

Sir John A. Macdonald High School 2014-15 Community Report for



Provincial Assessments		
	School (%) 2014-15	Board (%) 2014-15
<u>Literacy Assessments</u>		
Grade 10 Provincial		
Reading	78%	79%
Writing - Ideas	68%	72%
Writing - Organization	62%	65%
Writing - Language Use	63%	66%
Writing - Conventions	63%	65%
<u>Math Assessments</u>		
Grade 10 Provincial		
Mathematics	62%	69%
Mathematics At Work	40%	51%

Graduation Rates	
School Year	Rate
2014-2015	95%
Destination after High School	
Community College	23%
University	48%
Other Education or Training	1%
Join Work Force	13%
Unknown	9%

During the 2014-2015 school year, the staff of Sir John A. Macdonald High (SJA) completed Year 1 of the Student Success Planning (SSP) cycle. This process has a five-year timeline within which staff will identify goals and determine the means and strategies through which to achieve these goals. The SSP plan at SJA serves as a road map for the changes we envision and the results that we will strive to achieve. To begin this journey, the staff conducted a self-assessment that involved the identification of sources of data and then examined this evidence to determine areas of strength and areas in which improvement is desired. As part of this process we studied classroom data, common assessments, curriculum content, Nova Scotia Department of Education provincial assessments, survey information collected from parents, students and teachers (HRSB Getting to Great Survey), and Halifax Regional School Board assessments.

The Halifax Regional School Board presented six categories as areas of potential focus for SSP at the school level. Working within this framework, and based upon the process of self-assessment completed by staff, the school SSP team developed two goals for SJA. These goals will improve student achievement by increasing student engagement and improving the school's culture and climate. The first goal centers on embedding culturally responsive instruction into the classrooms and the culture at SJA. The second goal focuses on differentiated instruction to better meet the needs of all learners.

Data produced in the 2014-2015 year (cited in the tables above) demonstrate that there is a need for these two goals. Students at Sir John A Macdonald continue to be very successful as evidenced by our 95% graduation rate and the fact that 72% of our students continue on to post secondary education. It is clear, however, that we still have some work to do as our Grade 10 Provincial rates are a few percentage points below the HRSB average in each category. During the 2015-2016 school year, we will begin implementing the strategies identified during the development of our goals and this new focus on instructional practices that are both culturally responsive and differentiated will lead to increased academic success for our students.

