

# **Northern and Self-Declared Aboriginal Student Achievement in Saskatchewan: The 2008 Saskatchewan Education Indicators Report**

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## **Abstract**

Research has consistently documented gaps in student achievement between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. The 2008 Saskatchewan Education Indicators Report has, for the first time, disaggregated provincial data regarding student success in Saskatchewan schools. The Indicators Report disaggregates student results into the following categories: urban, rural, northern, and self-declared Aboriginal. (Approximately 85% of northern students are Aboriginal.) Northern and Aboriginal students are not experiencing the same level of success as other students. Whether dealing with elementary success in reading, writing, and mathematics, grade 8-10 dropout rates, or high school academic achievement and graduation rates, northern and Aboriginal students consistently perform below the levels of either rural or urban students.

A major reason for the current challenges facing improved student achievement among northern and Aboriginal students relates to dramatic failures in policy from the past. If positive change is to occur, recognition of past failures and the need to pursue a more constructive direction is necessary. Recommendations regarding improved funding and educational practice will be proposed.