

Annual Education Results Report



Trustee delivering treats on World Teacher Day.

Superintendent's Message

The past year was full of changes for our division. Early in the Fall, the provincial municipal elections resulted in seven new trustees being elected to serve on our nine-member school board. Following the board planning session in January, we initiated a detailed consultation process with all division stakeholders that launched a total rebranding process for Westwind, producing a new logo, style guide, vision, mission, values and goals. On a personal note, after 36 years in education, I have decided that it is the right time for me to retire. When I became Superintendent in 2010, I had high expectations for our schools, ambitious goals for our students, and a vision of creating a more collaborative, inclusive and research-based educational environment. By embracing a shared vision, together, we have been able to meet and exceed all of the important benchmarks and goals I had hoped to achieve, and most importantly, we have helped many children to realize their potential and pursue their dreams. I have had the privilege and good fortune to work with knowledgeable, highly professional, student-centred administrative teams filled with great leaders who have both mentored and supported me. Throughout my career, I have enjoyed working with dedicated, collaborative groups of teachers and staff who have always had the best interest of students at the top of their agendas. We really do have an excellent school system and I have deep admiration and respect for a divisional staff who work tirelessly in and outside of the classroom to have a positive impact on students each and every day. I will miss my daily association with you, but I am excited to embark on this new adventure called retirement. Thank you!

Westwind Board of Trustees

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Westwind Central Office Administration

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Dr. Nolen Olsen, Assistant Superintendent	Mr. Austin Nunn, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Peter Wright, Secretary-Treasurer	Mr. Jerry Salmon, Director of Learning

Student Enrollment for 2017-18

As of September 30, 2017, there were 4,627 students enrolled in Westwind schools -- this is an increase of 16 students from last year. We are pleased to report that we also have 549 First Nation's, Metis and Inuit students attending Westwind schools - of which, 274 are students who live on the Blood Reserve attending our schools. As well, there are 314 students enrolled in schools located in 19 Hutterite Colonies within Westwind School Division.



So, how can I find out what's happening in Westwind?

The [new divisional website](#) is a great resource that you can use to access an abundance of useful information, including the full version of our Three-year Education Plan & Annual Education Results Report (AERR). The website also lists current employment opportunities, board policies, board meeting minutes, the divisional calendar, class size information and links to divisional [school websites](#) -- as well as other helpful resources for our parents and community partners. We invite you to check school and district websites AND the local newspapers for special features on educational issues and events in Westwind. The [audited financial statement](#) is also available on our website.

Divisional Priorities for 2017-18

Divisional priorities have been focused on improving literacy, formative assessment, teacher collaboration, providing appropriate and timely interventions for students who are struggling and ensuring a welcoming, respectful, safe and caring learning environment for all students and staff. Concerted efforts continue to focus on finding time and opportunities for teachers to work more collaboratively with a focus on improving the quality of classroom instruction, ensuring meaningful assessment of student learning, and timely interventions for all students who need them. In 2017, we had four schools participating in the provincial student nutrition program with special grant funding that provides for some staffing support to prepare and make food available for elementary students (K-6) each day.

We are pleased to report that our two school modernization projects, in the communities of Magrath and Stirling, will be completed by Christmas in the 2018-19 school year. One of our schools, Raymond Elementary School, recently underwent modernization and is already approaching 125% utilization, so we are working with Alberta Education and Infrastructure with hopes to secure a new capital project that will serve student in Raymond for years to come.

Ultimately, our overarching priority is to provide the best educational experience possible for each of our students throughout Westwind School Division.

Westwind Accountability Pillar Results Report - 2017-18

Data for this report is compiled from [Provincial Tests](#) for grades 6, 9 & 12 and the Alberta Education [Annual Accountability Pillar Survey](#), which is administered each year in January and February to all **Teachers**, to **Parents** with students in grades 4, 7 and 10 and to **Students** in grades 4, 7 and 10. The return rate from parents was about 30%, however, the return rate for teachers and students was over 90%. **Parents** – it is very important that you complete these surveys and then return them to Alberta Education so your voice can be heard.

Measure Category	Measure	Westwind School Division			Provincial Achievement			Measure Evaluation for 2017-18		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Safe & Caring Schools	Safe and Caring	90.1	90.5	90.3	89.5	89.5	89.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Student Learning Opportunities	Program of Studies	79.1	77.5	78.2	81.9	81.9	81.8	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable
	Education Quality	91.8	91.7	91.7	90.1	90.1	90.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	Drop Out Rate	2.4	3.0	2.9	3.2	3.0	2.3	High	Maintained	Good
	High School Completion Rate (3 yrs)	80.9	79.6	77.6	76.5	77.9	78.0	High	Declined	Acceptable
Student Learning Achievement (Grades K-9)	PAT: Acceptable	74.2	76.7	76.9	73.6	73.4	73.6	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable
	PAT: Excellence	19.7	22.4	20.8	19.4	19.5	19.9	High	Maintained	Good
Student Learning Achievement (Grades 10-12)	Diploma: Acceptable	85.4	79.2	84.9	85.0	83.0	83.7	High	Improved	Good
	Diploma: Excellence	14.5	16.7	20.2	21.0	22.2	24.2	High	Improved	Good
	Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams)	62.2	54.8	54.7	54.6	54.9	55.7	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable
	Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	79.1	76.8	72.3	60.8	62.3	63.4	N/A	Declined	N/A
Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship	Transition Rate (6 yr)	49.5	44.0	50.9	59.4	57.9	58.7	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable
	Work Preparation	85.9	83.5	83.6	82.6	82.7	82.4	High	Maintained	Good
	Citizenship	84.5	82.8	83.7	83.9	83.7	83.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Parental Involvement	Parental Involvement	82.1	81.0	83.1	80.9	81.2	81.2	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Continuous Improvement	School Improvement	84.3	85.1	85.2	81.2	81.4	80.3	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

Comment on Student Achievement

Achievement on **Grade 12 Diploma Exams (DIP)** showed improvement particularly on the “Acceptable Standard”, however, while we improved on the “Standard of Excellence”, we are still a bit lower than the provincial average on this measure. It is important to note that Westwind students are encouraged to take diploma exams at a higher rate than many jurisdictions. We believe that students who are challenged with a more difficult course still learn more than they would in a less challenging option – for example, we have significantly more students who write the Grade 12 Biology Diploma Exam than any other provincial exam. More detailed information is included in our [Combined 3-Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report](#) which is also posted on the divisional website.

Student achievement on **Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT)** show excellent achievement on both Acceptable Standard and Standard of Excellence. The 2013-14 school year was the final year for Provincial Achievement Tests in Grade 3, so, student achievement results for these students is no longer included in the Accountability Pillar reports.

Parent Satisfaction Survey Results

We are pleased to see that, overall, parents and students are very satisfied with the quality of education provided in Westwind Schools where it is perceived that students are cared for in respectful, safe and welcoming schools and classrooms. We note there is a high level of satisfaction with our efforts to address citizenship, continually improve our school system and involve parents/caregivers in the education of their children. The transition rate reports the percentage of our students who enroll in an Alberta post-secondary program within six years of entering into grade 10 – since we have a significant number of our students to pursue post-secondary study outside of Alberta (particularly to the US), they are not counted in this measure, so we expect this to be lower than provincial average.

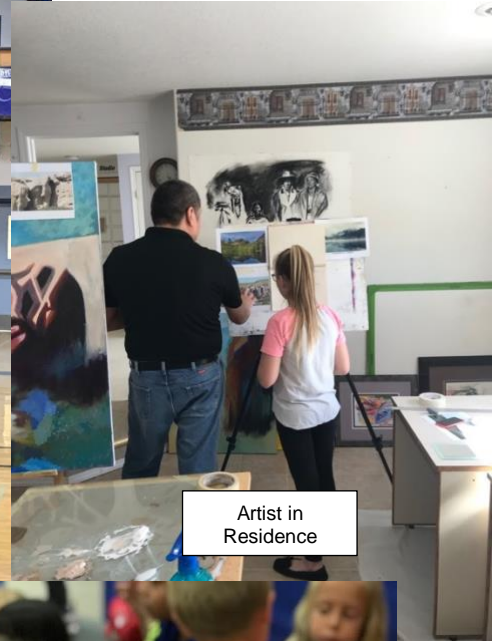
For More Information

The complete versions of the [Audited Financial Statement](#), [Class Size Survey Results](#) and the [2018-21 Combined 3-Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report](#) may be downloaded from the Westwind School Division website at <http://www.westwind.ab.ca/> after November 30, 2018.

Celebrating "TEAM Westwind"



Celebrating the richness of diversity.



Artist in Residence



Recognition from the Kainai Board of Education

Education includes more than what goes on in the classroom!