



# News Release

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## **2006/2007 Graduation/School Leaver Rates**

Improved secondary school graduation rates as well as school leaver rates were shared with the Trustees of the Lambton Kent District School Board at the March 25, 2008 Board Meeting.

Two key measures of the Student Success Initiative are the annual graduation rate – the percentage of a particular cohort of students who graduate within five years of beginning their secondary program; and the school leaver rate – the percentage of all students who choose to leave their secondary studies. The provincial graduation rate for the 2006 – 2007 school year was 75%, an increase of 2% from the previous year. The Lambton Kent District School Board rate topped 82% this past year, reflecting an increase of 9% from the year before. Further testament to the commitment of our educators to Student Success is found in the most recent school leaver data. Two years ago the Lambton Kent District School Board leaver rate was 6.7%, while last year the rate dropped to 2.9%. This year's numbers indicate the strong likelihood of a further drop in school leavers.

A number of factors have contributed to these collective results, not the least of which is a focus on student engagement – strengthening the sense of connection that students have with their schools and their learning, along with the provision of supports to meet the individual needs of students, particularly those who are most at risk of not graduating.

A second critical element in this overall effort has been the impact of the Connections Project – an intervention and support program designed to engage students who've made the decision to leave their day-school program. These students are provided with opportunities to continue their learning through alternative programs that include access to non-academic supports if need be. Over time, an increasing number of these students are returning to day school programs and continuing to progress.

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