

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

**DROPOUT RATE IMPROVES ONCE AGAIN  
AT THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD**

**MAGOG, December 15 , 2011** – For another consecutive year, the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) has effectively reduced its dropout rate. Statistics released by the *ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* (MELS) for the 2009-2010 school year show the rate at 23.7%, down from 28.1% for 2008-2009.

“The continuing improvement in our dropout rate is a reflection of the determination of our students. With the strong foundation that our elementary schools are providing and the diligence of our secondary schools, we are making a difference. This success is shared with all our employees across the board, who are committed to student success. I would like to congratulate our students and personally thank our personnel” expressed Chantal C. Beaulieu, Director General of the Eastern Townships School Board.

Both genders are showing an improvement, with the greatest gains being made in the rate for girls, dropping to 18.1%, down 6.5 percentage points from a rate of 24.6% in 2008-2009. The dropout rate for boys decreased by 2.8 percentage points, which reinforces the direction the school board is taking with a focus on strategies to address gender differentiation.

As in previous years, the ETSB will conduct an internal analysis to determine which of its students left the province to pursue their studies elsewhere. “These students are considered as dropouts in the MELS statistics. By including students that study out of the province in the dropout rate, the MELS is doing a disservice not only to school boards like the ETSB, but also to our region and to the province. This distorts the dropout rate and has represented a substantial difference for the ETSB. After our internal analysis for 2008-2009, the dropout rate should be 22.7% and not 28.1% as reported” stated Ms. Beaulieu.

Since 2004-2005, the ETSB’s dropout rate has dramatically improved, going from 39.4% to 23.7% in 2009-2010. This represents an overall decrease of 15.7 percentage points, which translates into an impressive 66% decrease in six years.

- 30 -

Source: Eastern Townships School Board

Information/Media relations: Sharon Priest  
Communications Consultant  
priests@etsb.qc.ca  
819-868-3140