

# Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) 2016

## Summary of Results for British Columbia

### WHAT IS PCAP?

The Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) is a national assessment of Grade 8 student achievement in reading, mathematics and science. It is organized in partnership with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) and all Canadian jurisdictions.

PCAP takes place every three years. In the most recent administration, in 2016, reading was the major domain (focus), and science and mathematics were minor domains. This was the fourth administration of PCAP (2007, 2010, 2013, & 2016).

PCAP is conducted on a random sample basis. Across Canada, approximately 30,000 students participated in 2016. In B.C., about 2,700 students from 145 schools participated (134 Anglophone and 11 Francophone schools).

Students, teachers and principals also complete questionnaires, which help to contextualize achievement results and provide information on factors associated with successful students, schools and education systems<sup>1</sup>.

### HOW DID B.C. STUDENTS DO IN READING (MAJOR DOMAIN)?

- Consistent with results from previous national and international assessments, B.C. students performed well on PCAP 2016. In **reading**, which was the major domain, no province performed above B.C.'s range, four were within B.C.'s range (Alberta, Ontario Prince Edward Island, and Quebec) and five provinces performed below B.C.'s range (Manitoba, Newfoundland & Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan). B.C.'s performance was in the same range as the Canadian average.
- In reading, 88% of B.C. students and 88% of Canadian students reached or exceeded the level of achievement expected of Grade 8 students.
- Female students performed significantly higher than males in reading, both within B.C. and Canada overall.
- B.C.'s Anglophone students performed significantly higher than Francophone students, both within B.C. and Canada overall.
- Although B.C.'s performance in reading has increased since 2010, it is not statistically significant.

### HOW DID B.C. STUDENTS DO IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS (MINOR DOMAINS)?

- In **science**, B.C. performed at the Canadian average. Two provinces performed above B.C.'s range (Alberta and Prince Edward Island), five provinces performed within B.C.'s range (New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec) and two provinces performed below B.C.'s range (Manitoba and Saskatchewan).

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<sup>1</sup> Questionnaire results are released separately from achievement results.

- Although B.C.'s science score in 2016 increased since the 2013 administration, it is not statistically significant.
- In **mathematics**, B.C. performed below the Canadian average. Four provinces performed above B.C.'s range (Alberta, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec), three provinces performed within B.C.'s range (Newfoundland & Labrador, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia) and two provinces performed below B.C.'s range (Manitoba and Saskatchewan).
- Although B.C.'s math score has increased from 2013, it is not statistically significant. However, the increase is significant since the 2010 administration. This was the general trend for most provinces and for Canada as a whole. However, this is in contrast to the mathematics results from the PISA 2015. In fact, math scores for B.C. as well as Canada as a whole have significantly decreased since 2003.

#### WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

B.C. Ministry of Education webpage: [www.B.C.ed.gov.B.C..ca/assessment/nat\\_int\\_pubs.htm](http://www.B.C.ed.gov.B.C..ca/assessment/nat_int_pubs.htm)

Email questions to: [NatIntQuestions@gov.B.C..ca](mailto:NatIntQuestions@gov.B.C..ca)