



August 21, 2013

Identifying Alberta's Best Schools: 2010-2012

Charter Schools

Charter Schools Tables

How do parents, teachers, taxpayers and school administrators know if children are attending a good school? A school cannot be considered a success just because a high percentage of its students are successful; nor can schools be meaningfully ranked on that basis. A school with strong standardized test results could simply be a school where students come from more advantaged backgrounds.

But not all variation in school results can be explained by variation in social and economic characteristics. By controlling for characteristics of schools' students and the communities they come from, we present a measure of success for each school when compared with similar schools.

The schools are organized alphabetically by school board and then by school name.

Description of Variables

Students: The number of students in grade 3, grade 6 or grade 9 who were eligible to take the Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) (three year total).

Adjusted Excellent Rate: The percentage of all students who achieve the "standard of excellence." The adjusted excellent rate is the difference between the school's excellent rate and the provincial average excellent rate on each test. A positive value indicates the school has a higher excellent rate than the provincial average; a negative value indicates the opposite. Outcomes are averaged over the assessments written at a school, with each assessment weighted equally.

Predicted Adjusted Excellent Rate: The excellent rate that a given school would be expected to attain given the performance of other schools in similar socio-economic environments, minus the provincial average excellent rate.

Percentile: A performance measure adjusted for observable social and economic characteristics and variation in the average score on assessments. Percentiles go from 0 to 100. Schools that score exactly as predicted get a percentile of 50.

The predicted adjusted excellent rate is subtracted from the actual adjusted excellent rate and expressed as a percentile. A percentile value of 90 indicates that this school's outcome is higher than 90 percent of other similar schools in the province. A value of 10 indicates that this school's result is higher than only 10 percent of other similar schools or, equivalently, that 90 percent of similar schools score better than this school. A similar school has a set of social and economic indicators that predict the same predicted adjusted excellent rate. Small differences, for example one or five unit differences in percentile ratings, are not of any interest. It is the large gaps between the 90th percentile schools and the 10th percentile schools that are of the most interest.

A note on missing values for some schools:

Some schools' performance indicators are missing, for three reasons. First, the results in a grade in a year at a school are suppressed for privacy reasons when there are less than 15 students in the grade. Second, the predicted and percentile indicators for a given school and grade are shown only if outcomes for at least 45 students in total were available. Johnson (2005) explains why it is important to compare schools using a large number of individual students. Third, I do not include students who write certain French language assessments or Knowledge and Employability (KAE) assessments.

The schools are organized alphabetically by school board and then by school name.

Please cite the source of these indicators as:

The David Johnson / C.D. Howe Institute Alberta School Performance Database (2013)

The details concerning the construction of these statistics can be found in:

Johnson, David. 2013. Identifying Alberta's Best Schools. C.D. Howe Institute E-Brief 164,
http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/e-brief_164.pdf

Researchers interested in obtaining this database in a useable electronic format to carry out their own research should contact the C.D. Howe Institute at cdhowe@cdhowe.org with a short description of their research project.

School No.	School Name	Grade 3 Results				Grade 6 Results				Grade 9 Results			
		Students	Adjusted Excellent Rate	Predicted Adjusted Excellent Rate	Percentile	Students	Adjusted Excellent Rate	Predicted Adjusted Excellent Rate	Percentile	Students	Adjusted Excellent Rate	Predicted Adjusted Excellent Rate	Percentile
Charter Schools													
6007	Almadina Language Charter Academy	227	16.1	-10.0	100	191	0.9	-10.3	89	148	14.8	-8.6	100
6006	Aurora School	154	21.4	0.9	98	140	30.1	1.8	100	122	25.3	1.8	100
6005	Centre for Academic and Personal Excellence	48	-8.1	-3.9	33	39				7	23.1		
1126	Calgary Arts Academy	149	3.3	5.6	40	145	2.4	7.0	31	102	-1.2	7.2	15
1128	Calgary Girls' School					301	11.3	12.3	46	323	13.6	11.5	60
335	Calgary Science School					300	20.4	14.2	75	298	30.2	13.6	98
12	FFCA High School Campus									571	9.6	1.6	84
1426	FFCA North Middle School Campus					379	3.5	-0.5	67				
1349	FFCA Northeast Elementary Campus	224	20.3	-5.2	100								
1350	FFCA Northwest Elementary Campus	160	32.7	6.7	100								
1351	FFCA South Middle School Campus					367	22.8	6.1	96				
1348	FFCA Southeast Elementary Campus	223	17.9	6.5	88								
1352	FFCA Southwest Elementary Campus	223	31.6	6.3	100								
1127	Mother Earth's Children's Charter School	34	-19.0			32	-21.1			26			
6001	New Horizons School	65	17.7	6.1	89	69	41.1	6.0	100	28	46.8		
6004	Suzuki Charter School	125	39.4	3.0	100	92	26.7	3.8	99				
1439	Valhalla Community School	33	-13.0			37	-11.9			14	7.0		
1580	Westmount Elementary School	80	33.7										
6002	Westmount Mid/High School					292	42.3	12.8	100	313	36.4	12.3	100