



I WILL BE SUCCESSFUL
EMPOWERED CELEBRATED
INSPIRED SAFE PREPARED
ETHICAL VALUED ENGAGED

2016-2019 THREE-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN



ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT

Peace Wapiti Public School Division (PWSD) provides an educational environment that enables all students to achieve their potential to become productive members of a changing society.

OUR VISION:

Inspiring all learners to become confident, collaborative and ethical citizens motivated with a passion to achieve a sustainable future.

AT A GLANCE:

- Approximately 6,000 students in 33 schools, including eight Hutterite colony schools, an outreach and online school, and educational programming at a group home facility.
- High school programs offered at eight schools.
- FNMI Program administered by an FNMI Education Coordinator and school-based professional and support staff. PWSD also provides schooling to students from Horse Lake First Nation and Kelly Lake Métis settlement.
- One of the largest employers in the Peace Region: 366 teachers and more than 600 non-teaching staff.
- Manages 104 school bus routes.

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For full versions of the 2016-2019 Three-Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report, and the PWSD Budget, visit <http://bit.ly/pwsd-districtreports>.

1. Our students are successful.

FOCUSING ON STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI):** Aimed at elementary students experiencing reading delay. All PWSD schools are supported by the LLI program.
- **Junior Kindergarten:** Offered at five schools, with continued evaluation of expansion opportunities. Ongoing collaboration with service providers to initiate early-intervention programs.
- **Engaging Students:** PWSD students participate in varied programming opportunities, including the Alternate Education Program, High School Flexibility Enhancement Project, Enriched Personal Inquiry, Dual Credit Program, Green Certificate Program, Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), Eaglesham



Outdoor Pursuits Program, Encana Traveling Trades Program, Summer Work Experience Program, myBlueprint post-secondary planning software, citizenship opportunities, Jurisdictional Student Engagement Team (JSET), On Your Mark Diploma Exam Tutorials, and credit recovery programs.

- **Measuring Success:** PWSD is experiencing positive growth in high school completion and successful transitions to post-secondary institutions.

2. Our FNMI students are reaching new heights.

ELIMINATING THE FNMI ACHIEVEMENT GAP

- **Embedded Staff:** PWSD's First Nation, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) programming is administered by an FNMI Education Coordinator and school-based professional and support staff. A Success Coach at Hythe Regional School will work with primary students to develop skills in early learning readiness, conflict resolution and self-regulation.
- **Promoting Empathy:** Age-appropriate school presentations convey the impact of Residential Schools and the *Indian Act* to all students.
- **Collaboration:** PWSD collaborates with service providers to implement universal practices and Circle of Courage programs which address identified needs for social-emotional learning. Inclusive Education Learning Coaches support improved



academic results. The PWSD-Horse Lake First Nation Collaborative School Initiative supports school-based Elder Coaches and e-schooling on reserve. On-reserve parent/teacher meet-and-greet events and the Horse Lake Parent conference and survey promote parent engagement.

- **Celebrating Culture:** PWSD initiatives include special events, increased FNMI content in classrooms and libraries, specialized classes and projects focusing on FNMI success, Cree Language and Aboriginal Studies courses, annual FNMI post-secondary scholarship, and the annual FNMI guest speaker series.

3. Our educational system is inclusive.

SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS

- **Sexual Assault Resistance:** Partnership with Providing Assistance Counseling and Education (PACE) to deliver researched based programming.
- **Screening:** Effective practices to support identifying K - Grade 11 students for further assessment and attention, and encouraging professional dialogue about the academic and social-emotional performance of all PWSD students.
- **Our Partners:** PWSD partners with Peace Collaborative Services for professional support in occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech language pathology, mental health and an educational psychologist; Child and Family Services Alberta to supply facility space for playschools

and Junior K programs; Alberta Health Services to maintain the Community School Health Initiative and provide health presentations; and Child and Family Services Alberta's Success in Schools Program. PWSD supports a full-time FCSS counselor to respond to individual student needs at its northern schools.

- **Student First Framework for Learning:** A visual representation of PWSD's continuum of supports and services which highlights universal Quality Learning Environment (QLE) practices.
- **Safe and Caring Policy:** Implemented to ensure students feel safe and welcomed.
- **Additional Supports:** School safe and caring programs, Medic Alert, AEDs, First Responders, and parental Internet controls software.

4. Our teachers and leaders excel at what they do.

PROGRAMMING ENHANCEMENTS

- **Collaborative Response Model (CRM):** A comprehensive district-wide framework that drives inclusion and promotes collaborative response to individual student needs, comprised of three essential components which work together to ensure the success of all students – Embedded Collaborative Team Meetings, Learner Profile/Assessment, and Student First Framework for Learning.
- **Quality Learning Environment (QLE):** 2016-2017 marks the third year for this research-based initiative to ensure all PWSD classrooms offer quality learning environments. Teachers are supported by Instructional Coaches. PWSD's Professional Development (PD) Committee has aligned teacher PD to the critical and cultural elements of the QLE.
- **High School Redesign:** Peace Wapiti Academy and Beaverlodge Regional High School are currently engaged in this project, in cooperation with District Leadership and Alberta Education.
- **Dual Credit:** PWSD will continue to offer the second year of the NAIT Power Engineering, Water and Wastewater Operator, and Oil and Gas Field Production Operator Programs.
- **Comprehensive School Health (CSH):** A steering committee and health champions will continue to collaborate and share strategies with schools to influence students' health and wellbeing. Continued promotion of the four CSH pillars: social and physical environment, teaching and learning, healthy school policy, and partnerships and services.
- **Dossier Software Customization:** Phase II implementation includes a customized software system which accesses PowerSchool student information to create Individual Program Plans, Student Action Plans and Early Learning Plans. In addition, Dossier supports the documentation and visual representation of the CRM process.
- **Early Learning:** A pilot of the Early Years Evaluation (EYE) Teacher Assessment is underway to provide formative and instructionally-relevant information in the areas of Awareness of Self and Environment; Social Skills and Approaches to Learning; Cognitive Skills, Language and Communication; and Physical Development. A report card committee will develop a reporting system to correlate the assessed areas should PWSD move forward with EYE beyond the pilot. Teachers and instructors are working together to build continuity in PWSD's approach to literacy through the sharing of research-based best practices. The group will meet twice annually and also access shared resources and ideas.
- **Attendance Accountability:** All students benefit from attending school regularly. The CRM research supports the belief that systems that meet students where they are, while providing appropriate and timely interventions, see real growth in all aspects of school achievement, including attendance.



STAFFING ENHANCEMENTS

- **New Teacher Support:** Three Instructional Coaches to support literacy and numeracy training through a coaching model for all new PWSD teachers. ATA/PWSD Mentorship Partnership pairs 30 mentors and protégés to engage in professional learning.
- **Teacher Collaboration:** Extra staffing, along with reorganization of school timetables, provide time for embedded teacher collaboration at all PWSD schools.
- **Education Officers:** Superintendents routinely meet with school administration to provide support, direction and supervision.
- **District Principal:** Supports and manages early childhood and inclusive education supports.
- **Junior/Senior High Instructional Coordinators:** Enhance the learning environment by introducing 21st Century instructional strategies into programming. Collaborate to share best practices which challenge and evolve classroom pedagogy. Provide subject-specific professional development to improve teacher practice. Support new teachers through resource assistance, mentoring and other professional learning through communities of practice.
- **Literacy/Numeracy Instructional Coaches:** Provide professional development coaching support to experienced PWSD teachers.
- **Education Technology Coaches:** Provide professional development aimed at increasing the use of technology in supporting instruction.
- **Inclusive Education Coaches:** Dedicated to collaborating with teachers, outside partners, parents and support staff to ensure identification through screening, appropriate assessments, programming and interventions.
- **Professional Learning:** District PD for 2016-2017 is structured to support CRM implementation in all PWSD schools. Locally-developed and external topics and structures offer additional site-level PD options. Staff receive training in new software that aligns with PWSD's QLE and CRM. Financial support is provided to teachers for Masters-level course work. Teachers are supported to become involved in Alberta Education curriculum development and assessment. Administrator committees were established to provide input on PD, technology, pedagogy, communications, assessment and the CRM. Administrator meetings offer principals support in understanding curriculum, instruction, assessment and PWSD's QLE. Access to online resources provides opportunities for integrated classroom enrichment and personalization of learning.

5. We are well-governed and managed.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Student Outcomes:** PWSD's FNMI results exceed a number of provincial statistics. PWSD's dropout rate is 1.4 per cent, versus the 3.2 per cent provincial average. PWSD students are more apt to stay in school – our high school completion rate remains one of the highest in Northern Alberta.
- **Student Citizenship:** PWSD received an 'excellent' rating – 82.2 per cent satisfaction rating from students, staff and parents.
- **Safe and Caring Schools:** PWSD received an 'excellent' rating – 89.3 per cent satisfaction rating from students, staff and parents.
- **Meeting Provincial Averages:** PWSD is on par with the province in the areas of school improvement, parental involvement, program of studies, educational quality, and workplace preparation.
- **Expanded Communication:** Annual division and school results reports, generative governance meetings between the Board and school communities, press releases, social media, websites, print media, and PowerSchool. Stakeholder input on policy development and planning is gathered through surveys, public meetings and direct mail campaigns.
- **Enhancing Programs and Services:** Partnerships with Family Support for Children with Disabilities, Family and Community Support Services, French as a Second Language, Student Health Program, Child and Family Services Authority, Peace Collaborative Services, Reading University, Alberta Teacher's Association, Alberta Health Services, RCMP, Northwest Regional Learning Consortium, and the John Howard Society.

CAPITAL AND FACILITY PROJECTS:

- **New K-8 School:** Currently in the construction stages of the new K-8 Whispering Ridge Community School, located north of Grande Prairie in Whispering Ridge subdivision.
- **Grand Openings:** Replacement Robert W. Zahara Public School in Sexsmith opened in the spring of 2016. Teepee Creek School modernization is nearing completion. Grand opening events are planned for the spring of 2017.
- **Future Goals:** Two new K-8 schools, located southeast of Grande Prairie and in Clairmont Heights, and a new high school to replace Peace Wapiti Academy.

STAYING CONNECTED:

- **In the Community:** PWSD Board meets twice annually with its School Councils, attends joint meetings of its municipal counterparts, lobbies government on matters that impact the quality of education, and maintains cooperative relationships with business and community groups. PWSD covers ASCA membership fees to promote School Council participation.

