



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Ministry of Education and Workforce Development
Department of Education

2017 BERMUDA PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 2018



"A competent system proves itself when everyone within the system performs better as a result of the collective endeavors and accepts accountability for that improvement."

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Greetings from the Ministry of Education and Bermuda's Public Schools; we welcome the community of Bermuda. This is the first of what will be an annual report card to the community, presenting key data and information about our public schools in graphs, charts and tables. You will also find narratives that tell the story of how the Bermuda public school system is preparing students for success in their future endeavors. The Report will also reveal the steps being taken to generally improve our public schools.

The new vision for the Bermuda Public School System is: *"All students are educated to lead personally and professionally, compete locally, and contribute globally"*. It is within this context that I believe the facts and figures contained within this publication illustrate the fundamental purpose of our public school system, and that is: *Quality Teaching and Student Learning*.

As I reflect back on the beginning stages in the development of Plan 2022, the driving goal was to produce a transformative public education strategy. Therefore, as we progress in the execution of Plan 2022, our public schools will experience transformation. They will be learning centers that promote collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking; the mindset will shift. Public school students will be engaged in an active learning experience, where they will *"find joy in learning, be valued, respected, and heard by having voice and choice in their learning"*.

This will extend beyond simply sitting at desks being taught with teachers standing in the front of the room. Students will be involved in real world learning experiences that expose them to workforce development. Coursework will include the core subjects of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The Core courses are supported with courses in the Arts, Technology, Physical and Health Education, Civics, STEAM and community service. Success in the public school system will not always be measured by the Cambridge exam scores; but by how well the Department of Education staff, administrators, principals, teachers and parents all work together to successfully prepare our students for college, career and workforce readiness, and also for lifelong learning.

Preparing every student to live, learn, and thrive in a global community will take strong partnerships with parents, extended families, churches, businesses and the broader community. This annual report card to the community is only one way to inform our partners about the learning progress of public school students. We thank you for taking the time to read the 2017 Minister's Report Card to the Community. Please contact us if you have questions or ideas as we continue to focus transforming our Bermuda Public School System.

The Hon. Diallo V. Rabain, JP, MP
Minister of Education and Workforce Development



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ACADEMICS

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Bermuda Public School System Report which provides key information on the 2016-2017 educational progress for the Bermuda Public Schools.

This report is available in hard copy at the Department of Education office. You can also access the information at: www.moed.bm .

The following data and information has been outlined:

- Enrollment and Attendance
- Cambridge Primary & Middle School Checkpoints
- Senior International General Certificates of Education (IGCSE)
- Graduation Results
- Cambridge Cohort Data
- GRADE Reading Data
- City & Guilds Employability Skills
- Physical Education
- Community Wealth Building: Altruism

Bermuda Public Schools continues to provide a personal, meaningful educational experience to meets the needs of all students. We are proud of the accomplishments of our schools and students. The areas where we know there needs to be improvement we continue to provide the required interventions and support.

Our staff is available to help you understand the data and information provided. Please contact the Department of Education at (441) 278-3300 or email lesimmons@gov.bm for assistance.

Llewellyn Simmons, Ph.D.
Director of Academics

INTRODUCTION

This 2017 Education Report to the Community is a first with the objective of sharing key data and information about the performance of our BPSS students on Checkpoint, Cambridge Examinations, Reading, and attendance data. The Cambridge Checkpoints are tests of knowledge and skills based on the learning objectives within the Cambridge Primary and Lower Secondary (Middle School) Curriculum Frameworks.

The Cambridge Checkpoints are diagnostic tests, intended to give students and teachers comprehensive feedback on student's strengths and weaknesses in the core subject areas of English, Mathematics and Science. The results reveal areas where teachers, principals, administrators and Department of Education technical officers can:

- tailor individual learning programmes and manage learning programmes as students move between schools
- monitor group and individual student performance;
- compare the performance of all students taking the test in a similar series.

The Cambridge Examinations are administered in over 170 countries. The schools that administer the exams are private schools, who are selective in which students are allowed to sit the exams. Bermuda is the only public school system to administer the Cambridge examinations. Students internationally and in Bermuda, can pass an International General Certificate Secondary Education (IGCSE) at the Senior2 level.

ACADEMICS RESULTS

The foundation for a well-rounded education for any student requires mastering the skills and concepts taught across all subject areas, attending school regularly, quality teaching, and strong parental involvement with the learning process of their child/children. The basic information taught in the classroom is critically important to future educational and career choices. Equally important to academic achievement is academic growth.

The Department of Education is committed to beginning the learning process where students are, provided learning supports and learning opportunities, to take them to the next step and raise student achievement. The Department of Education offers a strong academic program from Preschool to Senior 4, and beyond. Upon graduating from the Bermuda Public School System, Bermuda's graduates will be well prepared socially, emotionally, and academically for postsecondary success. The following numbers, percentages, and charts are indicators that convey how Bermuda's students performed.

We begin the report on academic results by conveying student enrolment. Research and observation through extended career in the education system clearly indicates attending school consistently is important to ensuring children have a foundation for subsequent learning. The Bermuda Public School System requires that students enrolled in their graduation year (S4) have a 95% attendance rating toward meeting graduation requirements. The table below indicates the pattern of student enrolment at all levels of schooling from 2015 to 2017.

School Enrolment Data by Bermuda Public School Level 2015-2017

Year	Preschool	Primary	Middle	Senior	Total
2014-15	330	2,585	1,038	1,250	5,203
2015-16	327	2,496	997	1,231	5,051
2016-17	320	2,431	950	1,193	4,894

Average Daily Attendance

Year	Primary	Middle	Senior	Total
2014-15	96%	94%	88%	93%
2015-16	96%	95%	85%	92%
2016-17	96%	95%	85%	92%

Student Exemption and Access Arrangement Table

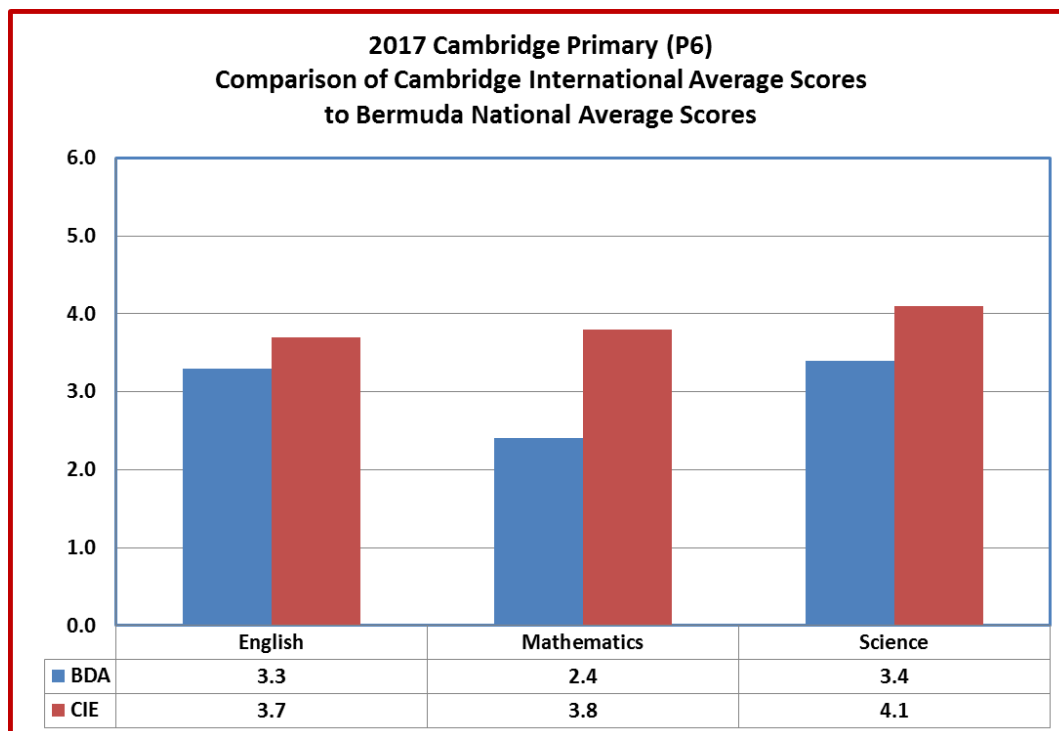
The table below shows the number of Primary 6, Middle 3 and Senior 2 students who were exempted from taking the Cambridge Checkpoint and Cambridge IGCSE exams. Students are exempted from taking the exams for any series of reasons; most notably a learning disability of a cognitive nature that makes it difficult to comprehend questions and problems.

Students with Access Arrangements have examination adjustments based on the evidence of individual learner needs (learning support).

Student Exemption for at least one subject 2016-2017		
P6	M3	S2
34	31	15
Student Access Arrangement for at least one Exam Accommodation 2016-2017		
P6	M3	S2
45	39	53

PRIMARY 6 CHECK POINT: CORE SUBJECTS

In the Bermuda Public School System, core disciplines are those subjects that are compulsory throughout the delivery of the Cambridge International Curriculum. Specifically, the Department of Education administers English, Mathematics, and Science as Checkpoint Examinations. Social Studies, with its core disciplines are not administered through Cambridge Checkpoint Exams. The total number of Primary 6 students who wrote Cambridge P6 Checkpoint Examinations in April 2017 was 322.



English

- 319 students sat the English exam
- 85% of students scored at level 2.0 & above
- 67% of students achieved 3.0 & above

Mathematics

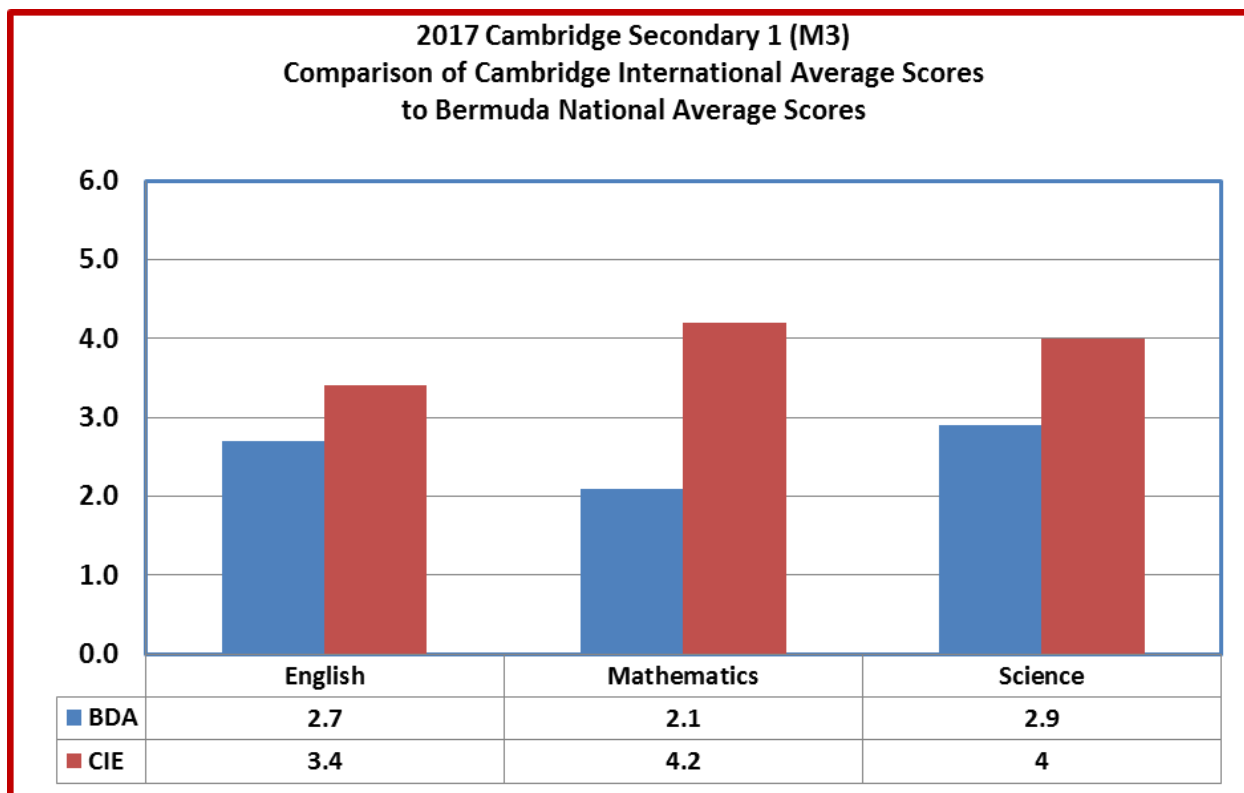
- 322 students sat the Math exam
- 58% of students scored at level 2.0 & above
- 36% students achieved 3.0 & above

Science

- 322 students sat the Science exam
- 86% of students scored at level 2.0 & above
- 61% of students achieved 3.0 & above

MIDDLE 3 CHECK POINT: CORE SUBJECTS

A total of 280 Middle school M3 students wrote the Cambridge Checkpoint exam in April 2017.



English

- 280 students sat the English exam
- 75% of students scored at level 2.0 & above
- 44% of students achieved 3.0 & above

Mathematics

- 279 students sat the Mathematics exam
- 53% of students scored at level 2.0 & above
- 27% students achieved 3.0 & above

Science

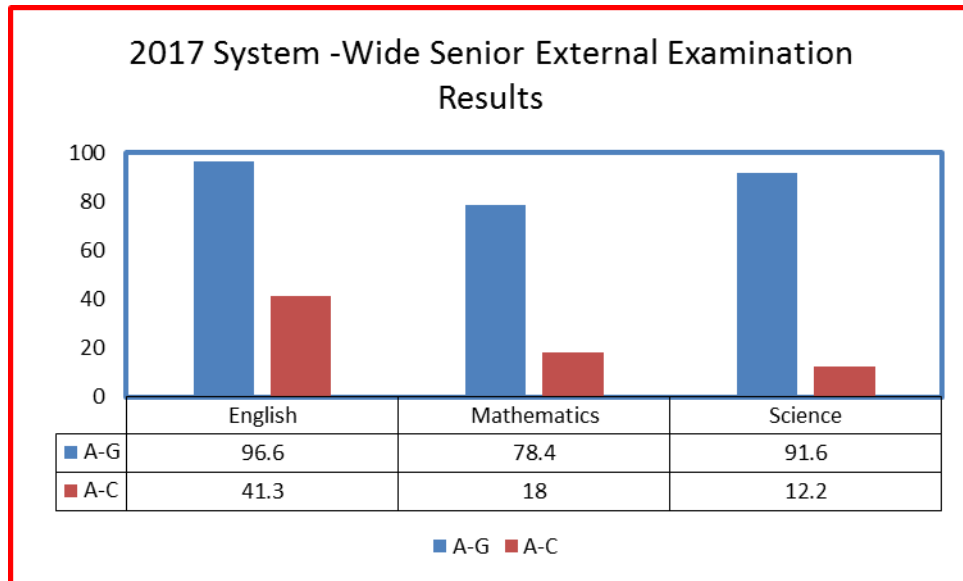
- 278 students sat the Science exam
- 83% of students scored at level 2.0 & above
- 45% of students achieved 3.0 & above

Selected Middle School (M3) students were also accelerated to sit the Cambridge IGCSE exams normally written at the Senior 2 level. Below are the results of those students who were selected.

- **73** exams were sat by middle school students
- **54** exams graded A*- G; a **74%** pass rate
- **24** exams graded A*- C; a **33%** pass rate

SENIOR LEVEL EXAMINATIONS

2017 SYSTEM-WIDE EXTERNAL RESULTS BY SUBJECT



English – there was a ninety-seven percent (97%) pass rate with 41% receiving a grade of C or better. Two hundred and eighty four (284) students took the Cambridge examination in First Language English.

Mathematics – there was a seventy eight percent (78%) pass rate with 18% receiving a grade of C or better. Four Hundred and forty five (445) students took the examination in Mathematics..

Science - a ninety two percent (92%) pass rate was recorded with 12% receiving a grade of C or better. Three Hundred and nineteen (319) students took the examination in Science.

All External Examinations (A/AS/IGCSE/GCSE)

- **1,339** exams taken by students
- **1,191** exams graded A*- G; a **89%** pass rate;
- **331** exams graded A*- C; a **25%** pass rate

SENIOR SCHOOL 2017 GRADUATION RESULTS

Graduates	215 Students
GPA of 2.0 and above (90%)	207 Students Scored 2.0 and above; 90%
Pass Rate	93% pass rate for the 2016/17 school year
Percentage of Male Graduates	36% Male graduates
Percentage of Females Graduates	64% Female graduates



Cambridge Cohort: Core and Extended – IGCSE 2017

Cohort Data 2019 – IGCSE 2017 - English

# Students	Criteria	#/% Students	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X
182 students	Extended	80 / 44%	1/ 1%	7/ 9%	32/ 43%	19/ 24%	14/ 18%			5/ 7%	2/ 3%
	Core	102/ 56%			22/ 22%	42/ 41%	21/ 21%	11/ 11%	2/ 2%	1/ 1%	3/ 3%
	TOTAL	182	1/ 1%	7/ 4%	54/ 30%	61/ 34%	35/ 19%	11/ 6%	2/ 1%	6/ 3%	5/3%

Cohort 2019 – IGCSE 2017 - Math

# Students	Criteria	#/% Students	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X
191 students	Extended	35/ 18%		1/ 3%	9/ 26%	11/ 31%	7/ 20%			6/ 17%	1/ 3%
	Core	156/ 80%			33/ 21%	27/ 17%	20/ 13%	27/ 17%	15/ 10%	34/ 22%	
	TOTAL	191		1/ 1%	42/ 22%	38/ 20%	27/ 14%	27/ 14%	15/ 8%	40/21%	1/ 1%

Cohort 2019 - IGCSE 2017 – Science

# Students	Criteria	#/% Students	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X
187 students	Extended	50/ 27%		4/ 8%	10/ 18%	13/ 27%	11/ 22%	8/ 16%		2/ 4%	2/ 4%
	Core	137/ 73%			1/ 1%	15/ 12%	36/ 26%	25/ 21%	35/ 25%	15/ 11%	10/ 5%
	TOTAL	187		4/ 2%	11/ 6%	28/ 15%	47/ 25%	33/ 18%	35/ 19%	17/ 9%	12/ 6%

Cambridge Cohort Data

Cohort 2019 represents the students who will graduate from the Bermuda Public School System in 2019. This cohort is unique in that it is the first cohort to have sat the P6 and M3 Checkpoint exams as well as the IGCSE exams in English, Math and Science in S2. The tables represent students who sat all three exams and do not include students who did not sit either the P6 or M3 Checkpoint or both.

Core versus Extended Exam

The students, after two years of instruction in the IGCSE curriculum, sit either the Extended or Core exam in all three subjects. The Core exam is the less challenging exam in which students must perform extremely well to achieve a C (the highest possible grade). As is indicated, the majority of students, over 50% sat the Core exam with 56% students in ELA, 80% in Math, and 73% in Science.

English

In ELA, the significant majority (41%) of the students who sat the core exam achieved a D and 22% achieved a C. The majority of students who sat the extended also achieved a C (43%) with 24% and 18th% achieving a D and E respectively. When combined, the majority (64%) of students achieve a C (30%) or D (34%).

Math

In Math, overall (i.e., extended & core combined) approximately 60% of the students achieved a C (22%) a D (20%) or a U (21%). The majority of students who sat the extended (57%) achieved a C (26%) or D (31%).

Science

Overall, in Science, a significant majority of students (25%) achieved an E with 18% and 19% of students achieving an F & G respectively. Of those students who sat the extended, twenty-seven percent (13 students) achieved a D with 10 (18%) and 11 (22%) achieving a C and E respectively. Of those who sat the core, the majority achieved between an E (26%), an F (21%) or a G (25%).

Summary

While there is room for improvement in all subjects, math and science present the most obvious challenge with 21% achieving a U (unsatisfactory) in math—noting the 6 students who sat the extended exam. Most noteworthy in Science is the percent of students who sat the core exam and achieved an E (26%), an F (21%) or a G (25%) with only 1% (1 student) achieving a C.

In light of the data, schools—with the support of Education Standards & Accountability and Curriculum Assessment—must target these areas of instruction and curriculum (seeking non-traditional approaches e.g., STEM) monitoring in their respective school improvement plans.

GRADE Reading Rate

Research shows that there is a strong correlation of student reading levels to their academic success. Students reading skills and reading activity that are high also leads to strong business and relationship success. On the evidence of the reading results below we will be requiring the reading rates across all grade levels in the future.

Subject	GRADE - Reading Rate Historical Data (Standard: GE+6mths)			2020 Goal
	2015	2016	2017	
P4	47%	42%	41%	70%
P6	45%	40%	44%	65%
M3	42%	41%	44%	65%
S3	49%	46%	42%	65%

CITY & GUILDS EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS PORTFOLIO 2016-2017

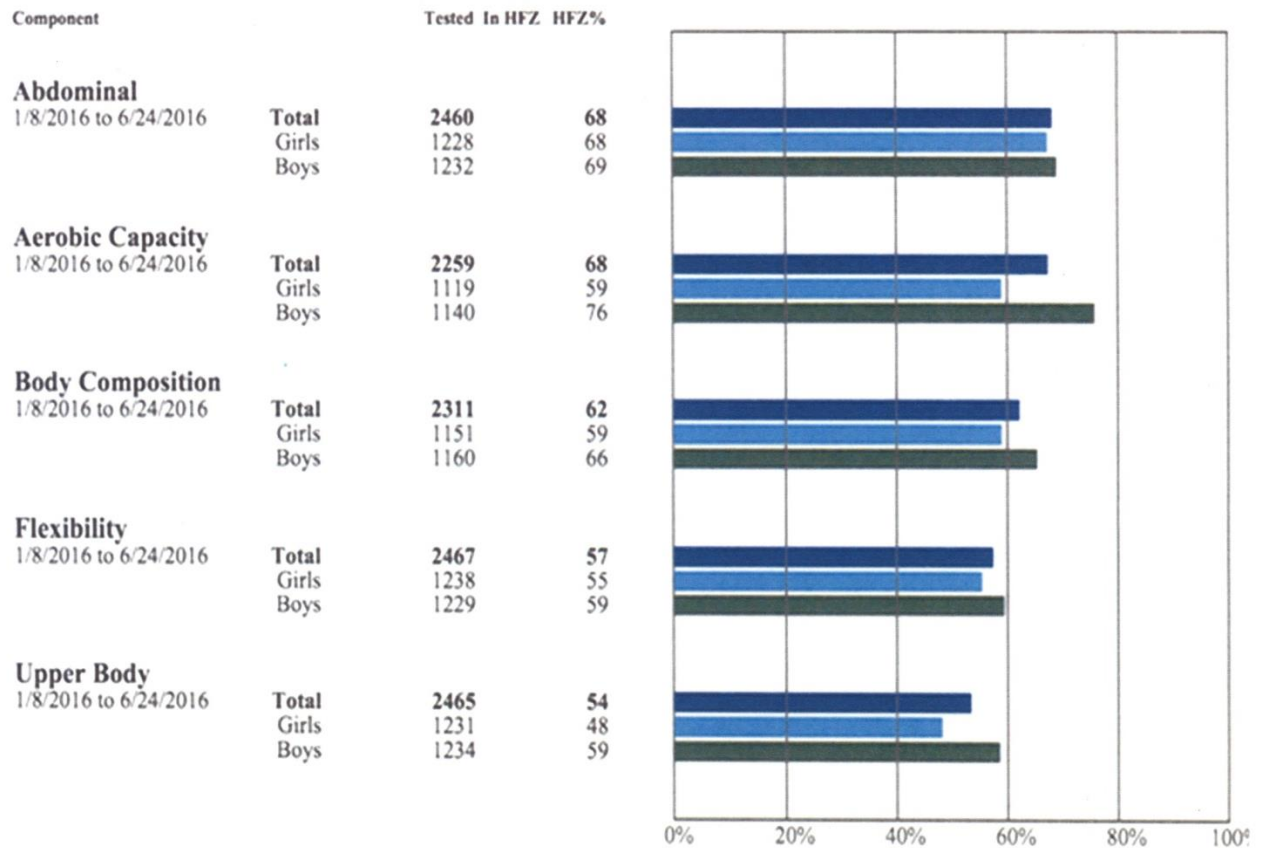
The Bermuda Public School System is committed to working with our industry partners to have our students certified for entry level employment. The City & Guilds Employability Skills certification is a graduation requirement that supports students in their preparation for Bermuda's workforce development.

The table below indicates the number of students who have successfully met the entry level employability skills, in support of meeting their Career Pathway and workforce development requirements toward graduation. The current data below is representative of the 2016-2017 school year.

SCHOOL	EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS ENTRY LEVEL			
	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	COMPLETED	%	OVERALL
CedarBridge Academy	119	93	78	87%
Berkeley Institute	137	130	95	

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH CHART: IMPACT OF HEALTH FITNESS ON ACADEMICS

The chart below indicates five (5) Physical Fitness components on the fitness levels of children in Bermuda's Public Schools. The physical fitness of our children leads to healthy adult habits, and the reduction of diabetes, obesity, and high blood pressure. **GET FIT!**



Explanation of the Table Results

Bermuda's Public School Students have their physical fitness measured in the 5 components above. Their physical fitness evaluation took place from January 8th to June 24 2016. The total percentages in bold indicate the following:

- Combined boys and girls indicates that **68%** of the participating students passed their fitness test in abdominal exercises;
- Combined boys and girls indicates that **68%** of the participating students passed their fitness test in aerobic capacity;
- Combined boys and girls indicates that **62%** of the participating students passed their fitness test in body composition;
- Combined boys and girls indicates that **57%** of the participating students passed their fitness test in flexibility; and
- Combined boys and girls indicate that **54%** of the participating students passed their fitness test in upper body.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING: ALTRUISM

The Bermuda Public School student is encouraged to demonstrate altruism. Altruism is demonstrating self-sacrifice for the benefit of others. It is expected that students perform a minimum of **80 Community Service** hours in the broader community over four (4) years of senior school. Below is a list of types of community service performed by students.

- Keep Bermuda Beautiful-Recycle & Reclaim
- Serve the Elderly
- Serve and perform at a Telethon
- Read with Seniors or Early Childhood
- Volunteer or Campaign Against Drugs

We are pleased to say, Community Service begins much earlier than the senior years. Primary school students *learn to be responsible* in community service projects organized by their schools. Middle school students *learn to improve their community* as organized citizens by starting clothing and food drives. Senior school students *learn to solve societal problems* in their community by getting involved in civic causes.



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

BERMUDA PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

MISSION: *To provide all students with equitable access to holistic, varied, and high quality instruction that is culturally relevant and empowers students to reach their full potential*

OUR SCHOOLS

10 PRESCHOOLS

18 PRIMARY SCHOOLS

5 MIDDLE SCHOOLS

2 SENIOR SCHOOLS

1 SPECIAL SCHOOL

OUR STUDENTS

Preschool – 327 students

Primary Schools – 2,496 students

Middle Schools – 997 students

Senior Schools – 1,231 students

Special School – 17 students

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Cambridge International

Gifted & Talented

Science, Technology, English, Arts, Math (STEM/STEAM Education)

Achieve 3000