

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Provincial Student Assessments



Why We Did This Audit

- Provincial assessments provide a standard measure of student performance, enabling the Department to monitor and evaluate student progress.
- Nova Scotia students consistently perform below the national average in mathematics and reading.
- The Province spent over \$2.65 billion on public education in 2025-26.
- The Department spent almost \$700,000 in 2024-25 to administer and score over 75,000 assessments in reading, writing and mathematics.

Key Audit Results

- The Department does not have measurable targets for provincial assessment results and could not demonstrate how it used these results to inform its decisions.
- Both Tri-County Regional Centre for Education (TCRCE) and Strait Regional Centre for Education (SRCE) perform additional data analysis on provincial assessment results and have several good practices.
- However, TCRCE and SRCE could not demonstrate how they link provincial assessment results to the allocation of math and literacy school support teachers.
- Schools sampled in TCRCE and SRCE used provincial assessment results to create goals. However, goals were not measurable.
- Provincial assessment results are difficult to find on Department website.
- Individual Provincial Assessment Student Reports could be improved to provide better information to families on their child's strengths and challenges.

This report makes

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Recommendations

to strengthen the link between provincial assessment results and actions taken at the Department, regional and school levels.