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Report No: 12-12-1381
Date: December 19, 2012

HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) Report

PURPOSE: To provide an update on the release of the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2011

BACKGROUND: The PIRLS is an international assessment that measures trends in the reading achievement of a random selection of grade 4 students, as well as policies and practices related to literacy. It is administered every five years by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), an independent cooperative of research institutions and government agencies. Nova Scotia has participated in the PIRLS assessment in 2006 and 2011.

PIRLS was administered in April/May 2011. Participating grade 4 students were given 80 minutes to complete a variety of selected response and constructed response reading comprehension questions that focused on two reading purposes and four comprehension processes. In addition, PIRLS gathered contextual information through home, student, teacher and school questionnaires about the learning and life experiences accumulated through a variety of contexts that are believed to be related to reading literacy.

Full details about the design, administration, scoring, and use of PIRLS assessment results are available on the Council of Ministers of Education website (<http://www.cmec.ca/134/Programs-and-Initiatives/Assessment/Progress-in-International-Reading-Literacy-Study-%28PIRLS%29/index.html>)

CONTENT: A PowerPoint has been provided to provide a summary of the HRSB results from the recently released PIRLS report.

COST: N/A

FUNDING: N/A

TIMELINE: Assessment administered in April/May 2011.

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended the Governing Board accept the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) Report for information.

COMMUNICATIONS:

AUDIENCE	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
Board	Geoff Cainen Heather Syms	December 19, 2012

From: For further information please contact Geoff Cainen, Director, Program, gcainen@hrsb.ns.ca, or (902) 464-2000, ext. 2114; or Heather Syms, Coordinator, Education Quality and Accountability, hsyms@hrsb.ns.ca; ext. 2626.

To: Halifax Regional School Board, December 19, 2012