



CHAPTER 9: GRADUATION

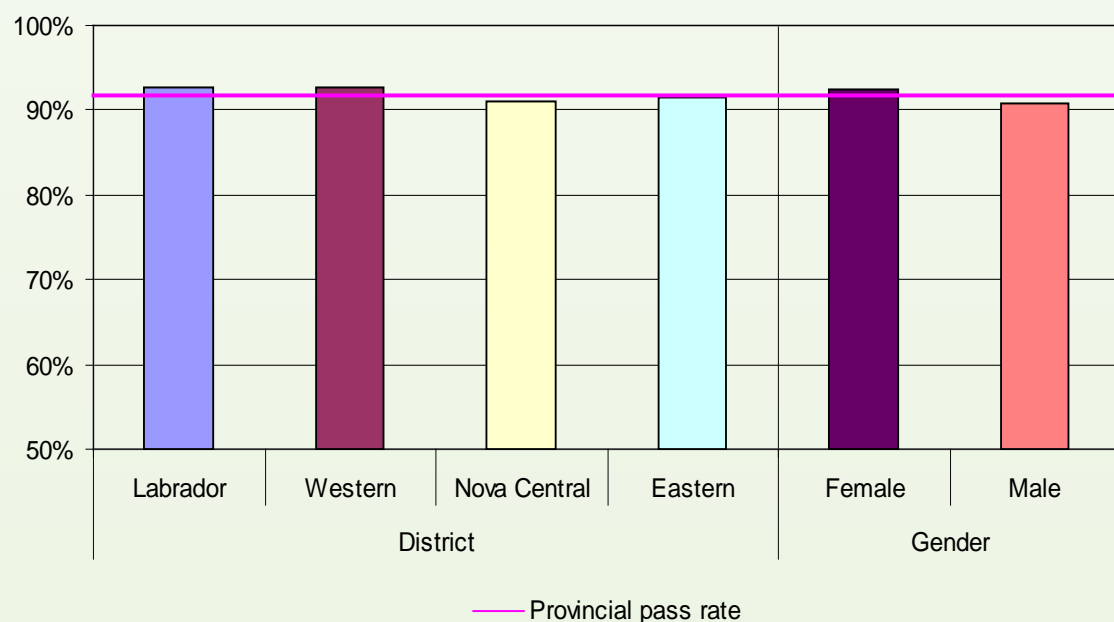
This chapter will focus on describing the province's high school graduates. It is important to note that the provincial and gender percentages are based on the performance of all students in the province. When results are reported at the district level, the figures in this chapter only report four districts (the Labrador, Western, Nova Central and Eastern School Districts). The pass rate and graduation status of students in the CSF, private, First Nations and other schools are not included in the figures because of the low number of students. For example, in 2010/11, there were nine students eligible to graduate in the CSF. These percentages are included in the tables located in the appendix.

Pass Rate (2010/11)

The pass rate is a provincial measure used to describe the number of students graduating from high school. It is calculated by dividing the actual number of graduates by the number of eligible¹ graduates in a given school.

As shown in figure 9.1, the vast majority of students who were eligible to graduate in 2010/11 did. In 2010/11, the provincial pass rate was 91.7%. At the district level, the pass rate ranged from a low of 91.1% in Nova Central to 92.8% in the Labrador School District. Along gender lines, the female pass rate was slightly higher than the male (92.4% vs. 90.9%).

Figure 9.1: Provincial and district pass rates (2010/11)



(Source: Table 9.1)

¹ Eligible graduates include students who have completed a minimum of 22 credits and are attempting sufficient and appropriate credits to graduate.

Trends in provincial and district pass rate (2005/06-2010/11)

The provincial pass rate has remained stable at approximately 91.0% over the past five years. At the district level, the pass rate has also remained fairly stable. The only exception was in the Labrador School District where the pass rate increased every year between 2005/06 to 2009/10 before declining slightly in 2010/11 (see figure 9.2a).

Along gender lines, girls consistently had a higher pass rate than boys. Each year, the female pass rate was between 1.7 and 4.7 percentage points higher than the male pass rate (see 9.2b). This gender gap, however, is closing. In 2006/07, the female pass rate was 4.7 percentage points higher than the male but by 2010/11 this gap narrowed to only 1.5 points.

Figure 9.2: Pass rate trends (2006/07-2010/11)



(Source: Table 9.2)

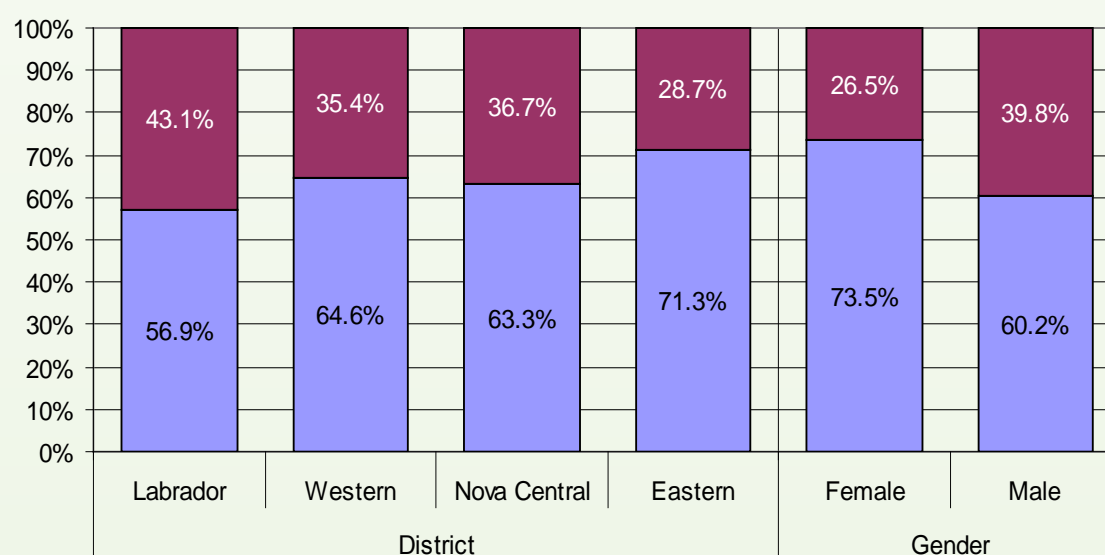


Graduation Status

There are three types of diploma students can earn upon graduation. Students receive an honours diploma upon graduation if they achieve an overall average of 80% in five subject areas (English, mathematics, science, social studies and an elective). If students meet the same criteria as the honours diploma but have a minimum mark of 50%, they will graduate with an academic diploma. Finally, a student is awarded a general high school diploma if they meet the minimum graduation requirements but do not meet the additional requirements for an academic or honours diploma.

In 2010/11, the majority (61.5%) of students graduated from school with either an academic or honours diploma. At the district level, the percentage of students who graduated with an academic or honours diploma ranged from 56.9% in Labrador to 71.3% in the Eastern district (see figure 9.3). A higher percentage of girls graduated with an academic or honours diploma than boys (73.5% vs. 60.2%).

Figure 9.3: Graduation status (2010/11)



■ Academic/Honours diploma ■ General diploma (Source: Table 9.3)

