

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Public interest in school-level data, particularly student achievement, is very high and increasing all the time. People want to know how their children and their schools are performing. In an effort to make our education system open and accountable to the public it serves, the Department of Education publishes the annual Indicators report: *Indicators 2012/13 - A Report on Schools*.

This report is divided into four parts:

- Part I provides a profile of the educational system reporting on such things as the number of schools, students and teachers in the province.
- Part II focuses on the high school years and examines topics such as the graduation and drop-out rates in the province and across Canada.
- Part III explores student performance on a variety of provincial, national and international standardized assessments.
- Part IV offers an impression of student attitudes towards school as determined by the annual School Climate Survey.
- Appendix A includes the data used to create the figures throughout the report.

It is important to note that *Indicators 2012/13 - A Report in Schools* does not rank schools. Rather, it is the purpose of this document to provide a wide range of information about various aspects the province's educational system and show various trends over the past five years. This information can be used to inform administrators, educators, students and the broader school community where their schools are succeeding at this moment in time and where they can work together to improve.

