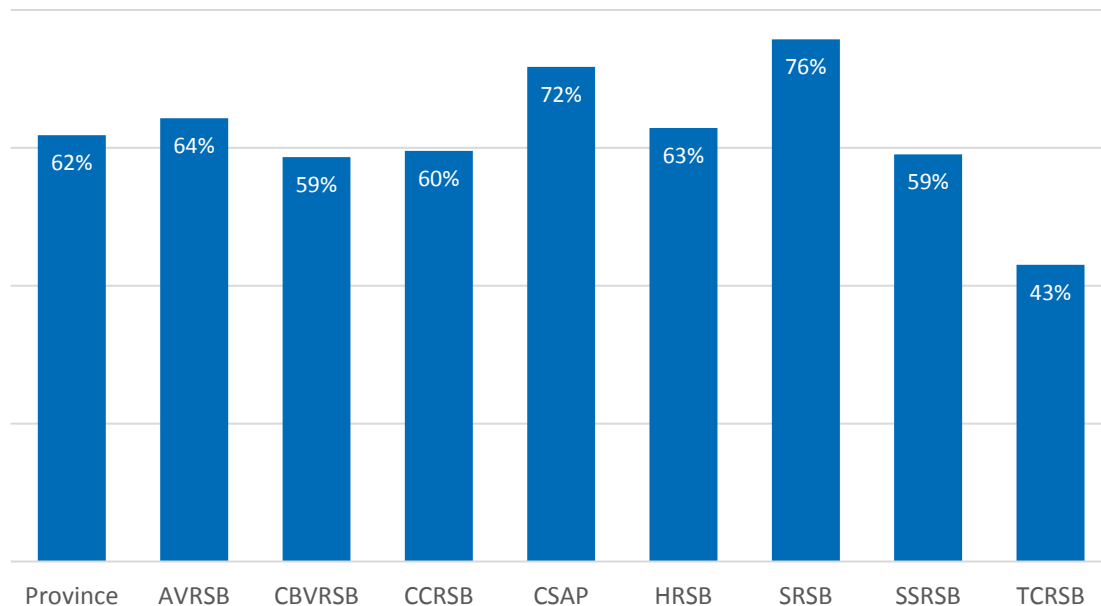


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Reading, Writing and Mathematics in Grade 8

Mathematics

Percentage of students at or above the assessment expectation (province and school boards)



Participation for Mathematics in Grade 8 2015—2016

	Province	AVRSB	CBVRSB	CCRSB	CSAP	HRSB	SRSB	SSRSB	TCRSB
Number of students in grade	8642	967	996	1482	328	3420	500	476	473
Number of students participating	7787	866	853	1351	314	3106	445	445	407
Participation rate	90%	90%	86%	91%	96%	91%	89%	93%	86%

Note: a new grade 8 mathematics curriculum was implemented in the 2015—2016 school year. To ensure the Mathematics in Grade 8 assessment is aligned to the new curriculum outcomes and expectations, an expectation setting session was held in August 2016. Teachers at this session were asked to help the Department establish new cut points for the Mathematics in Grade 8 assessment in line with the curriculum expectations. Because the curriculum has changed substantially and the expectation is new, the 2015—16 Mathematics in Grade 8 assessment is not equated to previous years and the overall percentage results should not be directly compared to previous years.