

2023–24 Nova Scotia Assessment: Reading, Writing and Mathematics in Grade 8

Provincial Results for Students of Mi'kmaw or other Indigenous Ancestry

About the assessment

Nova Scotia teachers work with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to develop, score and set the expectation on this assessment. The expectation is what students should know and do independently at the end of grade 8. All items and texts on the assessment are based on the Nova Scotia curriculum. Nova Scotia Assessments and Examinations provide evidence that helps:

- teachers with information to help plan instruction
- parents and guardians with information about how their child is doing in reading, writing, and/or mathematics
- the department, regions, and schools with information to help make decisions – including supports for students who are historically marginalized

For more information about the assessment, please visit:

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

About self-identification

Self-identification for ancestry or heritage is a voluntary part of the school registration process in Nova Scotia. As of November 2023, 86% of the provincial student population had some self-identification information recorded and 6% self-identified as having Mi'kmaw or other Indigenous ancestry.

Assessment, equity and inclusive education

As noted in the Nova Scotia Inclusive Education Policy, inclusive education is a commitment to ensuring a high-quality, culturally and linguistically responsive and equitable education to support the well-being and achievement of every student.

Successful inclusive education requires a focus on equity by supporting success for students who are historically marginalized and racialized including African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaw students. These disaggregated results enable us to examine how and what the system is doing to support student achievement and the resulting systemic impact on achievement in literacy and mathematics.

As part of the Student Success Planning process, schools use student evidence, including disaggregated data, to monitor and evaluate how students are doing and respond with appropriate, timely supports. The information from these provincial assessments and examinations should be used along with classroom assessment to help inform teaching and supports for every student.

About this report

This report shows assessment performance over time for students of Mi'kmaw or other Indigenous ancestry in Nova Scotia compared to all other students (that is, students who do not self-identify as having Mi'kmaw or other Indigenous ancestry).

Most students who participate in the assessment receive one of four levels in each main element of the assessment:

Level 1 – below the expectation

Level 2 – approaching the expectation

Level 3 – at the expectation

Level 4 – above the expectation.

Occasionally, a student participates in the assessment but does not complete enough work to allow us to determine a performance level. These students receive a determination of Not Enough Evidence (NE) in the affected element instead of a level. In this report, these students count as participating, but do not count as having received a level.

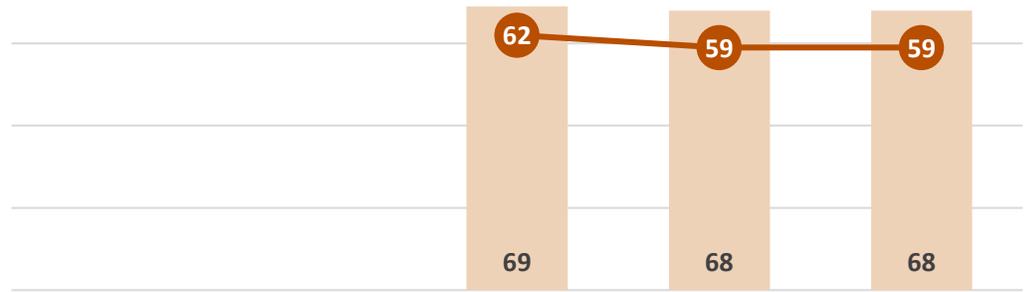
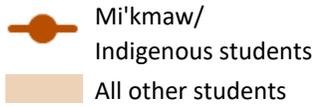
The charts and corresponding tables in this report show the percentage of students of Mi'kmaw or other Indigenous ancestry (chart lines) and all other students (chart bars) who performed at or above the assessment expectation (that is, received a level 3 or level 4) in each of the main elements of the assessment:

- Reading
- Writing
- Mathematics.

The data following the Reading and Writing Performance charts and Mathematics Performance chart contains information about how many students participated and did not participate in the assessment.



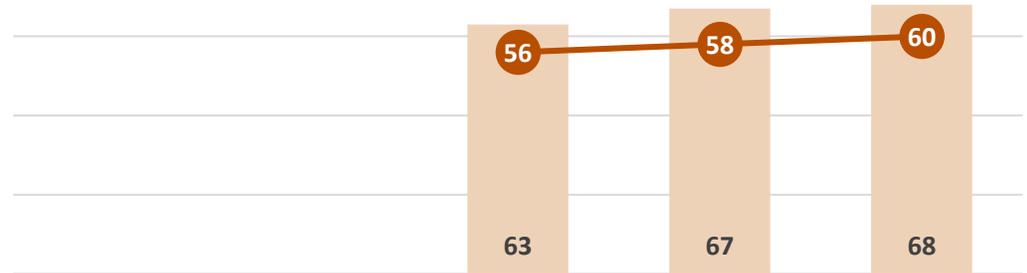
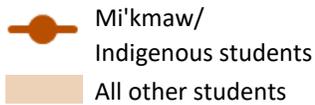
Grade 8 Reading Performance



		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Mi'kmaw/ Indigenous students	# who received a level	N/A	N/A	522	507	542
	# at or above the expectation	N/A	N/A	325	301	321
	% at or above the expectation	N/A	N/A	62%	59%	59%
All other students	# who received a level	N/A	N/A	7887	8068	8180
	# at or above the expectation	N/A	N/A	5440	5473	5566
	% at or above the expectation	N/A	N/A	69%	68%	68%
Difference in % at or above the expectation*		N/A	N/A	-7	-9	-9

*Mi'kmaw/Indigenous minus all other

Grade 8 Writing Performance



		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Mi'kmaw/ Indigenous students	# who received a level	N/A	N/A	500	494	533
	# at or above the expectation	N/A	N/A	278	287	320
	% at or above the expectation	N/A	N/A	56%	58%	60%
All other students	# who received a level	N/A	N/A	7737	7921	8070
	# at or above the expectation	N/A	N/A	4848	5342	5516
	% at or above the expectation	N/A	N/A	63%	67%	68%
Difference in % at or above the expectation*		N/A	N/A	-7	-9	-8

*Mi'kmaw/Indigenous minus all other

Grade 8 Reading & Writing Participation

This table describes student participation in the assessment.

Total # of students: The number of students in the grade within the specified student group at the time of the assessment.

Exempt - # (did not participate): Student was absent or otherwise exempted from participating in the assessment.

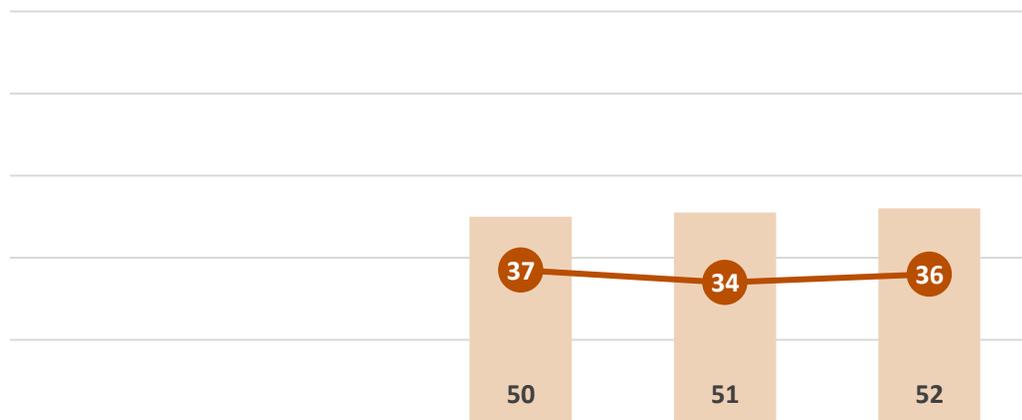
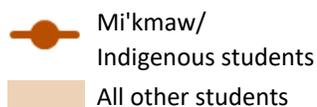
IPP - # (did not participate): The Student Planning Team determines whether students following an individual program plan (IPP) should participate.

Total # who participated: Total # of students minus those who did not participate.

Participation rate: Considers all students who participated in the assessment, including those who did not provide enough evidence to receive a level.

	Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Mi'kmaw/ Indigenous students	Total # of students identified	N/A	N/A	615	606	620
	Exempt - # (did not participate)	N/A	N/A	37	30	25
	IPP - # (did not participate)	N/A	N/A	45	54	51
	Total # who participated	N/A	N/A	533	522	544
	Participation rate	N/A	N/A	87%	86%	88%
All other students	Total # of students identified	N/A	N/A	8807	8891	8958
	Exempt - # (did not participate)	N/A	N/A	382	319	319
	IPP - # (did not participate)	N/A	N/A	442	365	390
	Total # who participated	N/A	N/A	7983	8208	8249
	Participation rate	N/A	N/A	91%	92%	92%

Grade 8 Mathematics Performance



		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Mi'kmaw/ Indigenous students	# who received a level	N/A	N/A	498	458	529
	# at or above the expectation	N/A	N/A	184	154	191
	% at or above the expectation	N/A	N/A	37%	34%	36%
All other students	# who received a level	N/A	N/A	7702	7587	8007
	# at or above the expectation	N/A	N/A	3884	3906	4197
	% at or above the expectation	N/A	N/A	50%	51%	52%
Difference in % at or above the expectation*		N/A	N/A	-13	-17	-16

*Mi'kmaw/Indigenous minus all other

Grade 8 Mathematics Participation

This table describes student participation in the assessment.

Total # of students: The number of students in the grade within the specified student group at the time of the assessment.

Exempt - # (did not participate): Student was absent or otherwise exempted from participating in the assessment.

IPP - # (did not participate): The Student Planning Team determines whether students following an individual program plan (IPP) should participate.

Total # who participated: Total # of students minus those who did not participate.

Participation rate: Considers all students who participated in the assessment, including those who did not provide enough evidence to receive a level.

	Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Mi'kmaw/ Indigenous students	Total # of students identified	N/A	N/A	615	606	620
	Exempt - # (did not participate)	N/A	N/A	52	68	29
	IPP - # (did not participate)	N/A	N/A	50	55	54
	Total # who participated	N/A	N/A	513	483	537
	Participation rate	N/A	N/A	83%	80%	87%
All other students	Total # of students identified	N/A	N/A	8807	8891	8958
	Exempt - # (did not participate)	N/A	N/A	478	667	359
	IPP - # (did not participate)	N/A	N/A	502	448	488
	Total # who participated	N/A	N/A	7827	7775	8111
	Participation rate	N/A	N/A	89%	87%	91%