

# kids & learning

## first

October 2012

## Helping Students Succeed in Math

No matter what their future plans, our young people need a strong foundation in math. From shipbuilding engineering to analytics, from trades to IT, math is key.

Parents also want their children to develop basic skills that will help them in everyday life.

We are listening to what parents, teachers, and industry leaders are saying. That's why helping our young people succeed in math is a major *Kids and Learning First* focus, and a key to a brighter future in Nova Scotia.

## What we are doing

### Greater focus on a strong foundation:

Students will have more time to master key concepts, at the right grade level, based on curriculum already used in most other provinces and territories. By focusing on fewer topics in more depth—what is most important in math—students will have a solid base to build on each year.

The curriculum is being phased in:

**2013-14** .....Grades Primary–3, Grade 10

**2014-15** .....Grades 4–6, Grade 11

**2015-16** .....Grades 7–9, Grade 12



### More time for math:

Students in the new *Mathematics 10* course will have twice as much time to learn math. Next year the new course will move from one semester to a full year of math.

### More math for “everyday life”:

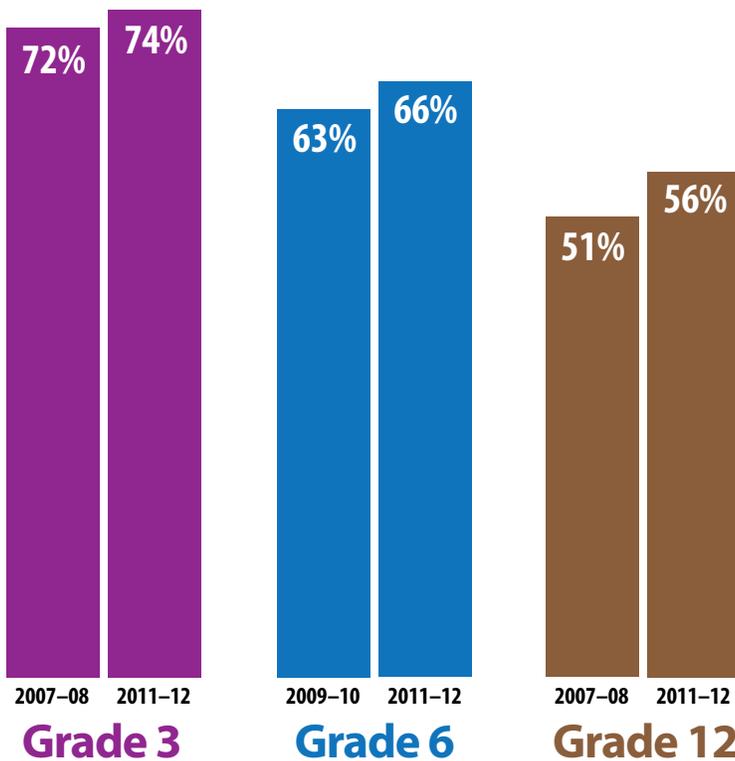
Grade 10 students will learn more about financial literacy—for example, how to manage a family budget and make wise decisions with money.

### More time and training for effective teaching:

Teachers will have the time, tools and professional development they need to teach math to students, with a range of abilities, in interesting and engaging ways:

- Teachers have smaller classes at early elementary.
- Teachers will have twice as much time to teach the *Mathematics 10* course.
- Teachers are becoming familiar this year with the new curriculum they will teach in classrooms next year.
- The province is working with the Teachers Union, school boards and parents to improve the match between teachers' training, background and experience and the subjects they are asked to teach.

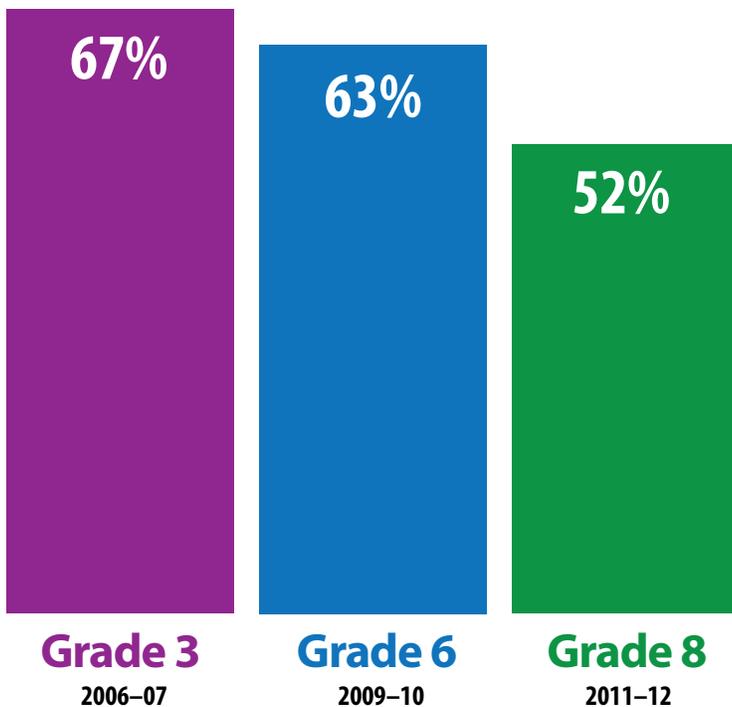
# Snapshot of Student Assessments



## Math results better than 2007

Since 2007, students' provincial math assessment results have improved slightly. But parents, teachers, employers, and students themselves know these results are not good enough.

Grade 3 and 6 results indicate how many students met expectations on provincial assessments. Grade 12 results indicate how many students in *Mathematics 12* passed the provincial exam.



Assessment results of one group of students over several years.

## More improvement needed

Provincial assessments confirm what teachers are saying. Students have a harder time with math in the higher grades, as math becomes more complex. As a result, the percentage of students meeting expectations drops at grade 6 and again at grade 8.

*Kids and Learning First* is about working with teachers and students to begin improving results by:

- giving students more time to master basic math concepts, as part of the new math curriculum, so they have a strong foundation to build on each year
- doubling the amount of time students have to learn in the Math 10 course
- supporting teachers by providing them with the training, time, and tools they need to teach math effectively