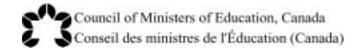
School Achievement Indicators Program

Writing Assessment III

School Questionnaire



2002



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our school has been selected as one of more than 1000 schools in Canada participating in the School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP) in Writing. This program is the only comprehensive assessment of student achievement in Canada and its results are important in ascertaining how well students in various provinces and territories can write and in deciding on curriculum change and other matters affecting the teaching of writing.

This questionnaire is addressed to the school principal. The questions are about the characteristics of the school, its staff, its facilities, and the community in which the school is located. Some of the questions ask for specific facts, while others require a judgment or opinion. Since your school is part of a national sample, your responses are very important in helping to describe the teaching of writing in Canada. It is therefore important that all questions be answered as carefully and accurately as possible.

This questionnaire is confidential when completed. Your responses will not be used in any way that will permit you, your students, or your school to be identified.

Once you have completed this questionnaire, please give it to your SAIP school coordinator.

Thank you for your time, effort, and thought in completing this questionnaire.

1	In what type of community, town, or city is your school located? (For this and the next question, please think of what is generally considered locally to be your community, even if it is located near a larger town or city.)
	(Darken only one box.)
	Rural (e.g., farming or fishing) community
	Small town (fewer than 5,000 people)
	Medium-sized town (5,000 to 25,000 people)
	Small city (more than 25,000 up to 100,000 people)
	Medium city (100,000 to 500,000 people)
	Large city (over 500,000 people)
2	Where is your school located within the community? (Darken only one box.)
	Outside of a community in a rural area \square_1
	In the inner/central part of the community
	In a suburban area outside the community centre
	In an urban fringe area on the outskirts of a town/city
	Other \square_5
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
3	What grade levels are taught in your school? (Darken all boxes that apply.)
	Pre-kindergarten
	Kindergarten \square_2
	Grade 1 \square_3
	Grade 2 \square_4
	Grade 3
	Grade 4 \square_6
	Grade 5 \square_7
	Grade 6 \square_8
	Grade 7 (Secondary 1 – QC)
	Grade 8 (Secondary 2 – QC)
	Grade 9 (Secondary 3 – QC, Senior 1 – MB)
	Grade 10 (Secondary 4 – QC, Level I – NF, Senior 2 – MB)
	Grade 11 (Secondary 5 – QC, Level II – NF, Senior 3 – MB)
	Grade 12 (CEGEP 1 – QC, Level III – NF, Senior 4 – MB)
	Post-grade 12 (any program that offers credit beyond grade 12)
4	Which of the following best represents the governing structure of your school?
	(Darken only one box.)
	Regular public school within a school board or district \square_1
	Specialized school within a school board or district or provincial system \square_2
	Separate school publicly funded (e.g., denominational)
	Private school with its own board of governors
	Other (please specify) \Box_{5}^{4}

3	now many fun-time equivalent students are in your school?		s	tudents
6	If your school is part of a larger school board or district, how n	nany	students a	re in the
	board or district?		s	tudents
7	Approximately what percentage of students in your school wo	ould y		ATE ercent
	live within walking distance (about 1 km.) of the school?		······· _	
8	To what extent would you say your school schedule, including programs outside of regular school hours, is restricted by the students (e.g., bus or drop-off and pick-up)?	trave	l requirem	ents of
			ken only or	
	Not at all			
	Slightly			
	Substantially			U
	For question 9 and some subsequent questions, reference will be a age groups, 13- and 16-year-olds. If the use of age groups present answering the questions, think of grade 8 (Secondary 2 in Quebec grade 11 (Secondary 5 in Quebec, Level II in Newfoundland and L Manitoba) for age 16. If only one of these age groups is being test please omit the items referring to the other age group.	nade s prol e) for abrad	to the two blems in age 13 and dor, Senior	SAIP 3 in
9	What is the approximate average class size in your school as a Language Arts classes for the two SAIP age groups?	who	le and in tl	ne English
	wh		English	
			age 13	_
	Less than 10	_ *	*	
	10–14	4	4	4
	15–19		0	0
	20–24	_ •	*	
	25–29	U	U	U
	30–34	U	U	U
	35 or more] ₇	\square_7	\square_7

10 How many full-time equivalent (FTE) persons in the following categories are in your school?

(One full-time person, two half-time persons, and so on represent one FTE. If the same person occupies more than one category, use the appropriate fractions of an FTE in each category.)

Principal	als			
Department heads Classroom teachers (inc				
Classroom teachers (inc				
	luding subject specia	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	•••••	
Tarchar librarians		lists)	•••••	
italiti-iiviaiiaiis	•••••		•••••	
Other teachers (e.g., gu				
Teacher aides or assistan				
Technicians (library)			•••••	
Technicians (computing				
Other professionals (e.g				
Non-professionals (e.g.,				
11 What is the most comr	non pattern of teach	er assignment fo	r teaching Engli	sh Language
Arts to 13-year-old an	d 16-year-old studer	nts in your school	? 13-year-olds	16-year-old
Mainly homeroom teach	pare who are also resn	oneibla	15-yeur-otus	10-yeur-ota
for other subjects (wh	-			
English Language Art	•		П.	П.
Mainly teachers speciali				
Mainly teachers speciali			— 2 ·······	_ 2
English Language Art	•		П	
Diignon Danguage mit		•••••••••••		3
12 What percentages of s	tudents in your scho	ool would you est	imate are	
				percent
above average in achiev	ement?		•••••	
average in achievement			•••••	
below average in achiev	ement?			
13 Does your school have				
13 Does your school have	•••	(Dar	rken all boxes tha	et annlu.)
an active school improv	ement group or team			
a set of goals or a plan f				
a policy promoting colla	-			4
regular staff meetings (a				J
a written student evalua				7
a written discipline poli				J
a written policy on abse				0

Does your school have		(Dan	ken all bo:	was that a	ennlu)
a written policy on homework?					
a policy to recognize teacher excellence?.					
14 In your school, which level of authority	has the mos	st influen	ce on dec	isions reg	garding
the following matters?					
(If your school has its own board of governing includes the principal or teachers collections in the second of the	vely or indiv				
councils or similar bodies or parents then		district	principal	school	other
	territory	uistitti	principui	school	other
Hiring teachers		🗖	🗖	🗆 ,	🗖 -
Assigning teachers to classes					
Placing students in classes/courses					
Selecting textbooks to be used	-	_	0		U
Establishing homework policies			0	-	U
Establishing discipline policies	-	_	U	-	U
Establishing policies on absenteeism	-	_	0		U
Establishing community relationships		4	9		3
Communicating with parents					
Determining course content					
Deciding which courses are offered	-	_	•	-	
Deciding which courses are offered		ப 2	ப ვ	ப 4	ப 5
15 Which level of authority has primary co	ntrol of the	following	g compon	ents of th	ne budge
for your school?					
	province/ territory	district	principal	school council	other
Teachers' salaries	🗖	🗖 ₂	🗖 з	🗖 ,	🗖 5
Capital expenditures					
Maintenance	*		0	•	0
Salaries of non-teaching staff	_	4	U	1	U
Materials and supplies				•	
Selecting instructional materials	1	2	3	4	Э
(e.g., library books, software)	□,	🗖			□-
New technologies	-	_	•	-	
New teemiologies	— 1	— 2	— 3	ப 4	— 5
16 How much influence would you say eac activities and programs?	h of the foll	owing ha	s on your	school's	overall
activities and programs:		none	a little	some	a lot
Duoving sigl/touritanisl maintistum and day	المائم المسا				
Provincial/territorial ministry or departme					
School board or governing body					
Principal					

	How much influence would you say each of the following has on your school's overall activities and programs?					
	Teachers within subject areas	\square_1 \square_1 \square_1	$egin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$egin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$egin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	
	(e.g., district committees, professional associations) External examinations, tests, or standards External agencies (e.g., business community) Church or religious groups	🗖 1 🗖 1	\square_2 \square_2	\square_3 \square_3	\square_4	
17	To what degree is your school's capacity to provide in			•	_	?
	Lack of parental support for the school	\square_1^2 \square_1 \square_1 \square_1 \square_1	\Box_{2}^{-} \Box_{2}^{-} \Box_{2} \Box_{2} \Box_{2} \Box_{2} \Box_{2} \Box_{2}	$egin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	\Box_4 \Box_4 \Box_4 \Box_4 \Box_4 \Box_4	
	To what extent does a shortage or an inadequacy of t capacity to provide instruction?		_	-		
	Specialized teaching staff (e.g., guidance, library)		\Box_{2}		$egin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	
	Library resources for English Language Arts Audio-visual resources		4	U	-	

19	Approximately how many working computers are there in	your school?	
			computers
20	How many of these computers are capable of handling up- (e.g., Windows-based programs, Web browsers)	to-date softw	are?
			computers
21	Approximately how many computers are available to		
			computers)
	teachers for administrative purposes?		
	teachers for instructional purposes?		
	students for use within classes?		
	students for out-of-class use?	••••••	
	(Please note that these categories may overlap.)		
22	Which of the following configurations of computers can be	e found for use	in English
	Language Arts teaching in your school?	rken all boxes	that annly
	Dedicated computer rooms or laboratories	irken ali oozes	ւուսւ սբբւց.)
	where English Language Arts classes can be scheduled		
	One computer in all or most English Language Arts classroom		+
	Multiple computers in all or most English Language Arts class		<i>4</i>
	Computers for student use in library or resource centre		U
			T
	Computers for teacher use in English Language Arts teacher w		3
	Other arrangements for student use of computers in classes		U
	Other arrangements for teacher use of computers		•
	Computers are generally not used in English Language Arts co	ourses	⊔ ₈
23	In your school, for the two SAIP age groups (or grades 8 an	d 11 or equiva	lent, as
	applicable to your school),	13-uear-olds	16-year-olds
	how many instructional days are there in the school year?	10 year oldo	10 year olas
	(Include only those days in which students are in class)		
	(Include only those days in which stadents are in class)		
	how many days are provided for teacher activities but		
	not student activities (e.g., professional development days,		
	administrative days, marking exams)?		
	how many instructional days would you estimate are lost in		
	an average year because of school closings (e.g., snowstorms,		
	heating problems, sports days, etc.)?		

	In your school, for the two SAIP age groapplicable to your school),	oups (or grades 8 and	d 11 or equiva	lent, as
	how many hours of instruction are there is (excluding recess, lunch breaks, and after	•	•	16-year-olds
	how many class periods are there in a nor	mal school day?		
	how many minutes long is a normal or av	erage class period?		
24	What percentage of all the courses in your basis	our school are organ	ized on a sem	nester (half-year)
	For 13-year-olds (in grade 8, Secondary 2 – QC)?	For 16-year-olds (in grade 11, Second Level II – NF, Senior		
	$0-25~\%$ \square_1	0 – 25 %	-	
	$26-50$ % \square_2	26 – 50 %	\square_2	
	$51 - 75 \% \dots \square_3$	51 – 75 %	\square_3	
	More than 75 % \square_4	More than 75 %	D ₄	
25	How many different English Language	Arts courses are ava	•	school mber of courses
	for 13-year-olds		nai	noci oi courses
	(in grade 8, Secondary 2 – QC)?		•••••	
	for 16-year-olds	ME Conion 2 MP\2		
	(in grade 11, Secondary 5 – QC, Level II –	- Nr, Senior 5 – MD): .	••••••••••	•
26	How many specialized courses are avail primarily on the development of writing			
	for 13-year-olds		nui	mber of courses
	(in grade 8, Secondary 2 – QC)?			·
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			-
	for 16-year-olds	ND 0 1 0 100		
	(in grade 11, Secondary 5 – QC, Level II –	- NF, Senior 3 – MB)? .		•

27	Do all or most students in these age groups in your study in English Language Arts?	school fo	ollow the	same co	urse of
			y	es	no
	13-year-olds		_	_	_
	(in grade 8, Secondary 2 – QC)	••••••	L	」 ₁	Ll ₂
	16-year-olds				
	(in grade 11, Seconday 5 – QC, Level II – NF, Senior 3 -	– <i>MB)</i>	С] ₁	\square_2
28	For the same two age (or grade) levels, how many diexist for English Language Arts in your school? (Consider streaming as having explicitly different level different abilities.)				
		13-	-year-old	s 16-yea	r-olds
	Single stream		🗖 1	[],
	Two streams		-		-
	Three or more streams	••••••	\square_3^-	С	\mathbf{J}_{3}^{-}
	Where students do not follow the same courses in E influence does each of the following have in decidir courses a student will take? **Rome** none** General academic ability	a little□2□2□2□2□2	e some□3□3□3□3□3	a lot	e Arts don't know□5□5□5□5□5□5
	Act as volunteers in classrooms or other instructional	none	u iiiie	some	u ivi
		Π.	Π.	П.	П.
	settings?	_ 1 _ 2	— 2 — 2	_ 3	_ 4
	Serve on committees on matters of curriculum or				
	instruction?	 ⊔ ₁	ப 2	ப 3	ப 4
	administration?	🗖	🗖	🗖	🗖 <i>.</i>
	Influence the selection of the principal or teachers?	=	_	_	-

	in your school, to what extent do parents		****		
			a <u>little</u>		
	serve on committees on matters of student conduct? .	⊔ ₁	ப ₂	⊔ ₃	⊔ ₄
	interact with staff on matters affecting their own				
	children?	\square_{1}	\square_2	\square_3	\square_4
	help raise funds for the school?	□₁	\square_2^-	🗖 ̈ ₃	$\square_{_{\Lambda}}^{^{-}}$
		1	4	3	4
31	Does your school or district provide remedial teach				
	Yes				
	No	•••••	•••••		\square_2
	IEVEC have a this amount and	(D	1		
	If YES, how is this organized?		arken all b		
	Groups are formed within regular English Language A				
	Students are withdrawn from regular classes				4
	Separate or modified courses are offered for remediati				3
	Students are given extra help outside of regular school	ol hours.	•••••		\square_4
	Programs are offered outside the school		•••••		\square_5
	Other (please specify)				\square
					· ·
32	Does your school provide special enrichment prog	ırams/ac	tivities in	English	Language
	Arts for gifted students?				
	Yes				_
	No	•••••	•••••		\square_2
	If YES, how is this organized?		arken all b		
	Groups are formed within regular English Language A				_
	Students are withdrawn from regular classes				4
	Separate or modified courses are offered for gifted stu	ıdents	•••••		\square_3
	Students are given extra work outside of regular school	ol hours.	•••••		$\square_{\scriptscriptstyle A}$
	Programs are offered outside the school		•••••		\square_5
	Other (please specify)				U
					0
33	To what extent do you agree or disagree with the f	following	g stateme	nts?	
	Si	trongly			strongly
	di	isagree	disagree	agree	agree
	There are limits to what a school can accomplish				
	because a student's home environment has a major				
	influence on achievement	🗖 ,	🔲 ,	🗖	. ,
	Students can achieve at high levels if they work	1	4	3	4
	hard.	🗖 .	🗖 а	🗖	D.
	Students can achieve at high levels if they are	<u> </u>	 2	 3	- 4
	taught well.		П		
	Tallont Well				1 1

	strongly	9		strongly
	00	disagree		agree
High school students should be streamed into				
different programs based on their abilities and				
aptitudes	🗖 1	D .,	🗖 ₃	$\square_{_{\varLambda}}$
Student ability has a major influence on	1	2	3	-1
achievement.	🗖 1	 🗖 ,	🗖 3	
This school is supported by the community	*	4		
Staff morale is high in this school		4	U	
There is a strong school spirit in this school		4	9	
Students and staff take pride in this school	-	_	_	=

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Thank you again for taking time from your busy schedule to complete this questionnaire.