

Macdonald High



Vires Acquirit Eundo

2011-2012

Macdonald High School

Annual Report on the School's Success Plan,
Management and Educational Success Agreement,
and Contribution to the School Board's Strategic Plan



Together We Learn!
Partnering for Student Success



Lester B. Pearson
School Board

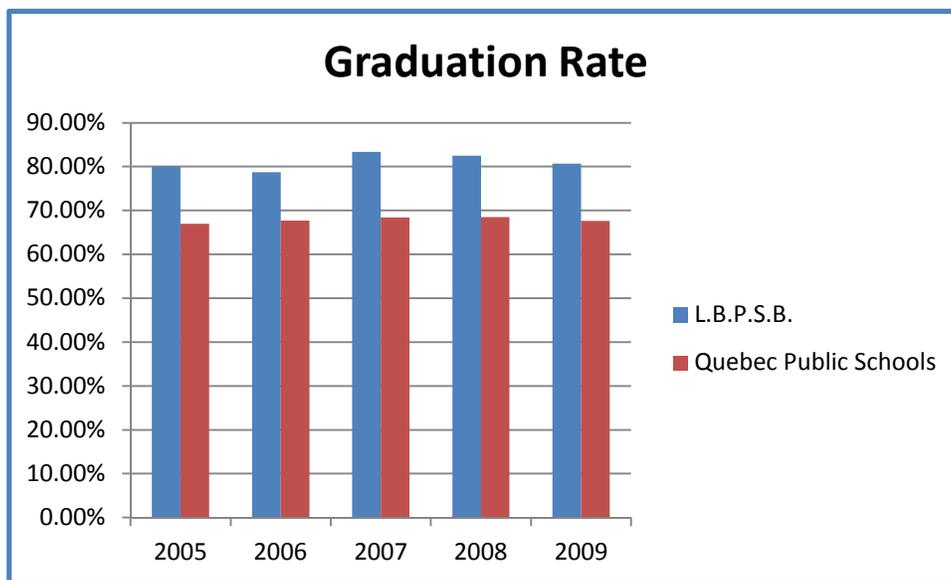
Commission scolaire
Lester-B.-Pearson

School Board Context

Increased Graduation Rate

The student success rate in terms of certification and qualification remains for us an important factor. The Lester B. Pearson School Board has been consistently among the top five school boards in the province. In the next four years we are faced with the challenge of increasing our graduation and qualification rate to 85.5% and reducing the number of students who drop out of school by 20%. The latest M.E.L.S. graduation and qualification results are presented in figure #1. All secondary schools are also working towards improving their success rates on MELS Uniform Exam results in Secondary 4 Math courses, General and Applied Science and Technology, and History and Citizenship Education.

Figure #1



Bilingualism

Programs throughout the system, while responding to the parameters of the Quebec curriculum, provide choices for parents and offer flexibility with the students' academic, socio-emotional and physical needs being a focus. The Board's goal is not only to graduate students who are bilingual, but who are also bi-literate; able to read, speak and write in French. Although our focus for this strategic plan is early intervention to further improve literacy, secondary schools have targeted an increase in the success rate for MELS Uniform Exam results in Secondary 5 French reading and writing.

Success and Perseverance for Students with Handicaps, Social Maladjustments or Learning Difficulties

The Lester B. Pearson School Board is proud to be an inclusive school board where students with special needs are integrated into community schools. In each school they are members of the community receiving support services as indicated by an Individualized Education Plan. Our focus for the next four years is to increase the qualification rate for our students with handicaps, social maladjustments or learning difficulties. We will continue to implement and support a variety of Work Oriented Pathway programs which address the needs of our students and lead to qualification. Figure # 2 illustrates the school board portrait regarding the proportion of students with handicaps, social maladjustments, or learning difficulties for all secondary schools.

Figure #2

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Total # Students Registered	11830	11984	11742	11392	N/A
Proportion of Students With Handicaps, Social Maladjustments, or Learning Difficulties.	15.7	15.6	15.3	15.3	N/A

Healthy and Safe School Environment

Student success is greatly determined by the school and community environment. Schools and communities must work hand-in-hand to ensure that our students learn in an environment that is safe, caring, and promotes wellness. All secondary schools are working towards implementing the Healthy Schools Approach, developing a culture of pride and respect for our environment, and completing a portrait of the school climate in order to prioritize interventions to provide a safe, secure, healthy, and welcoming environment.

Vocational Education

The Vocational Education pathway is a growing choice towards qualification for students under 20 years of age as well as being a priority for the Ministry of Education Leisure and Sport. Our Vocational Education Centers provide numerous training programs that lead directly to employability in an exciting career. At the school level, our priorities for this strategic plan include further expanding the work oriented and skill based training programs that will allow our student direct access to interesting vocational programs leading to a DEP (Diplome d'Etudes Professionel). This educational avenue is further promoted through organized visits to various vocational training centres, participation in the LBPSB Career & Education Fair, and guest speakers in the classroom.

School Portrait

Macdonald High School	2011-2012
School Capacity	975
Total Number of Students Registered	651
Programs	Enriched, Immersion and Core Programs
Number of Students With Handicaps, Social Maladjustments, or Learning Difficulties.	137

School Mission/Vision:

Macdonald High School continues to be committed to offering a well-rounded education in a safe and caring environment. We believe that each and every student has the potential to be successful. Our community-based approach to education is based on the following principles:

- Our progressive approach to preparing students for graduation and higher education ensures that course content and evaluation at all grade levels is consistent in reflecting the requirements of the end-goal of each subject area.
- All students have the innate right to be adequately prepared academically and socially, to make informed decisions regarding their future choices, and to take their place as active contributors in the community.
- A student's best chance of overall success will be achieved through the combined support of the whole Macdonald High School community: teachers, resource personnel, professionals, administration, community office, parents, community partners and peers.
- We provide a variety of extracurricular activities (sports, arts, and community involvement) to complement and further develop the skills learned in the classroom. We will endeavour to support all students as they develop the skills (academic and social) that will allow them to reach their full potential.

School Results & Targets

Goal 1: To increase the graduation rate				
#	Objective	2009 Baseline	2012 Result	2015 Target
1	A 5% increase in the success rate of MELS Secondary 4 Math exam results by 2015.	CST-59.6 T&S/Sci 87.1	CST-64.5 T&S/Sci 80.1	CST-77.1 T&S/Sci 96.25
2	A 5% increase in the success rate for MELS Secondary 4 Exam results in Science and Technology by 2015.	70.9	57.7	90.5-Gen 84.3.-App .
3	A 3% increase in the success rate for MELS Secondary 4 Exam results in History & Citizenship Education by 2015.	90.0	86.7	92.5
4	A 5% reduction in the overall number of students who drop out by 2015; including monitoring the potential of a gender discrepancy.	17.4%	14%	13%
5	To continue to foster creativity by promoting the Arts	N/A	N/A	N/A

An analysis of the results indicates:

- In the Secondary Math examinations for all options, (Cultural, Social, Technical, 6 credit Technical & Scientific and 6 credit Science), we are doing well and we are on track to attain or possibly exceed our 2015 target.
- In the Secondary 4 General and Applied Science and Technology examination we are also focused on attaining our 2015 target.
- The Secondary 4 History and Citizenship Education results have remained stable and successful. We are confident that we will attain our 2015 target.
- The graduation rate is above the provincial average and at par with the Lester B. Pearson School Board's graduation rate. The results for objectives 1, 2, and 3 have significantly contributed to our successful overall graduation rate.

The Mathematics results were high in 2009 and have continued to be positive through to 2012.

We are progressing towards our targets in Science & Technology and are encouraged by the significant gains being made by students in these courses as they participate in lunch-hour tutorials by the teachers and in the first-class after school tutoring program run by our Community Office Coordinator. To further enhance our progress in this area, courses will be delivered in a cohesive fashion across cycles with the end-goal driving the content delivered at each level.

History & Citizenship Education has remained at a steady, successful rate. Teachers feel that the Peer-tutoring and literacy initiatives by our Resource team and Community Office have contributed significantly to these positive results.

In order to facilitate the delivery of a cohesive curriculum across grade levels in all core subject areas, departments will collaborate to construct standard guidelines and expectations for each grade level. Departments will identify areas of strength and weakness and work to maintain success rates and develop strategies to improve areas of concern. Breaking down challenging concepts and topics, and introducing them at earlier grade levels will increase students' understanding of curriculum as well as make certain that all topics are covered in preparation for MELS exams. Cross-curricular collaboration will be used as a vehicle to introduce, explain, and reinforce concepts and methods of evaluation in a variety of settings in order to nurture understanding and facilitate overall literacy and mastery of core subject areas.

We are seeing a reduction in the number of our students choosing to leave high school without certification or qualification. Our Work Oriented Training programs in Secondary 3 and the Vocational Preparation program in Secondary 4 combined with the many extra-curricular activities offered throughout the day and evening, are encouraging students to continue their studies.

A creative mind will be essential to solving tomorrow's complex problems and providing new solutions to issues we still face today. The four Arts programs offered at Macdonald High (Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts) aim to foster and nurture these creative minds. They also develop talent, help students build self-confidence and a sense of belonging, encourage school spirit and promote a general sense of well-being by reducing anxiety and stress.

As well, many studies have proven that students participating in artistic activities on an almost daily basis have a greater chance of graduating from high school than those who do not. Such as, we believe that our Arts programs, and the artistically inclined extra-curricular activities we also offer, significantly contribute to school retention.

Goal 2: To increase the success rates on Sec. V French Reading and Writing exams.

#	Objective	2009 Baseline	2012 Result	2015 Target
1	A 3% increase in the success rate for MELS Secondary 5 Uniform exam results in French Reading by 2015.	63.3%	63.3%	85%
2	A 3% increase in the success rate for MELS Secondary 5 Uniform Exam results in French writing by 2015.	71.5%	71.3%	85%
3	An increase in the number of French activities offered in the school.	N/A	N/A	TBD
4	An increase of 3% in French Reading rates for Secondary 1 students by 2015.	N/A	N/A	TBD

Level of accomplishment and what lies ahead:

An analysis of the results indicates:

- In the Secondary Math examinations for all options, (Cultural, Social, Technical, 6 credit Technical & Scientific and 6 credit Science), we are doing well and we are on track to attain or possibly exceed our 2015 target.
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Goal 3: To foster the sharing of pedagogy and best practises within the school

#	Objective	Baseline	2015 Target	2012 Result
1	The use of technology in the classroom.	N.A.	Provide the latest innovation using various classroom technologies and augment the wireless access for all students and teachers.	N.A.
2	Increase in the collaboration among the teachers. Teachers sharing of best practices.	N.A.	Integrated cross-curricular projects at all levels will be put in place.	N.A.

Level of accomplishment and what lies ahead:

Objective 1 is on track. By the end of this school year, 10 additional classrooms will be equipped with smart boards and laptops. Teachers will be provided with the necessary tools and training to effectively engage students in active learning using technology whether it be provided by the school or by encouraging the use of personal wireless devices. In doing so, teachers will have access to current advances in this ever-changing area. Technology is also at the forefront of our Robotics and Multi-Media programs. Through the use of media labs, graphic design software and engineering tools, students are given the opportunity to team build and showcase their multi award winning talent.

Objective 2 is ongoing. The number of teachers participating in workshops has augmented significantly from the previous year. Also, through peer mentoring and professional development, teachers will be provided training in differentiated learning.

Goal 4: Enhancing School Collaboration and Community Partnerships

#	Objective	Baseline	2012 Result	2015 Target
1	To continue to be involved in local community initiatives with the help of the community office coordinator and the leadership students.	N.A.	√	√
2	To continue to foster a positive working relationship with John Abbott College and McGill University.	[X] In Progress [] Implemented		
3	To continue to develop work study placements within our community.	N.A	2 new partners per year	√

Level of Accomplishment and what lies ahead:

Objective 1 - Community initiatives: Our objective is fully met due to the tireless work, dedication and caring that the MAC Community Office Coordinator provides for students of all levels. With the help of our leadership students and our Guidance Counsellor, the community office organizes and facilitates many events such as the Terry Fox Run, lunches for senior citizens, Remembrance Day tributes, the annual multi-cultural food court, Mac Camp, peer tutoring, Mac ambassadors, the food drive, basket deliveries etc. These community based endeavours create an attitude of kindness and acceptance that reverberates through the entire school. The high percentage of Mac students involved in community and school events is the key to our present and future success.

Objective 2- McGill-John Abbott Partnerships: John Abbott College and McGill University share a beautiful campus with Macdonald High school. We participate in the campus Remembrance Day ceremony. We also use the JAC gymnasium for convocation. Our swim team uses their pool and we have started using the McGill Arena for hockey. We are excited that our senior Science students have been invited to work on labs designed specifically for them by the Honour's Science DEC students and faculty at the college. We have also provided our graduating students with the opportunity to visit many different programs at John Abbott during our lunch-hour "micro-tour series". The college also provides tutors that help many cycle two students. We in turn have provided classroom space to John Abbott when they have needed it. We are presently working on an initiative with the faculty of Agriculture at McGill that would see our students learning about and participating in the care of livestock at the farm. We believe that this collaboration between the three partners will continue to grow.

Objective 3-Work-study placements: The dedicated educator who is in charge of the program facilitates the fostering of a positive self-image and maturity. The Vocational preparation program provides students, who would definitely struggle in a formal classroom setting, with the opportunity to attain the course credits necessary to obtain a high school leaving certificate. Many students in this program are exploring a wide range of career options. With the cooperation of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, we believe that we can improve the quality and the amount of work study placements.

Goal 5: To promote the Healthy Schools Approach.

#	Objectives	Baseline	2012 Result	2015 Target
1	To continue to promote health, wellness, and personal safety programs across all grade levels.	N.A.	√	√
2	To continue to encourage physical fitness and participation in an active lifestyle	N.A.		
3	Continue to offer intramural sports and organized GMAA sports teams.	N.A.	√	√

Level of accomplishment and what lies ahead:

Objective one is on track; creating a positive and a healthy energy amongst students and staff members. The number of students participating in voluntary health promotion activities increases from year to year. Macdonald High strives to encourage health & wellness throughout the year by offering a wide-range of activities, classroom workshops, and guest speakers. The yearly Health Week is a culmination of the year's work in this area filled with activities that promote a healthy lifestyle and providing resources for students who are looking to make positive changes in their lives.

Objective 2: A healthy body and lifestyle are also important to the mind. Physical activities help students build self confidence and pride; reduce levels of stress and anxiety. Participation in physical activity is positively related to academic performance and therefore important that students receive a quality Physical Health Education Program

Objective 3 is also a source of pride at MAC. Students at all levels have the opportunity to participate in morning, afterschool, lunch hour and weekend extra-curricular activities that promote physical activity. There are also a very high percentage of Macdonald High students who participate on many GMAA sports teams.



**Over One Hundred Years of
Academic Excellence**