



Waterloo Catholic  
District School Board

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## News Release

May 9, 2017  
For immediate release

# Catholic Board's Five-Year Graduation Rate Improves; Gap Closes with Provincial Average

**Waterloo Region, ON** – The five-year graduation rate for students attending Waterloo Region's Catholic high schools has improved for the third consecutive year. The data was confirmed in yesterday's provincial government release of board-by-board graduation rates.

In addition to the third consecutive graduation rate increase, the board also closed its gap with the provincial average from 1.4% to 0.6%. These improvements come as a result of the board's focus on the "re-engagement" of students in danger of not graduating.

### QuickFacts

- ✓ With a renewed focus on improving graduation rates, the WCDSB has established a **Student Re-Engagement Steering Committee** representing all five secondary schools. This committee is working in a more coordinated fashion to increase the number of students reached and, thereby, to increase the number of students achieving their **Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)**. Under the auspices of this committee, the board's **Student Re-Engagement Officer** has for several years been facilitating individualized credit accumulation strategies for students in danger of not graduating. The board's improving graduation rate is, in part, attributable to this coordinated strategy.
- ✓ The **Student Re-Engagement Steering Committee** includes key staff from across the school system, who work strategically not just to bring back students who have left school, but to also focus on students currently attending school, but at risk of not graduating. The committee meets monthly to review school-by-school reports and metrics -- and assesses the progress of each individual student being assisted.
- ✓ Re-engaged students are being supported in the following ways:
  - Enrolment in **Continuing Education** at St. Louis.
  - **Independent Learning Course** support in the students' home schools through the **WCDSB Student Success Department**.
  - Recovering credits with learning packages sent home.
  - Credits via the work **Co-op Program** through **St. Don Bosco CSS**.
- ✓ Graduation rates reflect all the work done with students from Junior Kindergarten through to Grade 12. WCDSB schools work hard to ensure each child reaches their full potential. This requires a comprehensive consideration of the needs of all learners and an understanding of the supports they require to succeed.

### Quotes

"There are many reasons a student might find themselves in danger of not graduating. Our job as educators is to determine the root causes of each individual situation and then drill down via individualized support to provide the assistance the student needs to succeed. The data indicates our re-engagement strategies are working, and that success, coupled with our strong EQAO performance (at or above the provincial average in ALL measures), bodes well for the future success of our students. But a lot of work remains to be done – and we look forward to continuing our steady progress in positioning our students to graduate."

-- **Loretta Notten, Director of Education**

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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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