

## Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) 2007 British Columbia's Performance

### Background

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- ▶ PCAP is a national assessment that measures the knowledge and skills of 13-year-old students in reading, mathematics, and science.
- ▶ In the spring of 2007, over 30,000 students from across Canada wrote PCAP. Students from all ten provinces and the Yukon participated. In BC, around 2,500 students from more than 150 schools participated.
- ▶ In PCAP 2007, the major domain was reading. Approximately two thirds of the students wrote a 90-minute reading assessment, while one third wrote a 45-minute math assessment and a 45-minute science assessment.
- ▶ Questionnaires are administered alongside PCAP to students, teachers, and principals in order to provide contextual information that contributes to the interpretation of performance results.

### BC's Performance at a Glance

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	Reading	Mathematics	Science
Above BC	Canada, Ontario, Quebec	Alberta, Canada, Ontario, Quebec	Alberta, Canada, Quebec
In BC's range	Alberta, <b>British Columbia</b> , Yukon	<b>British Columbia</b> , Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador	<b>British Columbia</b> , Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Yukon
Below BC	Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan	New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, Yukon	New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island

*Note:* Jurisdictions are listed in alphabetical order within ranges.

### BC's Performance in Reading

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- ▶ BC students performed below the Canadian mean score in reading achievement. Students from Ontario and Quebec performed above BC; students from Alberta and the Yukon performed in the same range as BC; students from Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Saskatchewan performed below BC.

- ▶ The majority of BC students are able to read at or above the level expected of 13-year-olds. In BC, 87% of students reached or exceeded the level expected of 13-year-olds, while nationally, 88% of students reached or exceeded that level.
- ▶ BC students who wrote the assessment in English performed at the same level as the Canadian mean for students who wrote in English, but BC students who wrote the assessment in French performed significantly lower than the Canadian mean for students who wrote in French.
- ▶ In BC, as in all participating jurisdictions, female students performed better than male students in reading. However, the gap between female and male students was smaller in BC (15 score points) than in Canada overall (23 score points).

### **BC's Performance in Mathematics**

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- ▶ BC students performed below the Canadian mean score in mathematics achievement. Students from Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec performed above BC; students from Manitoba and Newfoundland and Labrador performed in the same range as BC; students from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon performed below BC.
- ▶ BC students who wrote the assessment in English performed below the Canadian mean in mathematics; the same was true for students who wrote in French.

### **BC's Performance in Science**

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- ▶ BC students performed below the Canadian mean score in science achievement. Students from Alberta and Quebec performed above BC; students from Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon performed in the same range as BC; students from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island performed below BC.
- ▶ BC students who wrote the assessment in English performed at the Canadian mean in science; the same was true for students who wrote in French.

### **Further Information**

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For further information, visit the Ministry of Education Website:  
[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/nat\\_int\\_assess.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/nat_int_assess.htm)

The results of the student, teacher, and school questionnaires will be released later in 2008 and will be available through the Ministry of Education website above.