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« *Small high schools cost more money only if one tries to maintain the big-school infrastructure* » – Thomas B. Gregory

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## At the top of the math class

Island students participate in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), an international test of some half million students in 65 countries. Results are used as performance measurements of our school system.

In Canada, math scores generally have fallen; the exception is Quebec. A Globe and Mail story on December 23, 2013, attributes the strong Quebec showing to “more instruction in formal mathematics, increased teacher quality, and the use of technology in classrooms.”

I’ve taken a look at math descriptions in both provinces; here’s what I found:

### Quebec

- Curriculum based on skills
- Instruction organized around arithmetic and algebra
- Click here to review a course outline - <https://ca.ixl.com/standards/quebec/math/grade-9>

### PEI

- Curriculum based on outcomes
- Instruction organized around number, patterns and relations, shape and space, and probability.
- Click here to review a course outline : [http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/eecd\\_MATHgr9.pdf](http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/eecd_MATHgr9.pdf)

**Interesting: may or may not be significant.**

## Watch for it!

- **What does the Department of Education do?** – A presentation by Derek McEwen, Department of Education, Early Learning, and Culture on new curriculum development and support initiatives.
- **“Bridging the Gap”** – A presentation by Gerry Seaward, Holland College, about an Adult Basic Education program for people who need extra credits to gain entrance to postsecondary programs.
- **“Handle with Care”** – A meeting with parents of young children.
- **What do teachers do?** – A discussion about what one does when one teaches.

## What do you think?

***What is the purpose of public education?***

**Control click below to record your views:**

[http://education2020.ca/LimeSurvey/index.php/269513?lang=en\\_us](http://education2020.ca/LimeSurvey/index.php/269513?lang=en_us)

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