

# VSS, Fulton Top Local Grad Rates

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By Pete McIntyre

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The Vernon School District gets a mixed grade when it comes to how many students are graduating from grade 12. School Board Chair Robert Lee says the five secondary schools are all 90 percent or better, led by Vernon Secondary School at 96%, and Clarence Fulton at 95% in the 2017-18 school year.

Kalamalka was at 93%, Charles Bloom 91%, and W-L Seaton saw 90% of its students graduate.

“Of course we would always like to do better, but in comparison to the provincial average, we’re doing well,” Lee tells Beach Radio News.

The latest provincial grad rate figure is 83.7% in January 2018.

However, Lee says the District not doing that well when it comes to its alternate schools with Crossroads seeing just 12% percent of participants finishing grade 12, and Open Door at 21%.

“That is something we need to work on and find out reasons why, and find out what we need to do to improve that rate.”

Lee says they know the number of kids that have taken those programs, but don’t know what the status of them are.

“They could have moved to Kelowna or moved out of province. Half of them, for all we know, could be working. That, itself, is a good thing, but we don’t know that,” says Lee.

A total of 782 students graduated from SD 22 schools in 2017-18, 591 from standard schools and 191 from Alternate Learning, Distributed Learning and Continuing Education programs.