

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
6TH COUNCIL, 36TH SESSION

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 13-36

TABLED ON FEBRUARY 7, 1968



January 31, 1968.

CONFIDENTIAL -

Not for release before
tabling during the 36th
Session of Council

*Sessional Paper 13-36
Tabled on Feb 7, 1968*

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 13

(First Session, 1968)

SCHOOL "DROPOUT" STATISTICS

DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered

SCHOOL "DROPOUT" STATISTICS

At its 35th session in November, 1967, Council requested figures on pupil withdrawals at the grade IX level for the schools at Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith, and comparisons with the grade IX "dropouts" in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The most recent available figures on grade IX pupil withdrawal rates for these provinces show that in 1964-65 the Alberta grade IX enrolment was 26,034; of this total, 1,342 students are classed as dropouts. This represents 5.1% of the Alberta grade IX enrolment. Figures for Saskatchewan are based on the 1965-66 school year when 18,337 grade IX students were enrolled. Of these, 1,103, or 6.0%, were classified as "dropouts".

The following are the withdrawal figures for Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith for the 1966-67 academic year.

	<u>Enrolment</u>	<u>Dropouts*</u>	<u>%</u>
Yellowknife	67	10	14.9
Hay River	42	8	19.0
Fort Smith	55	6	10.9

* Includes 12 students who left school but whose destinations are unknown.

For various reasons, a direct comparison of the two provincial systems with the three northern settlements can be misleading. In particular, the provincial base is large enough to ensure that there are no significant annual fluctuations. On the other hand, the grade IX enrolment in each of the three northern communities is less than 75, and therefore does not provide a base large enough to eliminate yearly swings in dropouts.

Another factor which affects retention rates is the age-grade retardation level. Where students enter school at an older age than usual, there is a strong tendency for them to drop out earlier than pupils who are in a normal age-grade pattern.

A more meaningful comparison might be obtained if communities in Alberta or Saskatchewan similar to the three northern communities named above, could be selected; unfortunately, statistics for individual school systems are not available for study.

The dropout rate in our system is higher than we would like it to be. However, the provision of increased and improved school facilities allowing a more varied range of courses better suited to the special needs of some of the northern pupils, is expected to increase the schools' retention rates.