



AIMS 5TH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL REPORT CARD (RC5)

Nova Scotia

For the first time in four years, Islands Consolidated has relinquished its place as the top-ranked school in Nova Scotia, falling from an 'A' to a 'B+' to drop to second place. Queen Elizabeth High School in Halifax maintained its 'B+' grade from last year and took over first place. Also notable is the performance of schools from the Strait Regional School Board, with three schools in the top five and four schools in the top 10.

As in last year's rankings, no school earned a failing grade, but three schools received 'D's: Hants North Rural High School and River Hebert District High School both received a 'D' for the second year while Lockeport Regional High School fell from a 'C+' to a 'D'. Lunenburg Junior-Senior High School, the third school that received a 'D' grade last year, showed a marked improvement to a 'C+' in this year's report card.

Several of Nova Scotia's school boards have released new information as a result of a set of requests by AIMS under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (information which was already publicly available in other Atlantic Canadian jurisdictions). Unfortunately, that data is not yet included in the Report Card because three school boards (Halifax, Annapolis Valley, and Tri-County Regional School Boards) have been unable to supply the results of provincial exams or comparable teacher assigned grades. As a result we continue to use in Nova Scotia the sample of exams that are centrally marked to assess high school achievement. Halifax and Annapolis Valley Regional School Boards have indicated that this data, along with Grade 9 average marks and attendance is neither useful nor relevant to the evaluation of schools at the board level.

Additionally, middle school assessments and grading are inconsistent between boards, which prevent us from using feeder achievement as an input variable in Nova Scotia schools. For example, Halifax Regional School Board grades its students using a letter grade system that does not correspond with the average marks used by the majority of other boards.

We have been able to produce a more accurate picture of the socio-economic status of each school's population through access to postal code data for students across the province. Access to this information is thanks to the provincial Department of Education's decision to collect this information from school boards, make use of it in education policy decision making, and make it readily available to the public starting with the 2005-06 school year. This is in addition to data the department already collects on enrollment in post-secondary preparatory courses, participation in post-secondary training by graduates, and grade to grade moving on measures.

RC5 Final Rank	RC5 Final Grade	Final RC4 Grade	School Name, Community	RC5 Absolute Overall Performance	RC5 Overall Performance in Context
1	B+	B+	Queen Elizabeth High School, Halifax	B+	B+
2	B+	A	Islands Consolidated School, Freeport	A	B+
3	B+	B+	Cape Breton Highlands Academy, Terre Noire	B+	A
4	B+	B+	Dalbrae Academy, Southwest Mabou	B+	B+
5	B+	B+	Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional School, Antigonish	B+	B+
6	B+	B	Baddeck Academy, Baddeck	B+	B+
7	B+	B+	Charles P. Allen High School, Bedford	B+	B
8	B+	B+	St. Patrick's High School, Halifax	B+	B+
9	B+	B	Barrington Municipal High School, Barrington Passage	B	B+
10	B+	B+	Richmond Academy, Louisdale	B+	B+
11	B+	B	Riverview High School, Coxheath	B+	B
12	B	B	Prince Andrew High School, Dartmouth	B	B
13	B	C+	Eastern Shore District High School, Musquodoboit Harbour	B	B
14	B	B+	Horton High School, Wolfville	B	B
15	B	C+	Halifax West High School, Halifax	B	B
16	B	C+	Pugwash District High School, Pugwash	B	B
17	B	B	St. Mary's Academy, Sherbrooke	B	B
18	B	B	Middleton Regional High School, Middleton	B	B
19	B	C+	North Queens Rural High School, Caledonia	B	C+
20	B	B	Auburn Drive High School, Cole Harbour	B	C+
21	B	B	New Germany Rural High School, New Germany	C+	B
22	B	B	Sackville High School, Lr Sackville	B	B
23	B	B	Sydney Academy, Sydney	C+	B
24	B	*	North Nova Education Centre, New Glasgow	B	B
25	B	C+	Dartmouth High School, Dartmouth	C+	B
26	B	B	Memorial High School, Sydney Mines	C+	B
27	B	B	Sir John A. Macdonald High School, Hubley	B	C+
28	B	B	Shelburne Regional High School, Shelburne	C+	B
29	B	B	Parrsboro Regional High School, Parrsboro	C+	B
30	C+	C+	Chedabucto Education Centre-Guysborough Academy , Guysborough	C+	B
31	C+	C+	Forest Heights Community School, Chester Basin	C+	B
32	C+	C+	North Colchester High School, Tatamagouche	B	C+
33	C+	B	West Kings District High School, Auburn	C+	C+
34	C+	C+	Park View Education Centre, Bridgewater	C+	C+
35	C+	C+	Bridgetown Regional High School, Bridgetown	C+	B
36	C+	C+	Springhill Junior-Senior High School, Springhill	C+	B
37	C+	C+	Bridgewater Junior-Senior High School, Bridgewater	C+	C+
38	C+	C+	J.L. Hsley High School, Halifax	C+	C+
39	C+	C+	Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School, Yarmouth	C+	C+
40	C+	C+	Liverpool Regional High School, Liverpool	C+	C+
41	C+	C+	East Antigonish Academy, Monastery	C+	C+
42	C+	C+	Breton Education Centre, New Waterford	C+	C+
43	C+	C+	Cobequid Educational Centre, Truro	C+	C+
44	C+	C	Holy Angels High School, Sydney	C+	C+
45	C+	C+	Central Kings Rural High School, Cambridge Station	C+	C+
46	C+	C+	Digby Regional High School, Digby	C+	C+
47	C+	C+	Inverness Academy, Inverness	C+	C+
48	C+	C+	Rankin Memorial School, Iona	C+	C+
49	C+	C	Drumlin Heights Consolidated School, Glenwood	C+	C+
50	C+	C	Lockview High School, Fall River	C+	C+
51	C+	C+	Hants East Rural High School, Milford Station	C+	C+
52	C+	C+	Amherst Regional High School, Amherst	C+	C+

RC5 Final Rank	RC5 Final Grade	Final RC4 Grade	School Name, Community	RC5 Absolute Overall Performance	RC5 Overall Performance in Context
53	C+	C+	Pictou Academy-Dr. T. McCulloch School, Pictou	C+	C+
54	C+	C+	St. Mary's Bay Academy, Weymouth	C	C+
55	C+	C+	Strait Area Education-Recreation Centre, Port Hawkesbury	C+	C+
56	C+	*	Avon View High School, Windsor	C+	C+
57	C+	C	Cole Harbour District High School, Dartmouth	C+	C+
58	C+	C+	South Colchester Academy, Brookfield	C+	C+
59	C+	D	Lunenburg Junior-Senior High School, Lunenburg	C+	C
60	C+	*	Glace Bay High School, Glace Bay	C	C+
61	C	C+	Northeast Kings Education Centre, Canning	C	C+
62	C	C	Duncan MacMillan High School, Sheet Harbour	C+	C
63	C	C	Oxford Regional High School, Oxford	C	C+
64	C	C	Canso Academy, Canso	C	C
65	C	C	Musquodoboit Rural High School, Middle Musquodoboit	C	C
66	C	C+	Annapolis West Education Centre, Annapolis Royal	C	C
67	C	*	Northumberland Regional High School, Alma	C	C
68	C	C+	Cabot High School, Neil's Harbour	C	C
69	C	C	Millwood High School, Lower Sackville	C	C
70	D	C+	Lockeport Regional High School, Lockeport	D	C
71	D	D	River Hebert District High School, River Hebert	D	D
72	D	D	Hants North Rural High School, Kennetcook	D	D
*	*	*	Advocate District School, Advocate Harbour	*	*
*	*	*	Centre scolaire Étoile de l'Acadie, Sydney	*	*
*	*	*	École acadienne de Pomquet, Pomquet	*	*
*	*	*	École acadienne de Truro, Truro	*	*
*	*	*	Ecole Beau-Port, Arichat	*	*
*	*	*	École de la Rive Sud, Blockhouse	*	*
*	*	*	École du Carrefour, Dartmouth	*	*
*	*	*	École NDA, Cheticamp	*	*
*	*	*	École Rose-des-Vents, Greenwood	*	*
*	*	*	École secondaire de Clare, Meteghan River	*	*
*	*	*	École secondaire de Par-en-Bas, Tusket	*	*

* Grades are based on a three year rolling average. If a school does not have at least two years of data for a particular measure it will not receive a grade for that measure. RC5 is based on data from the school years 2002/03, 2003/04, and 2004/2005.

** The province of Nova Scotia does not require international baccalaureate students to write provincial exams. Bridgewater Junior-Senior High School also extended a similar exemption to all advanced placement students from 2000-2001 through to 2002-2003. We have nevertheless decided to include the exam grades for all available schools on the following grounds:

1. The performance on provincial exams by the affected schools is reasonably comparable to the performance on the other available measures.
2. The number and quality of other measures provided, including engagement scores and post-secondary achievement results, is a reasonable proxy for the limitations of the provincial exam data.
3. Overall performance by the affected schools has seen them consistently spread throughout the overall rankings from among the strongest to the weakest school performances. There is thus no apparent overall negative effect on the assessment of these schools' performance due to the special circumstances surrounding this one measure.

General

- A more detailed breakdown of the results for each ranked high school is published as an insert in the March issue of *Progress* magazine. A copy of this insert can be found online at <http://www.aims.ca/library/rc5insert.pdf>

- A further expanded data set, including the available results for all reported schools, plus expanded sub-measures for ranked schools is available on the AIMS website at www.aims.ca.
- Adult high schools, private schools, correctional schools, personnel schools, alternate-education schools, and First Nations schools are not reported and no partial data is available for them.