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*Where Tomorrow's Public
Policy Begins Today*

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Part One: AIMS 5th annual high school report card shows size doesn't matter.

"After five years it is clear that our original thesis was correct. Good schools come in all shapes and sizes. Unfortunately, that is equally true of schools that may be experiencing difficulties," explained AIMS acting president and report card co-author Chares Cirtwill.

"There is no ideal school size, location or structure."

Cirtwill made the remarks at the launch of AIMS much anticipated fifth annual report card on Atlantic Canadian high schools. As usual reaction was immediate. The results show that schools can succeed or fail under just about any set of circumstances: regardless of where you live or how big or small your school is, that school can serve you well, there are no excuses for poor performance.

There are numerous examples that stood out in this year's results.

Nova Scotia's top ranked school Queen Elizabeth High is located in downtown Halifax, Upper Miramichi Regional School in Boisetown had the highest result for an Anglophone school in New Brunswick despite having among the lowest scores for inputs like school size and the community's socio economic status.

Dorset Collegiate on Pilley's Island, Newfoundland and Labrador scored top marks for that province and did so despite a low score in feeder achievement: an indicator of the performance of junior high or middle school students who go on to attend the school.

In Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown's two high schools finished with solid scores earning spots in the top five schools in the province.

To access the report card, [click here](#).

To access more information and results by province, follow 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 school information](#)
- [New Brunswick Anglophone results](#)
- [New Brunswick Francophone results](#)

Part Two: No more secrets: AIMS acting president calls out the education establishment.

AIMS acting president Charles Cirtwill says there is no excuse for hoarding valuable information from public education stakeholders.

In an open letter to Halifax Regional School Board Superintendent Carole Olsen, Cirtwill points out that avoiding tough questions with status quo answers does nothing to improve the quality of education for students.

Ms. Olsen says she has "more in-depth data that's more directly related to student achievement than what the AIMS report provides us." But Cirtwill points out that the report card includes all publicly released school level data in Nova Scotia. He added:

"If you have in-depth school level data more directly related to student achievement than the data your school board has already released to the public and the department of education then it is inexcusable that such information has not been released."

To read the complete letter, [click here](#).

Part Three: On-Line report card – surf smart.

Once again getting full details on the annual high school report card is just a click away.

AIMS has a highly interactive on-line report card designed to help you easily identify and compare data from different schools giving a better idea of where schools are performing well or where they could use some improvement.

All 316 high schools are included, even those that were not assigned final grades. Every measure used to evaluate school performance can be accessed and compared. 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.

To access the on-line report card, [click here](#).

Part Four: How to Use the AIMS Report Card.

AIMS is committed to helping people make the most of the data available in the report card. We have mailed individual report cards to principals, PTA representatives and student council presidents for their school as well as report cards to municipal representatives and school board officials for all schools in their jurisdictions. This includes a “How to Use the AIMS Report Card” guide.

The guide explains the report card, what is measured, how it is measured, and what can be learned from checking the data within a school’s results.

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

Part Five: Lights, camera... report card: AIMS results in regional media spotlight.

The AIMS Report Card on Atlantic Canadian High Schools grabbed the headlines throughout the region.

AIMS called the province of New Brunswick out for eliminating standardized testing in its Anglophone schools and reducing the number in the francophone schools. The provincial education minister, Kelly Lamrock, responded almost immediately to AIMS’ comments. In several articles in New Brunswick newspapers he agreed with AIMS that assessment and public availability of data are crucial to school evaluation. He also told a Fredericton paper that he plans to restore some standardized assessments in an education plan to be released within a month.

AIMS also received positive feedback in Nova Scotia. An official with the Cape Breton –

Victoria school board told the local paper in an interview that "...the AIMS report does provide us at system-level, and also at school-level, with another piece of information and it may be helpful."

To read complete media coverage and reaction to the report card, [click here](#).

[Click here](#) for a brief summary of the extensive media coverage generated by the AIMS report card

Part Six: AIMS report card featured in Progress magazine.

For the fifth year the AIMS high school report card was featured in Progress business magazine.

The twenty page spread includes an article by AIMS acting president and report card co-author, Charles Cirtwill. He outlines a number of ways business leaders can contribute to improving our public schools. It also contains overall rankings by province and several articles highlighting innovative education strategies, including comments from business leaders who are concerned about the state of education in their provinces.

To read the Progress magazine spread, [click here](#).

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