

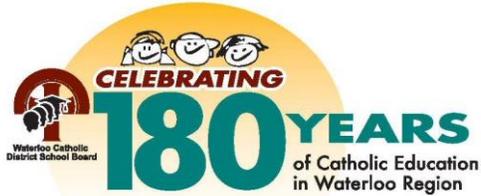


Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

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News Release



May 4, 2016
For immediate release

Catholic Board's Grade 12 Graduation Rate Surpasses Provincial Average

Waterloo Region, ON – The Grade 12 graduation rate for students attending Waterloo Region's Catholic secondary schools has surpassed the provincial average graduation rate, according to figures released yesterday by the Ontario government.

While the margin is small (78.8% for WCDSB vs. 78.3%) the impact on students is large. The graduation rate for those choosing to attend a WCDSB secondary school for a fifth year increases to 84.1%.

Both statistics mark improvements over the previous year.

QuickFacts

- ✓ The improvement in WCDSB's four and five year graduation rates are due to a number of factors:
 - The board's focus on mental health and well-being -- particularly in the area of resiliency -- has given students the foundation to persevere in their studies, and succeed;
 - The board's provincially-acclaimed **Specialist High Skills Major Program** that has the largest senior student participation per capita in Ontario;
 - The board's **21st Century Teaching and Learning Strategy** has provided students a learning environment that builds their critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication and digital citizenship skills through platforms such as **Google Apps for Education** and **Desire to Learn**;
 - The board's vastly improved technology infrastructure – including **Brightlinks** interactive whiteboard projectors in every classroom, and a robust wireless network which has allowed the integration of **Chromebooks** on a 5 to 1 student ratio across the school system;
 - The board's **Career Cruising IPP Strategy** from grades 7-12, which ensures students have a better understanding of their God-given talents and potential personal life pathway as they make the important transition from elementary school to high school;
 - The board's **Student Success Learning to 18 Strategy**, which ensures students that are in-risk have at least one caring adult by their side, an individualized timetable, and a career education plan in place. This individualized approach has had a significant impact on credit accumulation rates. The more credits a student attains in Grade 9, the more likely they will be to graduate.

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- The board's emphasis on **Elementary/Secondary "Cross Panel" Activities** -- where elementary students are introduced into the surroundings and culture of their future secondary school. This gradual introduction to high school has a tremendous impact on easing the anxiety of entering Grade 9.

Quotes

" We are very proud of our Waterloo Catholic students and the great progress they are continuing to enjoy. Their great success is a reflection of our dedicated staff and all of the innovations in programming we continue to implement. It is a wonderful way to mark Catholic Education Week when we see the strides our schools and our students are making".

-- Loretta Notten, Director of Education, WCDSB

Related Links

[WCDSB Multi-year Strategic Plan](#)

[Specialist High Skills Major Program](#)

[Mental Health & Wellness Strategy](#)

[Student Success Learning to 18 Strategy](#)

[21st Century Teaching & Learning Blueprint](#)

[WCDSB Pathways Planner](#)

[WCDSB Cooperative Education Programs](#)

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 96,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 180-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: [@WCDSBNewsWire](#) - [#WCDSBAwesome](#).

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