

NIAGARA CATHOLIC 2016 GRADUATION RATE SECOND HIGHEST IN ONTARIO'S ENGLISH-SPEAKING SCHOOL BOARDS

The Ontario Ministry of Education has released the 2016 [graduation rates](#) for all publicly funded high schools in Ontario. For the third, consecutive year, Niagara Catholic's graduation rates placed second out of the 57 English speaking school Boards in the Province of Ontario. For the third year in a row, Niagara Catholic's graduation rates continued to increase, this time, by nearly a full percentage point, to 92.1 per cent for students graduating in four years, and to 94 per cent for students who took five years to graduate.

This once again places Niagara Catholic second in the province among Ontario's 57 publicly funded English-language school boards for four-year graduation rates, and tied for third among all 72 publicly funded school boards in Ontario in five-year graduation rates. Niagara Catholic's four-year rate is 12.5 per cent higher than the provincial average (79.6%) and 7.5 per cent higher than the provincial average (86.5%) for students who took five years to complete their Ontario Secondary School Graduation Diploma.

Niagara Catholic's graduation rates fulfill a strategy laid out in the Board's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan to consistently exceed the Ministry of Education's goal of a province-wide, five-year graduation rate of 85 per cent; a goal that was first achieved throughout Ontario in 2015.

Board Chair Father Paul MacNeil said the results reflect the commitment Niagara Catholic has to student success from a student's earliest years in school; a commitment that extends beyond the classroom.

"Once again this year, I am proud to comment on such outstanding graduation rates for Niagara Catholic," said Chair MacNeil. "Parents, staff and our parish priests play a significant role in influencing students to strive for their personal bests. This outstanding result is a fantastic good news story, but is certainly no surprise to those of us who see first-hand the commitment to student success by all those involved in our Catholic schools."

Director of Education John Crocco called the 2016 graduation rates evidence of Niagara Catholic's continued focus and commitment to academic achievement and success for all students, Kindergarten to graduation.

"When parents enroll their child in any of our Catholic schools, they expect that their child will be cared for from Kindergarten through graduation, graduate, and become successful, contributing members of society," said Mr. Crocco. *"The graduation rates are a key indicator of student success, and Niagara Catholic's consistently outstanding graduation rates are a clear indication of our commitment to student success.*

"We continue to provide a diverse range of pathways, courses, programs, supports and services for all students, including a variety of Specialist High Skills Major programs, Dual Credit/Connecting College programs, Alternative Education programs and a number of innovative strategies designed to increase student engagement, to enhance student experiences and continually improve success for all students throughout Niagara Catholic.

"While we are very proud of the success of all of our students, who are nurtured in a Catholic environment created by our dedicated and talented staff, we will continue to strive to exceed these very impressive annual graduation rate by providing new and innovative programs, supports and services that will ensure that all our students graduate from high school fully prepared for the next stage of their lives, whether it is apprenticeship, college, university or the world of work."

Niagara Catholic delivers excellence in Catholic education to more than 22,000 students in Niagara, from Early Learning Kindergarten through graduation.

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