

Ontario Education Improvement

“We are improving each year.
People are getting smarter.
We are starting to think school has potential!”

- Ontario elementary student 2010



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Assistant Deputy Minister
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Snapshot – Province of Ontario

Ontario has:

- 40% of Canada's 33.6 million people (it *is* the most populous province)
- 60% of 225,000 immigrants who come to Canada annually
- Over 1 million square kilometres of land
- 2.1 million students, 27% born outside Canada
- Almost 126,000 teachers (unionized teaching and support staff)
- About 5,000 schools in 72 school districts
- Funding of \$20.2B (CDN) in 2010-11 (40% increase compared to 2002-03)

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Curriculum, Standards & Assessment

- The right policies are enabling scaffolds to a “smart” system
- Common Curriculum Documents
 - By grade K – 6, by subject 7 – 12
 - Developed and published by the Ontario Government
 - Ontario: a “cool” curriculum vs. “hot”
- Standards of Performance
 - Established by the Ontario Government
- Assessment of Performance
 - Largely teacher/classroom developed and based
 - Formalized Province wide assessment
 - Independently developed and marked – EQAO
 - Standards based
 - Based on the Ontario curriculum
 - Reading, writing and mathematics, Grades 3&6
 - Academic and applied math, grade 9
 - Literacy, grade 10 (graduation requirement)
 - Transparency of results
- Pedagogy
 - A highly qualified and capable, engaged and empowered profession

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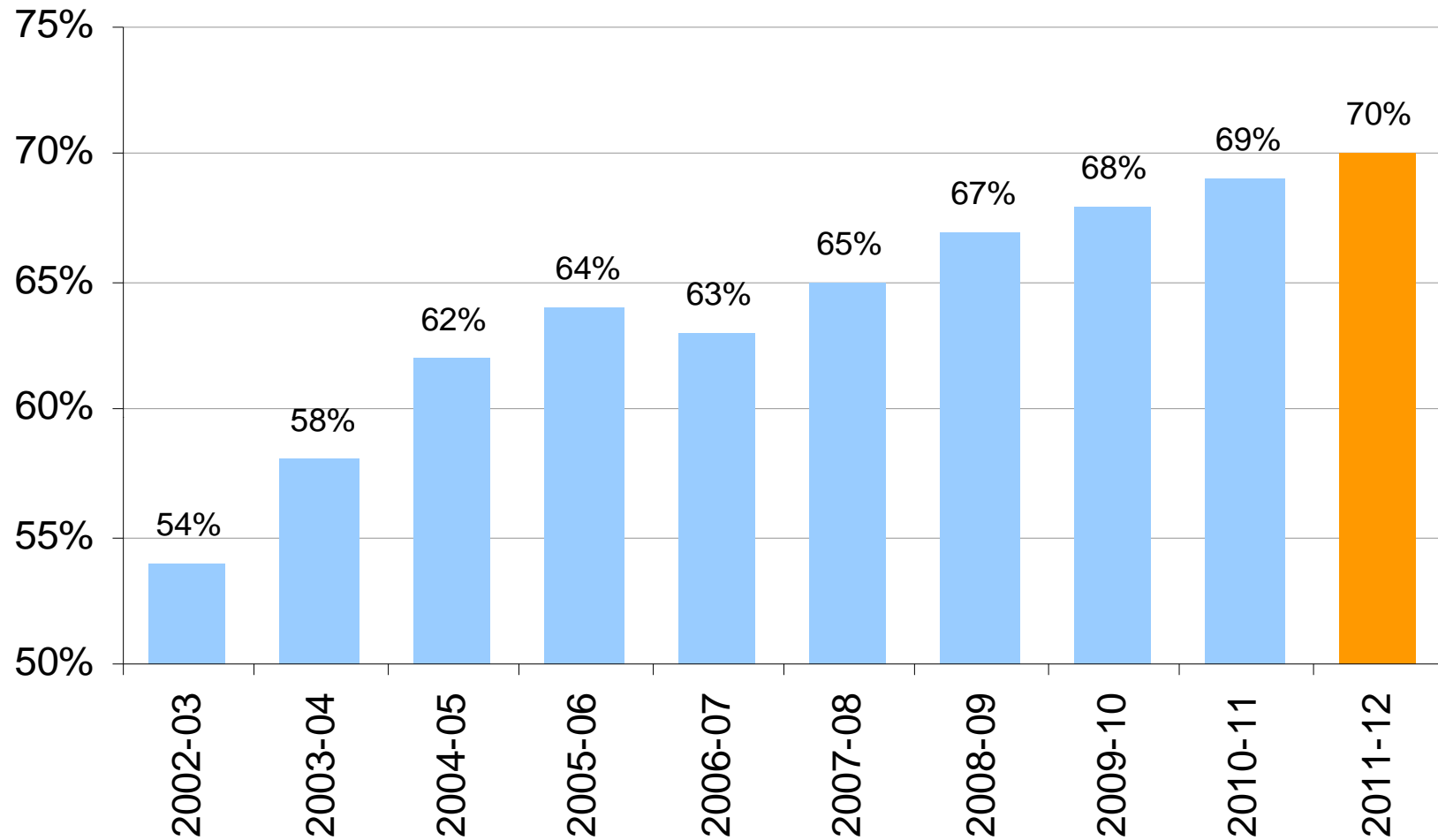
Signs of success



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Overall Elementary Achievement Growth: 2002-03 to 2011-12

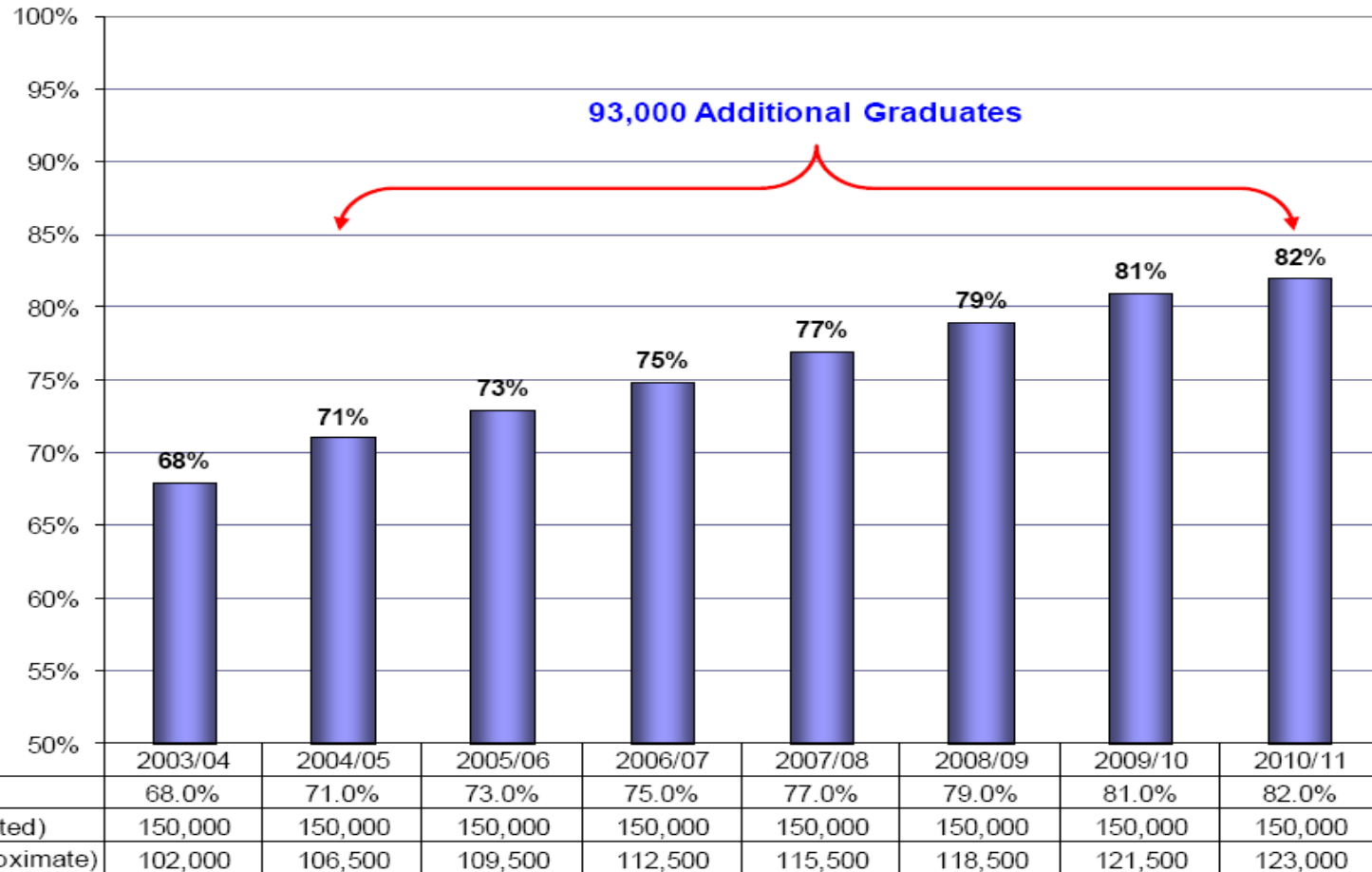


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Graduation Rates 2003/04 - 2010/11

- Graduation rates have increased from 68% to 82%
- Each 1% point increase represents 1,500 students
- 93,000 more students have graduated than would have had the rate remained at 68%



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Ontario's International Standing

- Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2009
 - From 65 countries, only Shanghai, China scored significantly better in reading. In mathematics Ontario scored very well.
 - In Ontario, the difference in achievement between students in the top socio-economic quarter and the lowest quarter was half the OECD average.
 - Within Canada, Ontario has the highest proportion of immigrant students.
- McKinsey Report 2009: How the World's Most Improved School Systems Keep Getting Better
- Ontario: sustained improvement, from 2003-2009 moved from "good" to "great", now moving from "great" to "excellent"
- Pan Canadian Assessment Program 2010
- Ontario is the only province above the Canadian average in reading, math and science



Lessons from Ontario

- Ontario's approach to critical thinking and creativity... [is] woven into virtually all aspects of schooling
 - across the curriculum
 - use of formative assessments
- Ontario's curriculum, assessment and reporting have moved from an emphasis on mastery of facts to an understanding of “big ideas” and the ability to apply one's knowledge to the problems one confronts in everyday life
- Interdisciplinary approaches, systems thinking, and collaborative inquiry into problems of practice is increasingly the norm in Ontario schools, strongly supported by the work of the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, the Student Success/Learning to 18 team, and other units in the ministry.

From OECD Report: Strong Performers and Successful Reformers in Education: Lessons from PISA for Japan - 2011

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Lessons from Ontario

Ontario's strong PISA results would suggest that this emphasis on building the critical thinking and problem-solving skills of teachers has strengthened the capacity of teachers to enable the development of these same kinds of skills in their students

Ontario has created a broad set of enabling conditions, including:


- comprehensive early learning and childcare system
- strong cultural commitment to the importance of education

From OECD Report: Strong Performers and Successful Reformers in Education: Lessons from PISA for Japan - 2011





How we've
done it



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Ontario

Implementation and Focus

1. A small number of ambitious goals

- High levels of student achievement
 - 75% of students with high level of literacy and numeracy skill by age 12
 - 85% of students graduating from high school within 5 years of starting
- Reduced gaps in student achievement
- Increased public confidence in education

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Implementation and Focus

2. A Guiding Coalition at the Top

- Premier
- Minister of Education
- Deputy Minister
- Chief Student Achievement Officer



Implementation and Focus

3. High Standards and Expectations

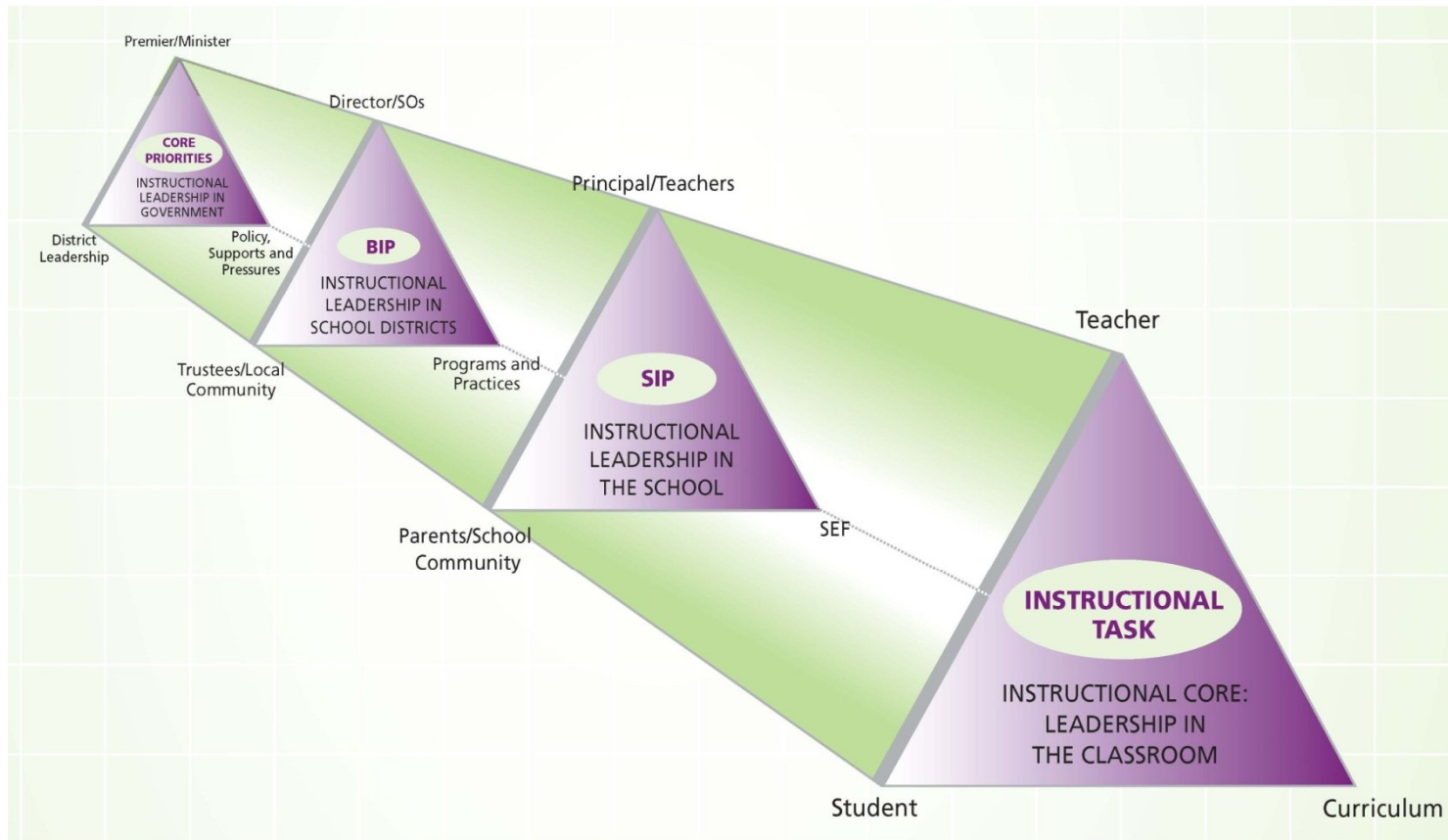
- A standards based curriculum
- A transparent standard of performance
- Independent assessments of student achievement
- Provincial standards of literacy and numeracy require creative thinking, problem solving, higher order thinking skills

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Implementation and Focus

4. Investment in leadership and capacity building related to instruction



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Implementation and Focus

4. Investment in leadership and capacity building related to instruction

Student Supports

- Full Day Kindergarten
- Tutoring
- Interventions: 12&12+ Re-engagement, credit rescue, credit recovery
- More Relevant Programs: SHSM, Dual Credit, Differentiated Instruction
- Student Voice

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Implementation and Focus

- Apprenticeship and training
 - Provided within the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
 - Combination of work placement hours, college programs, and certifications
 - Many secondary schools offer programs aligned with apprenticeship preparation



Implementation and Focus

Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM)

2006-07 Year 1	2007-08 Year 2	2008-09 Year 3	2009-10 Year 4	2010-11 Year 5	2011-12 Year 6	2012-13 Year 7
600 students in 27 programs in 44 schools	6000 students in 153 programs in 212 schools	14,000 students in over 480 programs in 335 schools	20,000 students in over 740 programs in 430 schools	28,000 students in over 1000 programs in 540 schools	34,000 students in over 1300 programs in over 630 schools	38,000 students in over 1,500 programs 670 schools
Sectors: Arts and Culture Construction Hospitality Tourism Manufacturing Agriculture Forestry Horticulture & Landscaping Mining	Addition of: Business Environment Health & Wellness Transportation	Addition of: Information Communication Technology Justice, Community Safety and Emergency Services	Addition of: Energy Aviation and Aerospace	Addition of: Sports Non-profit	No new sectors	Possible Food Processing –to be confirmed

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Implementation and Focus

4. Investment in leadership and capacity building related to instruction

Classroom Supports

- Funding for:
 - Professional Learning Communities
 - Collaboration
- Staff to Support Changes
- Student Work Study Teachers
- Collaborative Inquiry for Learning in Mathematics
- Shared Research and Evidence
- Professional Resources
 - Growing Success
 - Learning for All
 - Differentiated Instruction
 - Math and Literacy Gains
 - Guides to Effective Instruction
 - DVDs and Monographs

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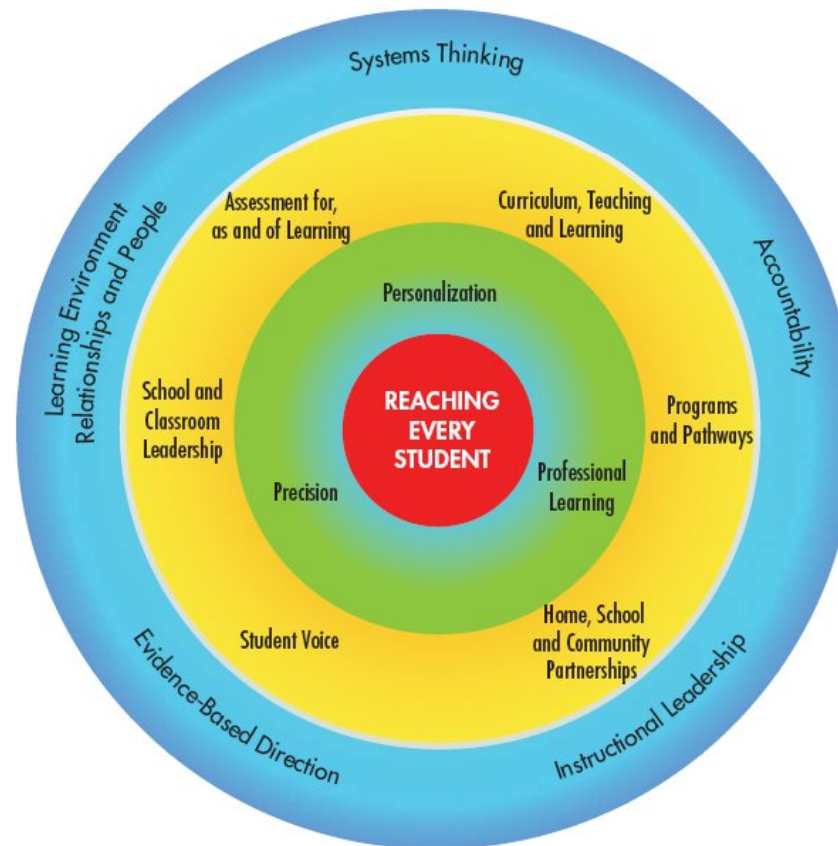


Implementation and Focus

4. Investment in leadership and capacity building related to instruction

School Supports

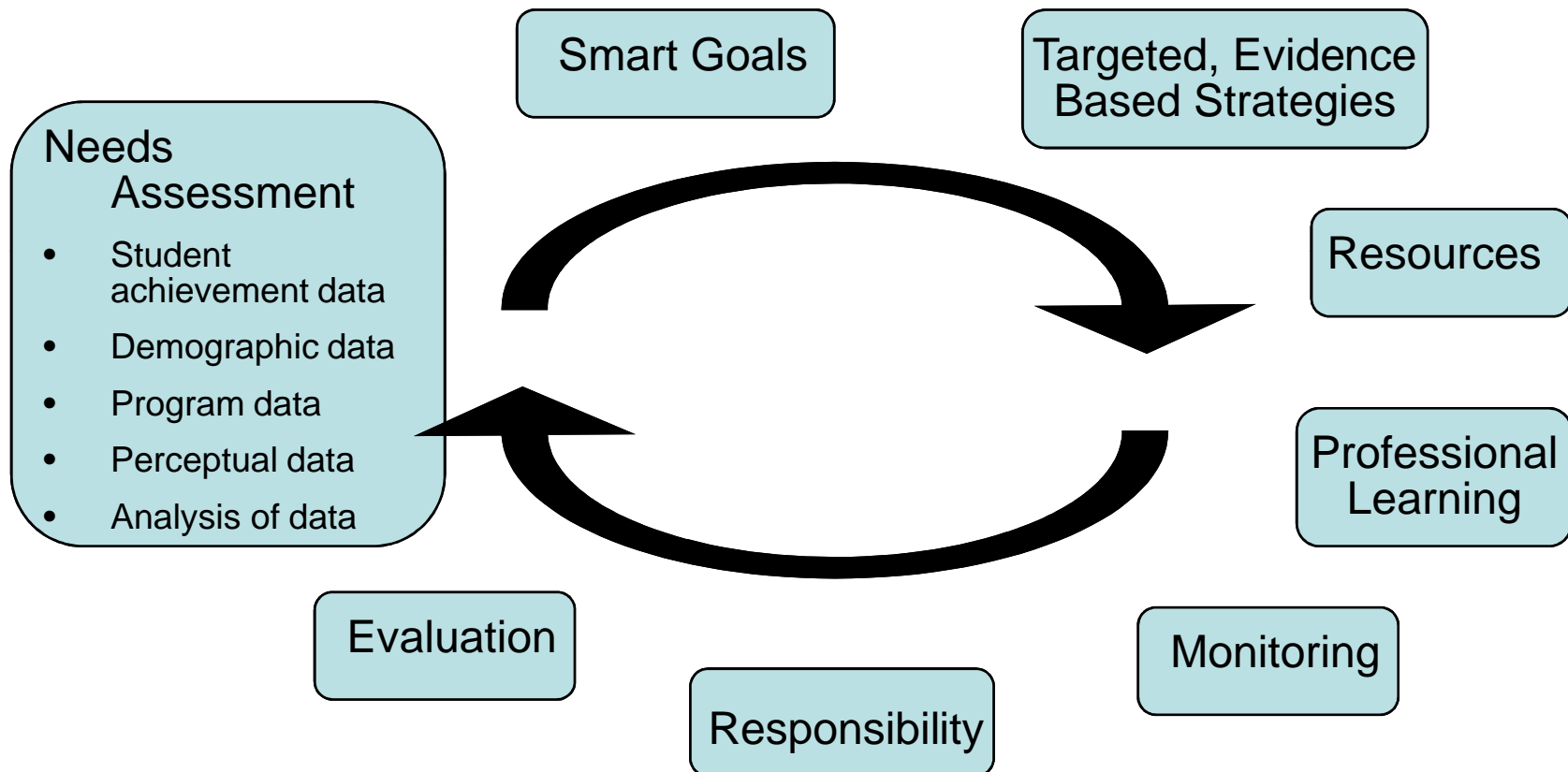
- School Effectiveness Framework – a staff engagement tool



Implementation and Focus

4. Investment in leadership and capacity building related to instruction

School Supports - School Improvement Programs



Implementation and Focus

4. Investment in leadership and capacity building related to instruction

Leadership Supports

- School Effectiveness Leaders
- Student Success Leaders
- Student Achievement Officers
- Secondary School Education Officers
- Ontario Leadership Strategy
- Improvement Planning Processes

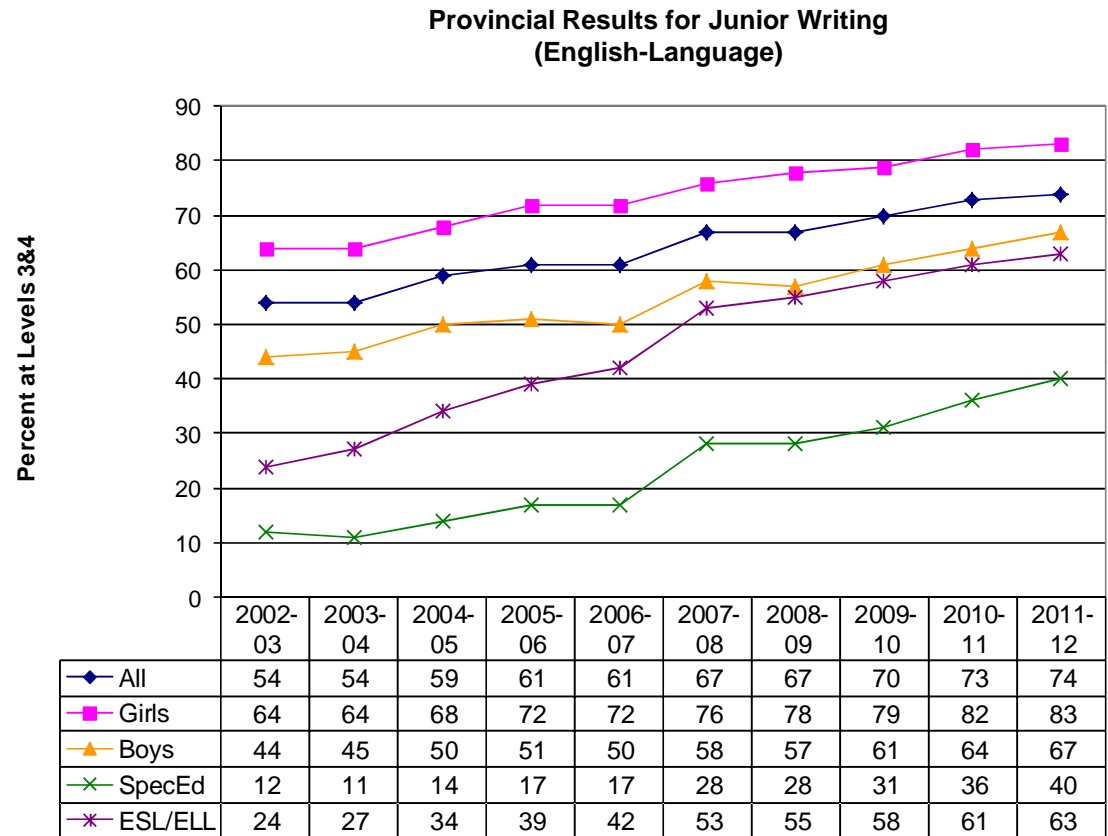
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Implementation and Focus

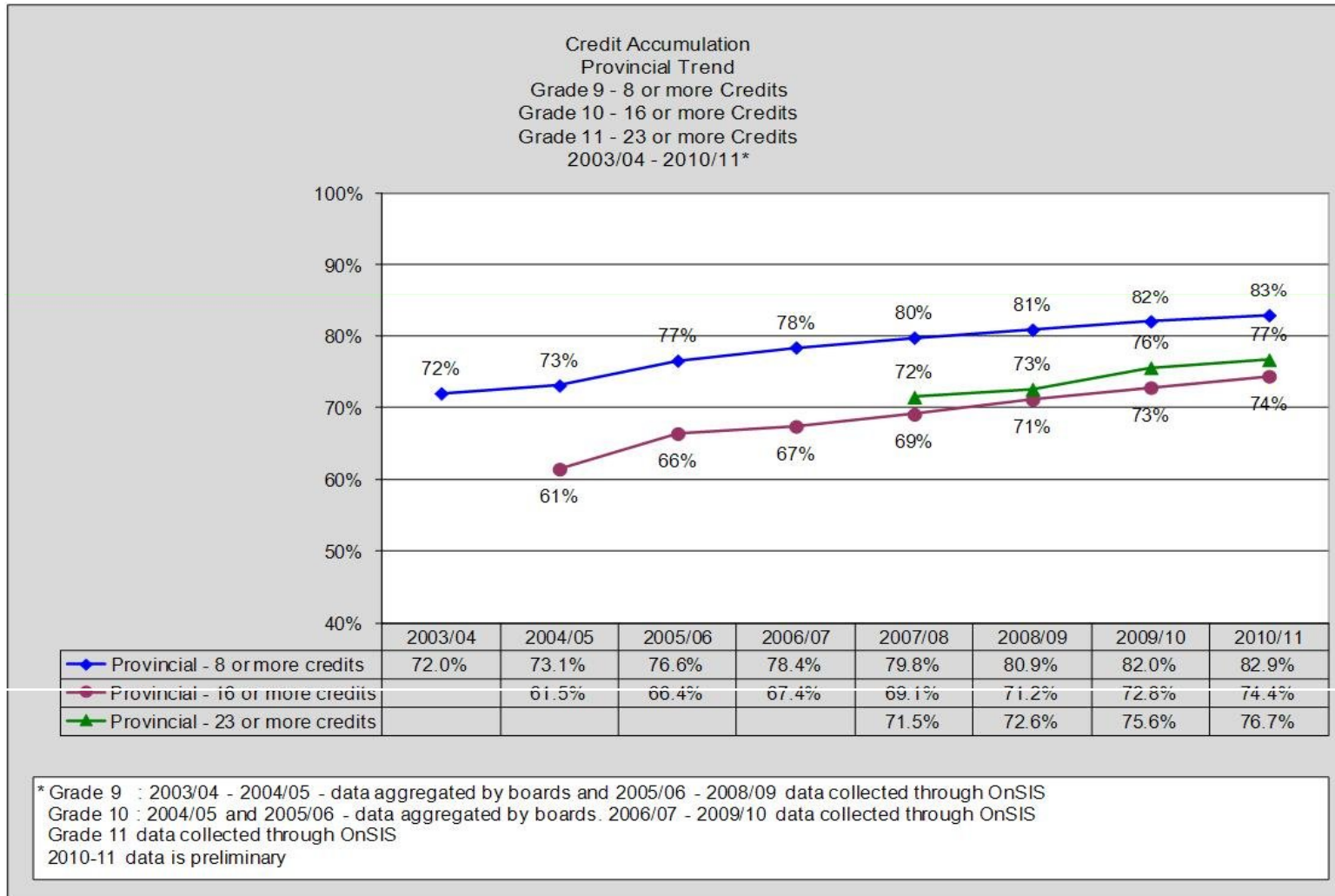
5. Mobilizing data and effective practices as a strategy for improvement

- Building a data system
 - Assessments
 - Tracking data



Implementation and Focus

5. Mobilizing data and effective practices as a strategy for improvement



Implementation and Focus

- Mobilizing data and effective practices as a strategy for improvement
 - Building an evidence based culture
 - Precise teaching to meet student needs
 - Teaching Learning Critical Pathway
 - School Improvement Planning



K-12 Math Strategy

- Broaden The Strategy By Implicating More People In Improving Mathematics Achievement
 - More systematically engaging parents
 - Making numeracy an explicit focus
 - Emphasizing role of school and system leadership



K-12 Math Strategy

- Deepen the strategy
 - Continue to building on effective professional learning – Paying Attention to Mathematics
 - Continue to address needs of students in applied courses
 - Differentiated support for DSBs



K-12 Math Strategy

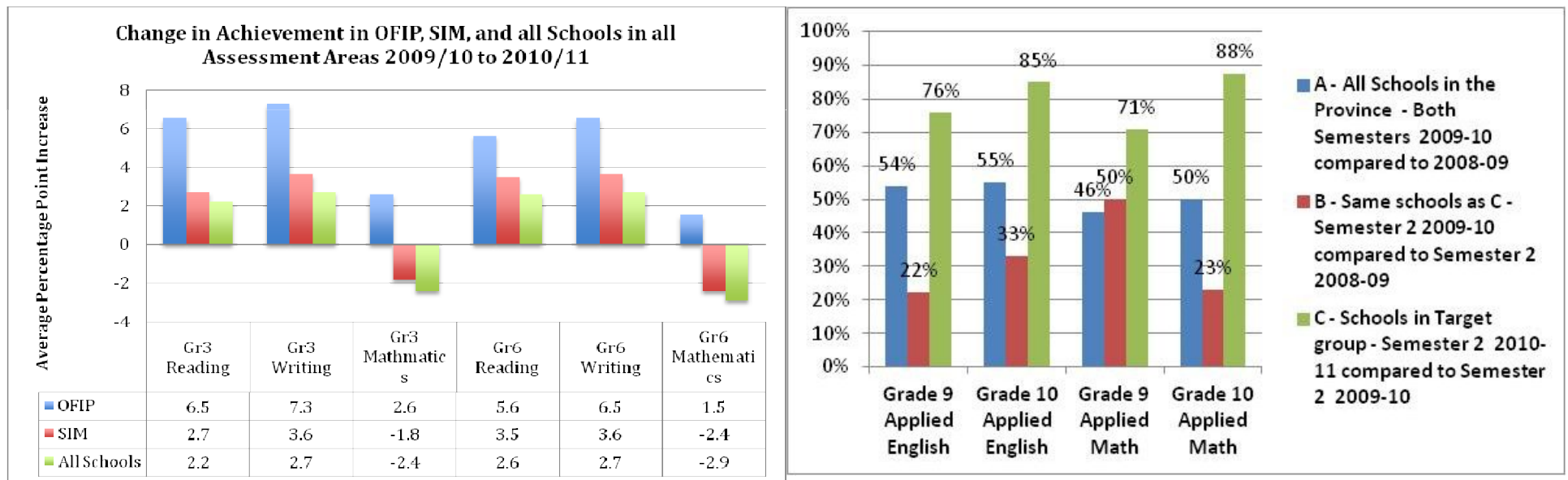
- Building a Foundation for Sustainable Improvement
 - Comprehensive plan for curriculum review
 - Reviewing uptake of Ministry resources
 - Deepening understanding of mathematics learning in the early years
 - Leveraging changes to teacher pre-service education
 - Focusing more summer learning programs on numeracy



Implementation and Focus

6. Intervention in a Non Punitive Manner

- Ontario Focused Intervention Program (OFIP)
- Student Success School Support Initiative (SSI)



OFIP

SSI

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Implementation and Focus

7. Supporting Conditions and Reducing Distractions

- Full day Kindergarten
- Negotiations and collective agreements
- Ontario Leadership Strategy
- Governance Legislation
- Research Strategy
- Equity Policy and Initiatives
- Aboriginal Education Unit
- Character Education
- Safe Schools & Anti Bullying
- Healthy Schools
- Community Use of Schools
- Anti Poverty Agenda
- Mental Health Strategy



Implementation and Focus

8. Being transparent, relentless and increasingly challenging

- All children can learn
- A sense of urgency
- Sustaining and extending our reforms



Key Elements - Literacy and Numeracy

CLASSROOM TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Tutors in the Classroom
- OFIP Tutoring
- Student Work Study Teachers
- Collaborative Inquiry for Teaching in Mathematics
- Small and Northern Boards Numeracy
- Kindergarten and Grade 1 Collaborative Inquiry
- Early Literacy Initiatives
- Guides to Effective Instruction
- Professional DVDs and Monographs
- Math for Young Children
- Junior Math Initiative

SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS

- School Effectiveness Framework
- School Improvement Planning
- OFIP Low Performing Schools
- Schools in the Middle
- Schools Helping Schools Networking

LEADERSHIP

- School Effectiveness Leads
- Student Achievement Officers
- Connections to Other Ministry Branches and Work (Ontario Leadership Framework, Learning for All, Growing Success)

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Key Elements of Student Success

PROGRAMS

- Specialist High Skills Major
- Dual Credits
- Expanded Cooperative Education
- Board Specific Programs, e.g., transition planning, alternative ed; adult & continuing ed.
- Student Voice
- Supervised Alternative Learning

INSTRUCTION

- Differentiated Instruction
- Math & Literacy GAINS
- School Effectiveness Framework

INTERVENTIONS

- Credit Rescue and Recovery
- Transitions/Taking Stock
- Caring Adult
- Children and Youth in Care
- 12/12+ Re-engagement Strategy

CULTURE AND LEADERSHIP

- Student Success Leaders, Student Success Teachers and Student Success Teams
- Secondary School Education Officers
- School Support Initiative
- Board Improvement Plans

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Thank you!

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