



AGENDA

Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Item	Responsibility
1 Call to Order – 4:00 p.m.	K. Dostaler
2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands	S. Binder/S. Lewis
3 Roll Call	K. Dostaler
4 Approval of Agenda	K. Dostaler
5 Declarations of Conflict of Interest	K. Dostaler
6 Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings a) November 23, 2023	K. Dostaler
7 Review of election process for SEAC Chair and Vice-chair	K. Dostaler
8 Election of SEAC Chair	K. Dostaler
9 Election of SEAC Vice-chair	Chair
10 Delegations/Presentations a) Blind/Low Vision & Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services b) EQAO data review	G. McComb S. Taylor-Harvey
11 Committee Reports	Chair
12 Staff Reports a) Special Education Plan review process b) Tri-Board SEAC meeting – Monday, May 13, 2024	K. Dostaler K. Dostaler
13 Correspondence a) Special Incidence Portion Letter	Chair
14 Adjournment	Chair

**Next scheduled meeting:
Thursday, January 25, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.**



**Special Education Advisory Committee
(SEAC) Meeting
November 23, 2023 - 4:00 p.m.**

Members present: S. Binder, S. Lewis, N. Hamilton, A. Card, A. Brennan, R. Glenn, W. Haystead, R. Howard, J. Christie, S. Ward, E. Reynolds

Absent: L. Rashotte, D. Vanderkloet, A. James, E. Cotman, J. Parker, L. Solski

Resource: T. Whittaker, C. Breau, K. Dostaler, S. Taylor-Harvey

Minutes: J. Kezar

1. Call to order

Chair Brennan called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

Trustee Lewis offered the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Roll Call

Chair Brennan requested a roll call of members.

4. Approval of the agenda

Mover: Shannon Binder

Second: Elizabeth Reynolds

That the agenda for the November 23, 2023 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There was no conflict of interest declared.

6. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

(a) October 26, 2023

Mover: Richelle Glenn

Second: Stacey Lewis

That the minutes of the October 26, 2023 meeting be approved.

Carried

7. Delegations/Presentations

a) Tier 1 Oral Language Narrative

Megan Mertins, Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP), and Tealle Plant, Communicative Disorders Assistant (CDA), provided an overview of the Tier 1 Oral Language Narrative Program which has been implemented in most Grade 2 classrooms within Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB). The program runs for eight to ten weeks and targets two key early reading skills of vocabulary and language comprehension. The program utilizes the research-based Story Champs program to promote oral language through storytelling. It was noted that 81% of children with emotional or behavioural difficulties are found to have an underlying oral language deficit (Hollo et. Al 2014).

Of 198 Grade 2 students tested in the fall (before and after engaging in the program):

- 32.3% of students began the program below expectation for listening comprehension.
- 51% of students began the program below expectation for expressive story retelling.
- 85.5% of students who had pre-test scores below expectation, made gains in their listening comprehension skills.
- 96% made gains in their expressive storytelling post program.
- 50% of the respondents were satisfied with the program, and 50% were extremely satisfied.
- 100% of teachers felt the program was beneficial for students.

Trustee Lewis questioned if the program was implemented in other boards, and Megan Mertins responded.

b) Grade 7 and 8 Mental Health Literacy Module Implementation Plan

Superintendent Dostaler referred to the report contained in the agenda package, which outlined an implementation plan for the Grade 7 and 8 Mental Health Literacy Modules that will become mandatory for instruction beginning January 2024. A number of professional learning sessions have been scheduled for Grade 7 and 8 teachers, to provide culturally responsive, evidence-informed student mental health promotion, prevention, and early intervention services that respect students as complex individuals and provide appropriate supports for their diverse needs.

8. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

9. Staff Reports

a) Draft Special Incidence Portion (SIP) letter

Superintendent Dostaler recapped the discussion from the October meeting, where members supported drafting an advocacy letter to the Ministry to request a review of the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding allotment (using same size board comparators), and to advocate for increased funding for boards. A draft letter was distributed to members, who were asked to review and provide feedback by December 4, 2023.

Superintendent Dostaler will share the letter with members of the Senior Administration team, before forwarding it on to the Ministry of Education.

b) SEAC school newsletter insert

Chair Brennan referred members to the SEAC school newsletter insert, contained in the agenda package. The insert will be forwarded to schools for inclusion in school newsletters and on school websites.

c) Sub-committee updates

Chair Brennan noted that work has continued within the two sub-committee groups: Mental Health and Individual Education Plans (IEPs) with meetings occurring outside of SEAC. The following updates were shared:

Mental Health

- No update was shared, as the next meeting is scheduled for mid-December. An update will be provided at the January meeting.

Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

- A parent-friendly draft of the IEP brochure was shared. The brochure may be changed into a one page (2 sided document).
- Members will continue to review feedback, which included adding the Tier 1, 2, 3 model on the flow chart and the emphasis of the parent/guardian role at each level.
- Next meeting is December 14, 2023. A draft document will be shared at the January meeting.

10. **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence shared; however, Chair Brennan reminded members that elections for the position of Chair and Vice-chair will occur at the December meeting. Chair Brennan shared that she will not be moving forward as SEAC Chair next year.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

SECTION 3: INAUGURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

3.4.2 The election process for the HPEDSB will be as follows:

- (a) Voting will be by secret ballot;
- (b) A ballot vote may be taken by paper, electronic means (including fax, email, text, survey software to permit voting on-line or telephone) provided the means ensures the Member only voted once and can indicate a Member's choice without revealing how the individual Member voted, except to the scrutineer;
- (c) Members participating in a meeting to elect candidates must be Present during the discussion leading up to any vote;
- (d) Proxy voting is not permitted;
- (e) The Director shall appoint scrutineers to conduct the election as necessary, but no fewer than two scrutineers shall be appointed;
- (f) The scrutineers will be responsible for distributing, collecting, counting and confirming voting results to the Presiding Officer, without disclosing the count, nor the order of the results;
- (g) The Presiding Officer will call for nominations from Members for positions of responsibility described in Section 3.4.1;
- (h) All nominations require a mover and a seconder;
- (i) Candidates may nominate themselves;
- (j) After each nominee is nominated, the Presiding Officer will ask nominees whether they accept the nomination;
- (k) Following a final call for nominations, the Presiding Officer will call for a motion to close nominations. The motion to close nominations requires a mover, a seconder and a Majority Vote;
- (l) Where only one nomination is received for a position described in Section 3.4.1, the Presiding Officer will declare that Member acclaimed to the position;
- (m) Where more than one nomination for any position is received and accepted, the election process will be conducted by secret ballot;
- (n) Following the motion to close nominations, the Presiding Officer will ask nominees who accepted the nomination to speak, in the order of nomination, for up to two minutes regarding their candidacy;
- (o) In the event a Member nominated for office is not Present, the nominator or nominators shall satisfy the Presiding Officer that the Member's consent to nomination has been obtained;
- (p) Nominees who have not already declared otherwise, may also decline a nomination at this time;
- (q) The scrutineers will distribute ballots to the Members present in the Board room, and collect the ballots when completed by the Members;
- (r) Members shall record one name of a valid candidate of their choice on the ballot
- (s) The scrutineers will withdraw from the meeting room to count the ballots or verify the votes if cast electronically, and will share the name of the successful candidate with the Presiding Officer, who shall announce the name of the successful candidate to the Members;
- (t) To be declared elected to any position, the winning candidate must receive a Majority Vote of ballots cast by Members;

SECTION 3: INAUGURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

- (u) If no Member receives a clear majority, a second ballot shall be held. The names of the candidates shall be announced in order of the number of votes cast, beginning with the highest;
 - (v) Where a simple majority cannot be determined on the second ballot, and there are more than two candidates, the candidate with the least number of votes will be dropped from the ballot and voting will continue with the remaining candidates until a simple majority can be determined. The scrutineers will share the name only of the candidate with the least votes with the Presiding Officer who shall announce the name before a new vote continues;
 - (w) In the case of multiple candidates and a two-way tie vote for last place, a drawing of lots will take place among the candidates who are tied after the Presiding Officer is advised of the names by the scrutineers and the Presiding Officer announces those names. The name drawn is an affirmative vote in favour of the candidate and the candidate whose name is drawn will result in the candidate remaining on the ballot for the next vote.
 - (x) A Member who is participating remotely or is not Present and is a candidate who is part of a tie may appoint another Member or Board staff to draw lots on their behalf;
 - (y) In the case of a three or four way tie, each name drawn will result in the candidate remaining on the ballot for the next vote;
 - (z) In the case of a tie vote with only two candidates remaining on the final ballot, one additional vote will be conducted before the drawing of lots by the candidates, as outlined in the Act (or in the case of the candidate participating electronically or not Present, as drawn by an appointed Member or Board staff); and
 - (aa) The Presiding Officer will announce the name of the newly elected Board Chair following the final ballot or drawing of lots.
- 3.4.3 Following the election result for Board Chair, the newly elected Chair will preside at the Inaugural Meeting. The Board Chair will conduct the elections for Vice-Chair of the Board and for members of the Governance and Policy Committee, in accordance with the HPEDSB election process.
- 3.4.4 The Board Chair will conduct the elections for the chair and vice-chair of Board Standing Committees during the Board's Organizational Meeting, in accordance with the HPEDSB election process.
- 3.4.5 In accordance with the *Education Act*, the Board Chair may cast a vote for all elected positions.
- 3.4.6 At the conclusion of the Inaugural and Organizational Meeting(s) the scrutineers will destroy all ballots.

To: Special Education Advisory Committee

From: Ken Dostaler, Superintendent of Education, Student Services
Stephanie Taylor-Harvey, System Lead, Student Services

Re: EQAO Primary and Junior Student Achievement Data: Reading

Purpose

To share Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) student achievement data from the 2022-2023 EQAO Primary and Junior Assessments of Reading for Grades 3 and 6 students with special education needs.

Background

The EQAO is an arm's length government agency that contributes to the quality and accountability of Ontario's publicly funded education system for K-12. EQAO provides results to each student who writes an assessment. It's personalized reports help support individual student learning. The agency provides schools and school boards with detailed reports about their students' achievement, as well as contextual, attitudinal, and behavioural information from questionnaires, in an interactive online reporting tool. This data is used to improve school programming and classroom instruction. EQAO also reports the results of the provincial assessments publicly <https://www.eqao.com/>.

Current situation

SEAC has expressed interest in reviewing data related to the achievement of students with special education needs. Information has been prepared for SEAC review, discussion, and to gather insights for next steps to improve the achievement of students with special education needs. The scope of the student achievement data presented in the slides includes the primary division (Grade 3) and junior division (Grade 6) EQAO assessment results for reading.

Next steps

- Review and discuss the EQAO Student Achievement data at the December 7, 2023 SEAC meeting.
- Should members wish to review and discuss results of the primary and junior writing or math assessment, the Grade 9 math assessment, or the OSSLT, this data can be brought forward to future SEAC meetings.



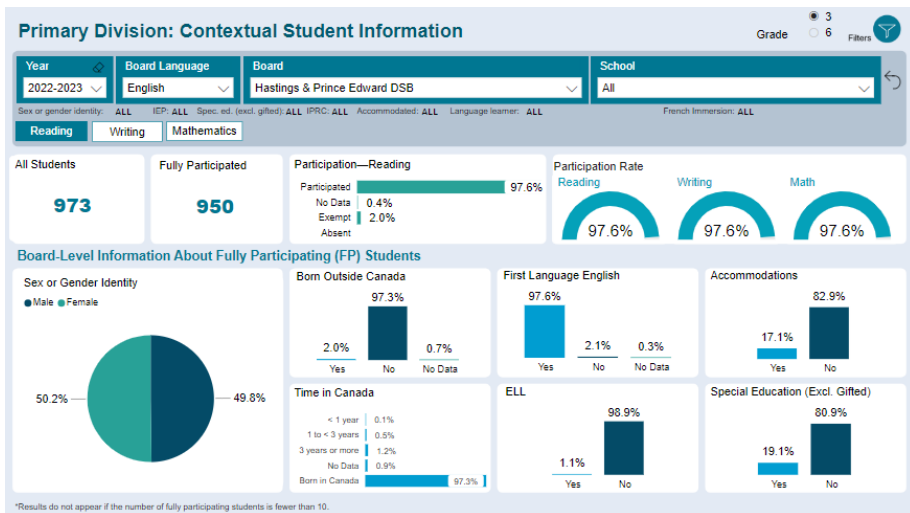
EQAO Primary and Junior Divisions Student Achievement Data: Reading

Prepared for HPEDSB SEAC

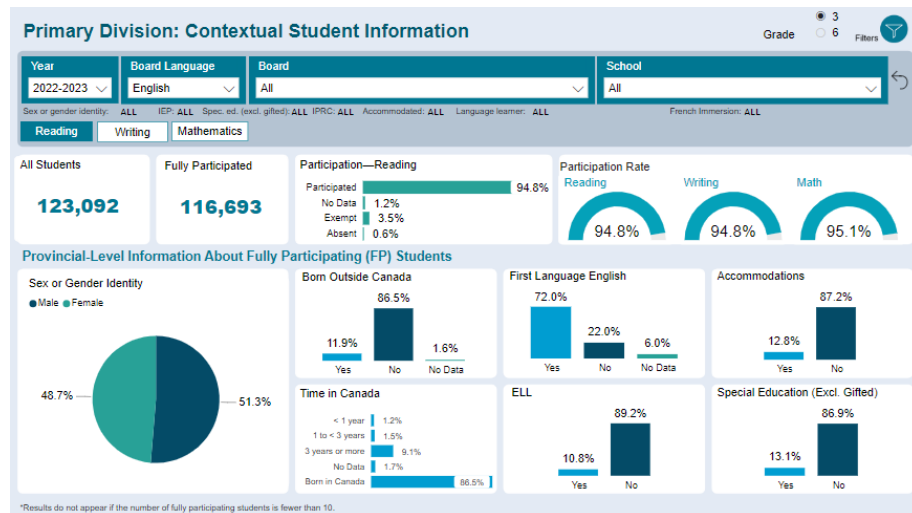
December 7th, 2023

Grade 3 Reading Contextual Information

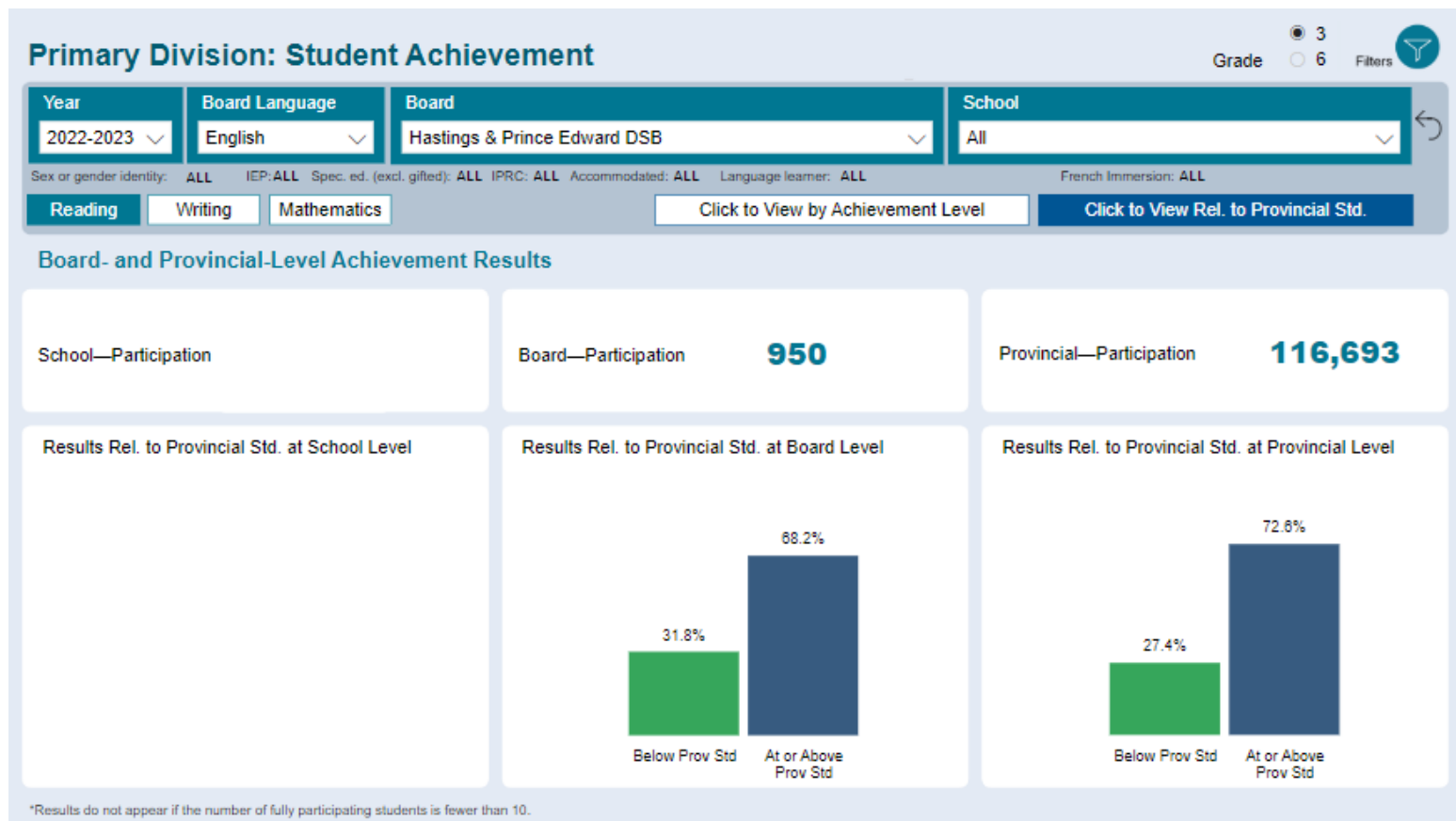
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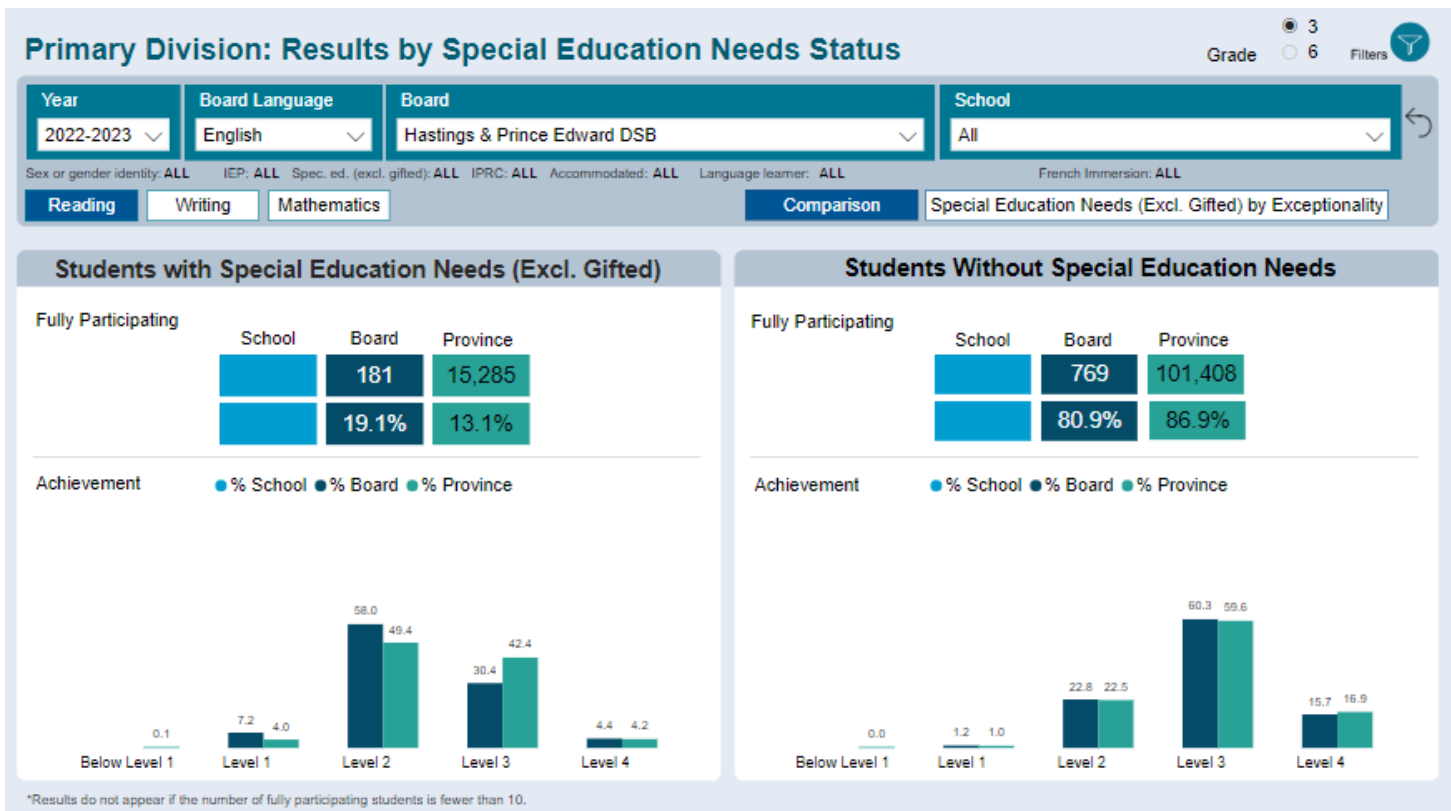
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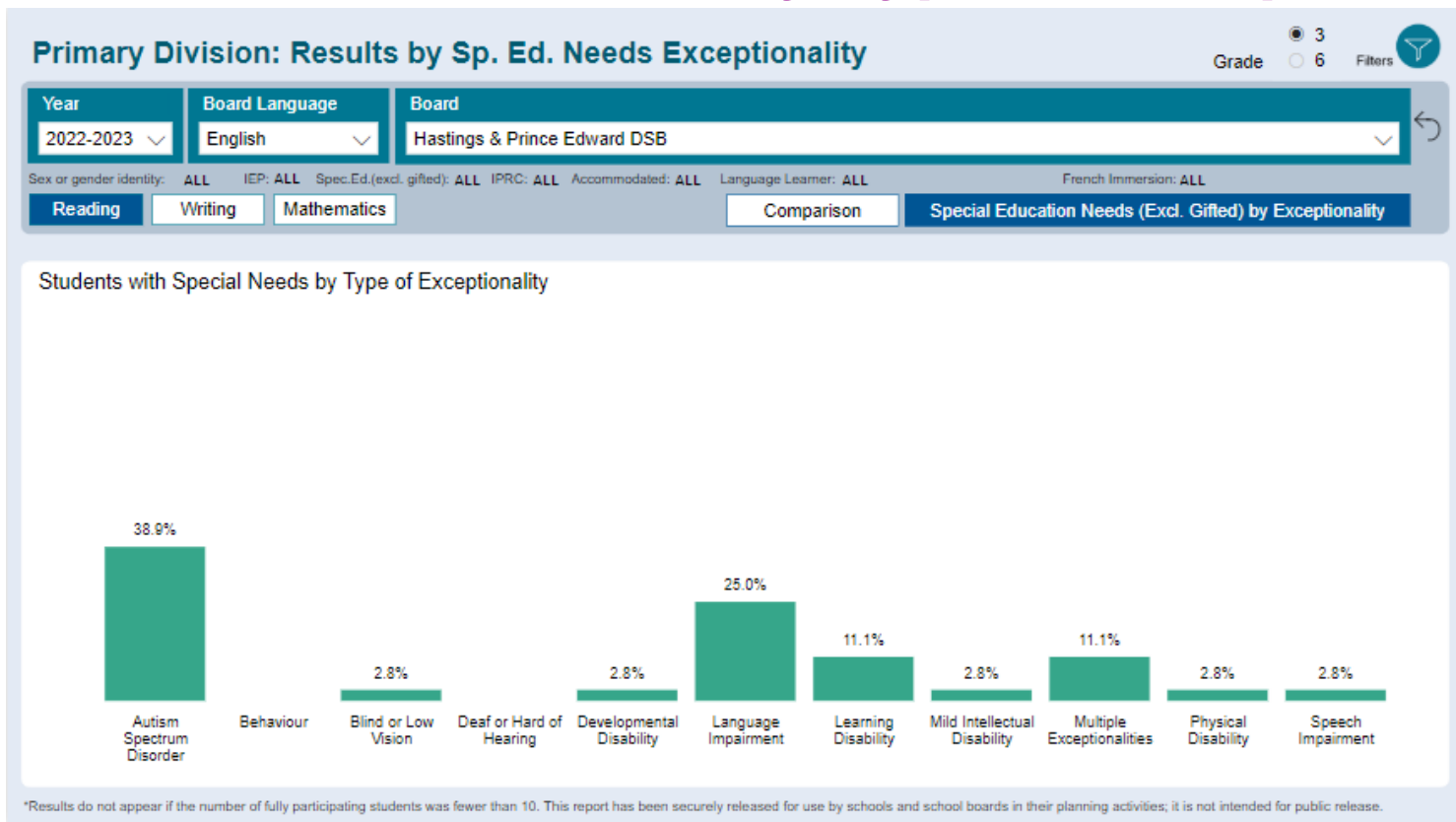
Grade 3 Reading Achievement Data: All Students



Grade 3 Reading: Results by Special Education Needs Status



Grade 3 Reading: Fully Participating Students with Special Education Needs by Type of Exceptionality



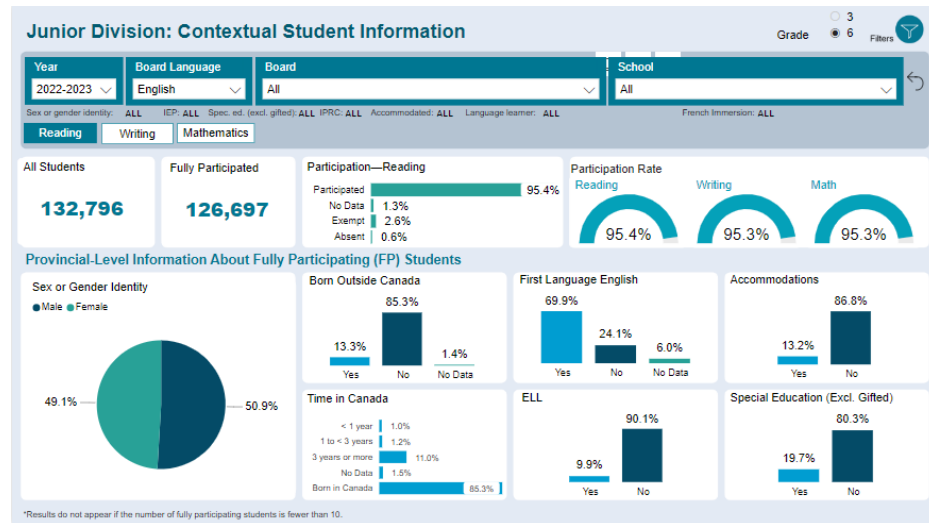
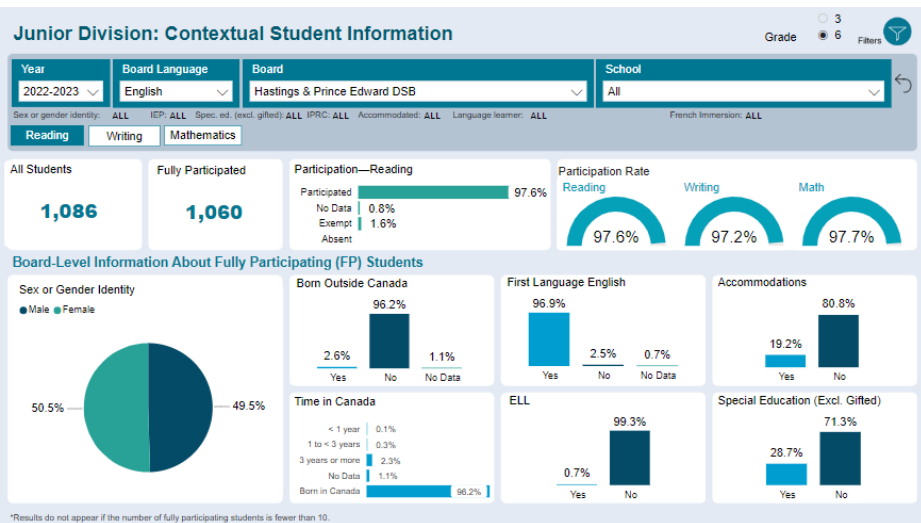
Board Level Data

Grade 3 Reading by Exceptionality: Levels of Achievement						
Exceptionality	# of Fully Participating Students	Below Level 1	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
ASD	14			42.9%	50%	7.1%
Behaviour	0					
Blind or Low Vision	1				100%	
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	0					
Developmental Disability	1		100%			
Language Impairment	9		22.2%	77.8%		
Learning Disability	4			25%	25%	50%
Mild Intellectual Disability	1			100%		
Multiple	4			50%	25%	25%
Physical Disability	1				100%	
Speech Impairment	1			100%		

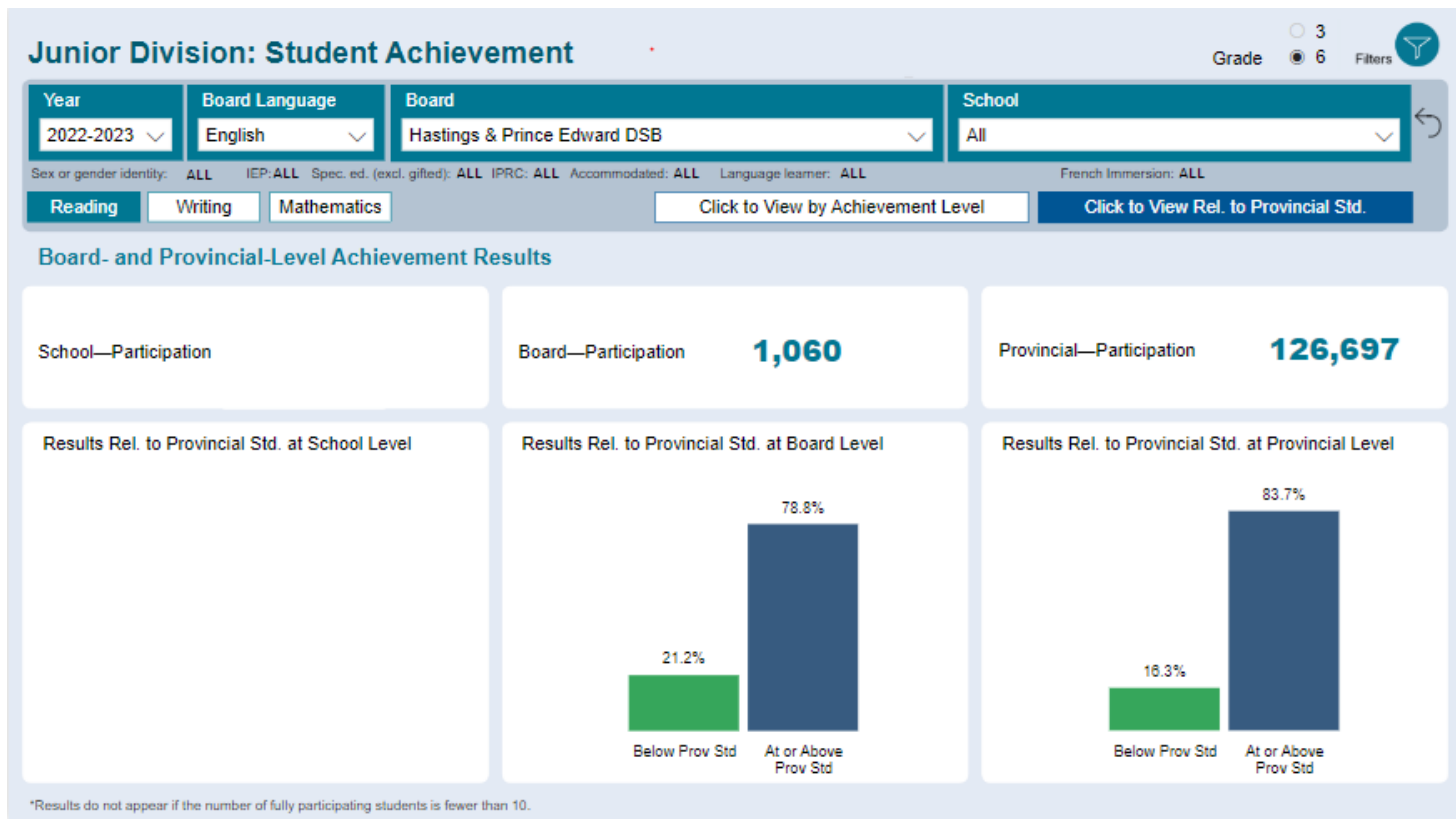
Grade 6 Contextual Information

Board

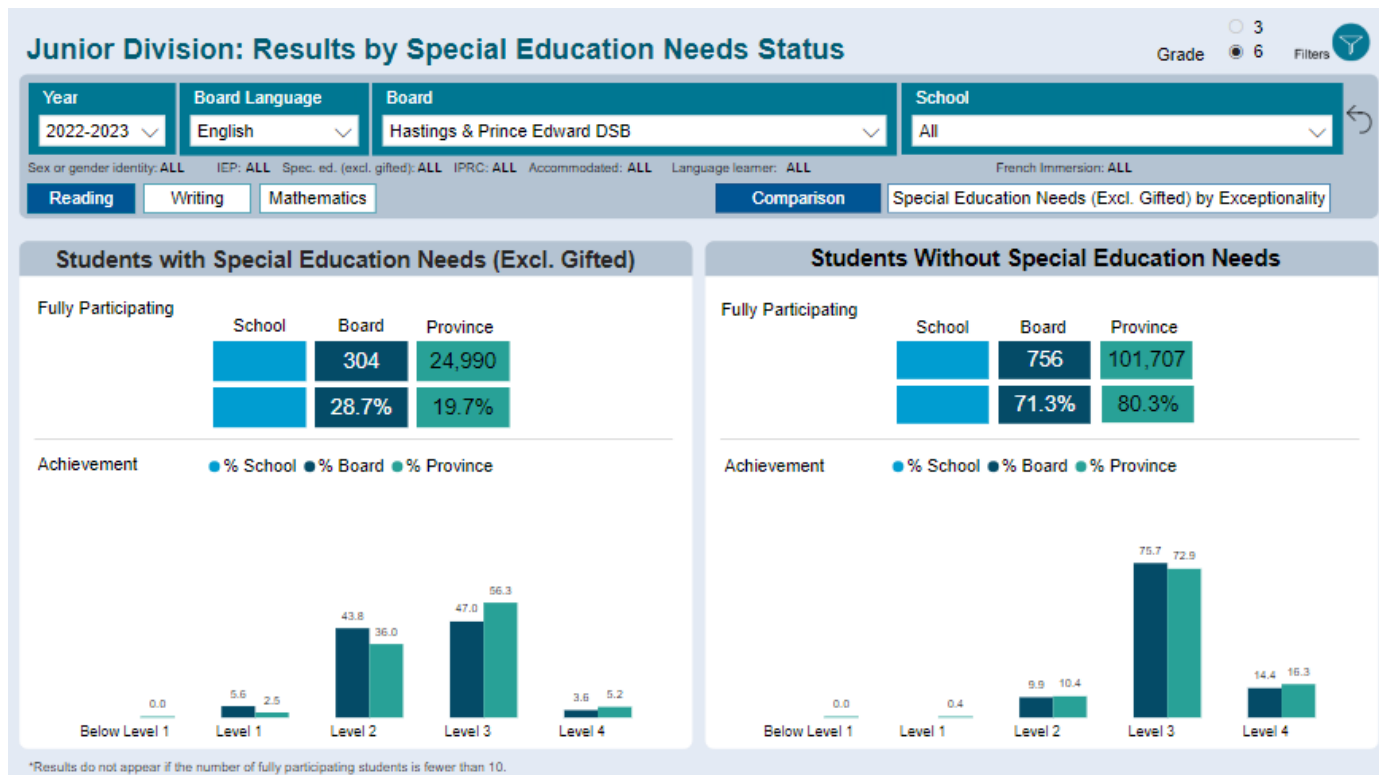
Province



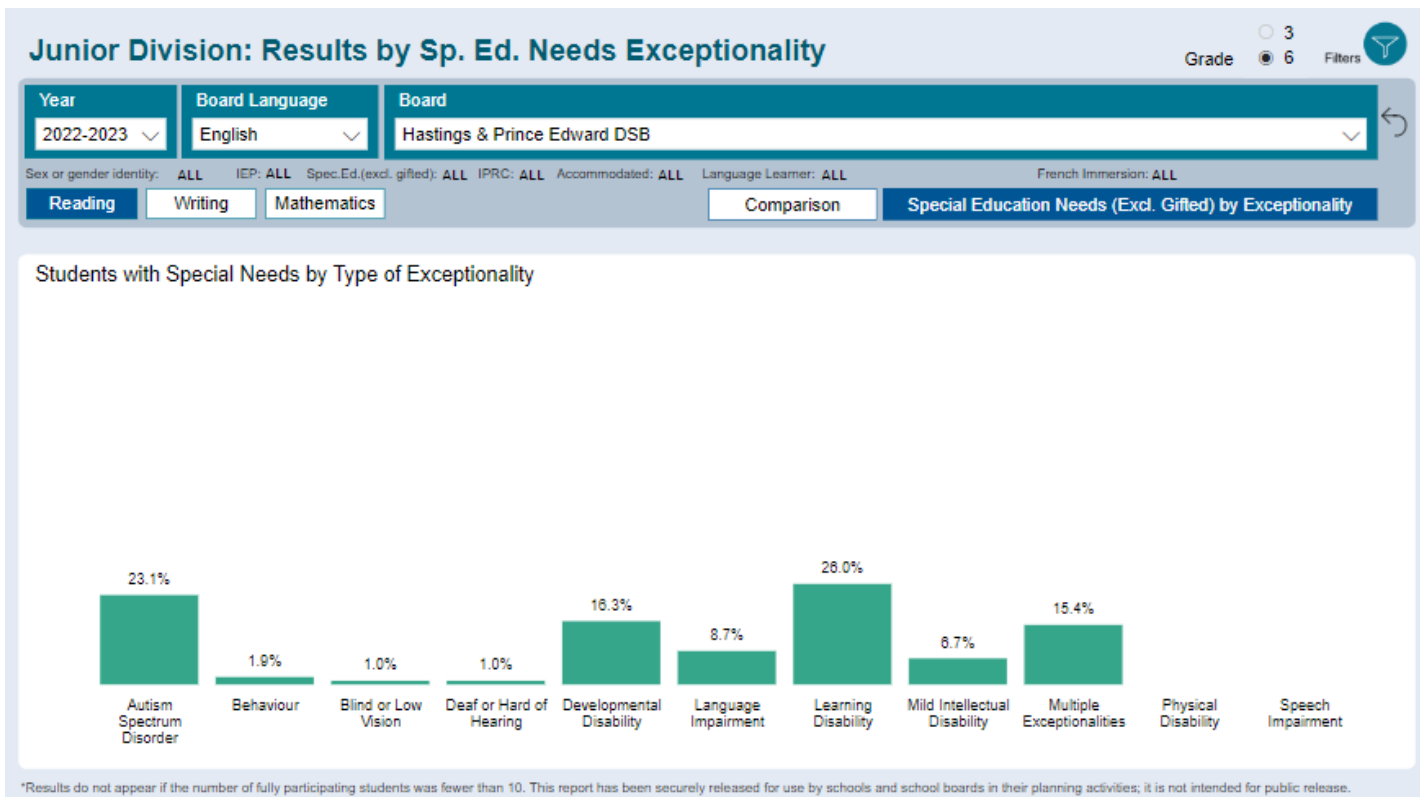
Grade 6 Reading Achievement Data: All Students



Grade 6 Reading: Results by Special Education Needs Status



Grade 6 Reading: Fully Participating Students with Special Education Needs by Type of Exceptionality



Board Level Data

Grade 6 Reading by Exceptionality: Levels of Achievement						
Exceptionality	# of Fully Participating Students	Below Level 1	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
ASD	24			45.8%	54.2%	
Behaviour	2				100%	
Blind or Low Vision	1			100%		
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	1				100%	
Developmental Disability	17		41.2%	52.9%	5.9%	
Language Impairment	9			77.8%	22.2%	
Learning Disability	27		3.7%	29.6%	63%	3.7%
Mild Intellectual Disability	7			85.7%	14.3%	
Multiple	16		12.5%	68.8%	18.8%	
Physical Disability	0					
Speech Impairment	0					

Comparison: Grade 3 & 6 Accommodate Students by Type of Accommodation

Grade 3

Grade 6

