



THE BEACON



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*Where Tomorrow's Public
Policy Begins Today*

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Part One: More than a quarter of a million hits to AIMS website after annual High School Report Card released.

If there was any doubt that people are interested in what's going on in our high schools, look no further than the AIMS website for proof.

The day the 4th Annual Report Card for Atlantic Canadian High Schools was released the website received more than 112,000 hits. By day four, there were more than 250,000 hits to the website.

"These are not just bureaucrats or school board officials," says AIMS Vice President Charles Cirtwill. "The people who are visiting our website are spending time checking out the results of schools around the region. They are people who care about what's happening in public education and want to know what's happening in our high schools. They are students, parents and teachers."

To read more about the Report Card, [click here](#).

Part Two: Going On-Line to study the bottom line.

In addition to releasing its 4th annual Report Card on Atlantic Canadian High Schools, AIMS launched its On-Line Report Card. This is the electronic version of the report card, but one that can be tailored to exactly what you want to know about your school.

It provides an opportunity to see exactly what is going on in all 316 high schools in Atlantic Canada. One can check across the table to see exactly how each school is doing in each measurement. All available data for all schools is provided in this electronic Report Card. The on-line version allows people to compare schools within a province, to compare results by specific subject matter, or just study an overall report.

If we want to make our schools better, we have to know their individual strengths and weaknesses, based on real verifiable data. The AIMS On-Line Report Card on Atlantic Canadian High Schools does just that.

To access all available data on all 316 high schools in Atlantic Canada, [click here](#).

Part Three: How to Use the AIMS Report Card.

This year AIMS mailed individual school report cards to every principal, PTA president and student council in all 316 high schools in Atlantic Canada. Individual report cards were also mailed to municipal councils and schools boards for every school in their jurisdiction.

But along with the individual report cards, everyone received a copy of the "How to Use the AIMS Report Card" guide.

The guide explains the report card, what is measured, how it is measured, and what you can learn from checking the various scores within a school's results.

To read the "How to" guide, [click here](#).

Part Four: Results by province.

There are 316 schools in Atlantic Canada that teach high school grades. Of those, 108 could not be assigned a final grade because of the ongoing challenge of securing complete data from education officials about what goes on in schools.

If the data about the schools is not recorded and reported then those schools are assigned an Incomplete.

This fourth Report Card, known as RC4, is based on data from the school years 2001-

02, 2002-03, and 2003-04.

The purpose of the report card is to help all of us understand what is going on in our schools and work toward making those schools better for everyone. With the on-line report card, anyone can look at all the information that AIMS has collected for the last two report cards and do their own school comparisons and trend analysis.

The Report Card is meant as a guide. It tells you where you should be asking questions and what types of questions you should be asking. As an example, if a school's math exam scores are low and half kids are generally absent, then that indicates one problem. But if a school has a good attendance rate and the exam scores are low, then that indicates a different problem, and requires a different solution.

To read more about the results by province, click on the links below:

- [Newfoundland and Labrador school information.](#)
- [Newfoundland and Labrador results.](#)
- [Nova Scotia school information](#)
- [Nova Scotia school results](#)
- [Prince Edward Island school information](#)
- [Prince Edward Island results](#)
- [New Brunswick Anglophone school information.](#)
- [New Brunswick Anglophone results](#)
- [New Brunswick Francophone school information](#)
- [New Brunswick Francophone results](#)



Part Five: Taking notice, making headlines: AIMS Report Card top news story across the region.

The AIMS Report Card on Atlantic Canadian High Schools made every daily newspaper in the region, and was on the front page of all but two. From the news conference in Halifax on the morning of Thursday, March 9th, to the news conference in Moncton that afternoon, the Report Card dominated every broadcast newscast in Atlantic Canada.

[Click here](#) for a brief summary of just a few of the more than 100 news stories written about the AIMS High School Report Card.



Part Six: Internship Opportunities at AIMS

It could be one of the most challenging summers of your life. The Atlantic Institute for Market Studies is looking for summer interns.

Internships are intended to introduce bright and innovative final-year graduate or doctoral students to the policy making process, involve them in the important questions and issues of the day, and give them a chance to make a tangible and worthwhile contribution to the work of the Institute.

To learn more, [click here](#).

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