



# THE BEACON



Volume 15, Issue 11

*Where Tomorrow's Public  
Policy Begins Today*

08 May 2009

[How you can support AIMS](#)

*Having trouble reading this email? View our online version at:  
[www.aims.ca/library/beacon050809.pdf](http://www.aims.ca/library/beacon050809.pdf)*

## Special Edition Beacon – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Report Card on Atlantic Canadian High Schools

- ⇒ **Part One: Slow but steady winning the race: Trend data in AIMS 7<sup>th</sup> annual report card shows some progress.**
- ⇒ **Part Two: On-Line report card: The dirt is in the details.**
- ⇒ **Part Three: AIMS high school report card featured in Progress magazine.**
- ⇒ **Part Four: Making headlines: AIMS report card featured throughout the region.**



## **Part One: Slow but steady is winning the race: Trend data in AIMS 7<sup>th</sup> annual report card shows some progress**

"We made two points when we started this work," says AIMS Executive Vice President Charles Cirtwill, "education happens in schools, and progress does not happen overnight. Over the last four years, with basically the same proven measures in place, we have seen some schools improve their grade one or two steps at a time. And, occasionally, two steps forward and one back. But that is the nature of progress"

AIMS waited until solid trend data was in place before commenting on whether progress is being made in the region's high schools. The answer, according to researchers, is a qualified yes. But that does not mean that there is not still work to be done.

Whether the successes we see in the overall trends are due to fundamental changes at the schools, a change in staff, or the statistical aberration of consistently convincing parents to send only the overachieving kids to school, the AIMS report does not and can not say.

The AIMS Report Card is a descriptive tool only, meant to encourage informed engagement by the school community with the school. Now it is up to those who want to learn from or continue the early successes to ask the right questions and apply the lessons learned.

To read the seventh annual report, [click here](#).

To access more information and the results by province, follow the links below:

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

---

## **Part Two: On-Line report card: The dirt is in the details**

Once again getting the full information available for your school is just a click away.

AIMS' interactive one-line report card is designed to help you easily identify and compare data from different schools giving a better idea of where schools are performing well and where they could improve. All the data for all the high schools in the region are included, whether or not the school received a final grade. Every measure used to evaluate school performance can be accessed and compared. The on-line report card allows you to compare schools within a region, or just your school results over the last four reports.

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

---

### Part Three: AIMS high school report card featured in Progress magazine

For the seventh year, the AIMS Annual Report Card on Atlantic Canadian High Schools was featured in Progress magazine. ([www.progressmedia.ca](http://www.progressmedia.ca))

The twelve page spread includes an article by AIMS Executive Vice President and report co-author Charles Cirtwill. He talks about school choice and its potential as an economic stimulus that does not require more public debt or higher taxes. AIMS Research Manager Bobby O'Keefe reviews the school performance by province. And an article entitled, "Thinking outside the schoolyard", investigates school choice and reframes education in economic terms.

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

---

### Part Four: Making headlines: AIMS report card featured throughout the region

**Report card sees progress** - This editorial in the Cape Breton Post highlights the advantages of AIMS annual high school report card. It concludes, "But if nothing else, AIMS has helped erode the encrusted taboos surrounding the assessment of school performance and public access to such data."

**Ups and downs of high school report cards** - The AIMS 7th Annual Atlantic High School Report Card has a lot people talking. This column in the Chronicle-Herald points out that one of the greatest advantages of the report is that it forces accountability upon our public school system.

**Schools have mixed feeling about latest report card results** - More and more principals say they use the AIMS annual high school report card to determine where they succeed and where they need to concentrate their efforts. This story includes one principal who sees the value of the report, and one who isn't so sure.

**AIMS finds some Island schools hard to read for report** - AIMS 7th Annual Report Card on Atlantic Canadian High Schools highlighted the lack of information for some schools on Prince Edward Island. That's because publicly-funded post secondary institutions are not covered by the province's Freedom of Information legislation.

**Pictou Academy scores high marks on AIMS report card** - Schools in Pictou County, Nova Scotia finished in the middle of the pack in the AIMS Annual Report Card on Atlantic Canadian High Schools. Pictou Academy's principal says this is good but the school still needs improvement in a few areas.

**Report card time** - This article in the Truro Daily News takes a look at the results area high schools in AIMS annual report card. Local educators say they use the report to determine where they can improve performance.

**Cape Breton school ranks first in province** – A Cape Breton school received the best ranking in the province in the AIMS 7th Annual Atlantic High School Report Card.

**AIMS issues school report card** - AIMS Annual Report Card on Atlantic Canadian High Schools generated debate around the region. Schools are now using the report to identify strengths and weaknesses. This article focuses on Cumberland County schools, and AIMS Research Manager Bobby O'Keefe says they are making improvements.

**Students make think-tank's grade** - AIMS annual high school report card is all about improving student performance. With publication of the 7th annual report, there are signs

schools are getting better. This article features the Cinderella story of Hants North High School in Nova Scotia.

**School official questions report** - AIMS 7th Annual Report Card on Atlantic Canadian High Schools generated headlines around the region. In this article, AIMS Executive Vice-President Charles Cirtwill says people should use the report to stay informed on the performance of schools.

**AIMS Report Card is Out** - Within minutes of the release of AIMS' Annual Report Card for Atlantic Canadian High Schools, news rooms were using the story. This article was used in broadcast and online newscasts.

**Boiestown school N.B.'s best** - The Daily Gleaner in Fredericton headlined the AIMS 7th Annual Report Card on Atlantic Canadian High Schools in this story focusing on schools around the provincial capital.

**N.S. high schools leading region, report says** - AIMS released the 7th Annual High School Report Card this week and Nova Scotia is leading the way among the Atlantic provinces.

**Getting better** - Data collected for the AIMS 7th Annual High School Report Card shows that high school graduates from Nova Scotia are not doing well in calculus once in university. AIMS Executive Vice-President Charles Cirtwill says this needs to change.

**AIMS report card yields interesting data, says minister** - New Brunswick Education Minister Kelly Lamrock says parents should use the AIMS annual high school report card to learn what's happening in their schools. He believes parents should break down the data and find where improvements can be made in the classroom.

**Petitcodiac Regional School named as top school in District 2** - With the release of the 7th annual Atlantic Canadian high school report card Petitcodiac Regional School in New Brunswick found itself at the top of New Brunswick schools in a few different areas. It's using the report to see where it is doing well and where it needs to concentrate its efforts.

---

Permission is given to reproduce material from this newsletter or from the AIMS website, as long as both AIMS and the author, where appropriate, are given proper credit. Please notify us when using our material.

Some of the materials in this newsletter will require Adobe® Reader® to access. If you do not have Adobe® Reader® installed on your computer, [click here](#) to download the full program.

If you have received this message in error, please accept our apologies. To unsubscribe from the Beacon, please visit [www.AIMS.ca](http://www.AIMS.ca) and follow the links at the right hand corner of the homepage. Follow the links to subscribe to the newsletter and there is an option to unsubscribe. To subscribe, follow the same instructions but use the subscribe option.

We welcome your comments at [communications@aims.ca](mailto:communications@aims.ca).

[Privacy Policy](#)