



# NEWS RELEASE

## Fraser Institute's Alberta elementary school rankings show which schools are improving, or falling behind in academics

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For Immediate Release

**CALGARY**—The Fraser Institute today published its annual Alberta elementary school rankings, showing how schools have performed academically and which schools across the province have improved or fallen behind.

The *Report Card on Alberta's Elementary Schools 2016* ranks 812 public, separate, francophone, private and charter schools based on seven academic indicators derived from provincewide test results.

"Our report card is the only objective, reliable tool that parents have to compare the academic performance of their child's school over time and to that of other schools in their community," said Peter Cowley, Fraser Institute director of school performance studies.

The data from the 2016 report card suggests that every school is capable of improvement regardless of the type of school, its location and the proportion of students with special needs or students in English as a Second Language (ESL) programs.

For example, one of the fastest improving schools in the province in 2015 – based on analysis of its results during the most recent five years – is St. Catherine Catholic Elementary/Junior High School, a separate school located in Edmonton. Despite having two-thirds of its students identified as ESL learners, St. Catherine's overall rating has steadily improved to 6.6 (out of 10) in 2015 from just 1.7 in 2011.

Another school Keeler, a public school in Calgary, also recorded a significant jump in its ratings since 2011. With 27 per cent of its students having special needs and 37 per cent of its students identified as ESL learners, the school earned a score of 4.0 in 2015 compared to 0.0 in 2011.

Of the ten fastest improving schools, six are in Edmonton.

"When parents see the report card's objective evidence that a school's results are consistently low or declining, they often become very effective advocates for improvement," Cowley said.

"If academic results at the school are not improving, the principal should answer the question, Why not?"

For detailed results of all 812 schools, go to [www.compareschoolrankings.org](http://www.compareschoolrankings.org) where you can quickly see how a school performed over the past five years and how it compares to other schools.

Peter Cowley is available for media interviews, from Calgary, on Saturday and Sunday.

## Top twenty fastest improving schools 2011-2015

School	City	Affiliation
1. St. Catherine	Edmonton	Separate
2. John A. McDougall	Edmonton	Public
3. Sifton	Edmonton	Public
4. Thorncliffe	Edmonton	Public
5. Belvedere	Edmonton	Public
6. Keeler	Calgary	Public
7. Duggan	Edmonton	Public
8. Good Shepherd	Fort McMurray	Separate
9. Duchess	Duchess	Public
10. Riverbend	Calgary	Public
11. Rosscarrock	Calgary	Public
12. Glenbrook	Calgary	Public
13. St. Maria Goretti	Edmonton	Separate
14. Sacred Heart	Wetaskiwin	Separate
15. St. Theresa	Wabasca	Public
16. Robert Rundle	St. Albert	Separate
17. Hillside	Grande Prairie	Public
18. Kitscoty	Kitscoty	Public
19. Capitol Hill	Calgary	Public
20. St. Edmund	Edmonton	Separate

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