

Palliser Regional Schools

Highlights of our Report to the Community:

*Annual Education Results Report 2014-2015
and Three-Year Education Plan 2015-2018*

Palliser Regional Schools supports all students to achieve success at the highest level possible for the individual through our focus on safe and caring schools, assessment for learning and literacy instruction at all grades in all subjects. Our teachers know and care about our students as individuals with unique learning styles and learning needs. Our already diverse division welcomed Calgary Islamic School's two campuses as faith-based alternative programs for 2015-2016, giving Palliser its largest staff and student base in the division's history.

By the numbers, 2015-2016

8,170 kindergarten through Grade 12 students
1,018 dedicated, caring employees
15 community schools
10 faith-based alternative programs
4 outreach high schools (5th coming soon to Calgary)
2 alternative programs for Low German-speaking Mennonite (LGM) students
1 LGM alternative program junior high inside a community school
1 online school, Palliser Beyond Borders
1 home school program
17 Hutterite colony schools
1 international student program

Student success

Palliser students continue to achieve academic success at a very high level on provincial exams, with 89.1 per cent of students achieving the acceptable standard (passing) diploma exams, and 81.1 per cent passing their Provincial Achievement Tests.

Nearly 39 per cent achieved the standard of excellence in Grade 6 Science; 36 per cent in Grade 6 English; 33 per cent in Grade 6 Social Studies and 34 per cent in Chemistry 30.

Our high school completion rate is excellent with 85.5 per cent completing high school in three years.

What our stakeholders tell us

Surveys of students, staff and parents conducted by Alberta Education in February 2015 found very high levels of satisfaction with Palliser's provision of safe and caring schools, student learning opportunities, parental involvement and other measures. Highlights include:

- 92.1% of stakeholders agree students are safe and treated fairly at school, are learning the importance of caring for others and are learning respect for others;
- 92.5% of teachers, parents and students are satisfied with the quality of basic education provided by Palliser;
- 84.5% of teachers, parents and students say Palliser's schools have improved or stayed the same in the last three years;
- 88.6% of teachers, parents and students are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship;
- 88.3% of teachers and parents agree students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school;
- 82% of stakeholders are satisfied with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies, including fine arts, career, technology, and health and physical education.



#101 3305 18 Avenue North
Lethbridge, AB T1H 5S1



403-328-4111
Toll-free 1-887-667-1234



www.pallisersd.ab.ca

Our mission:

Together we will ensure learning success for all students to develop their unique potential as caring citizens in a changing world

Leadership in literacy

Palliser's theme for 2015-2016 is "Leadership in Literacy," as it was the previous year. This continued theme reflects the division's unwavering commitment to ensuring our students develop the literacy skills they need for success in school and in life. More than reading, literacy provides critical thinking and analysis skills.

The foundation for Palliser's literacy program is division-wide adoption of the Fountas and Pinnell benchmark assessment of reading level, administered to every student not yet reading independently at a Grade 7 level. An assessment in early fall provides teachers the information they need to tailor instruction to the student's current needs and strengths. A second assessment confirms whether that individualized instruction has been effective or if the teacher needs to tweak his/her approach. The assessments are conducted one on one, giving

teachers valuable time to get to know each student.

Between Spring 2014 and Spring 2015, the assessment data was evidence of progress in moving student literacy forward with 75 per cent of Grade 3 students reading at or above grade level expectation, compared to 65 per cent the previous year. This is a significant improvement in one year, and bodes well for the division's goal to reach 95 per cent of Grade 3 students by March 2019.

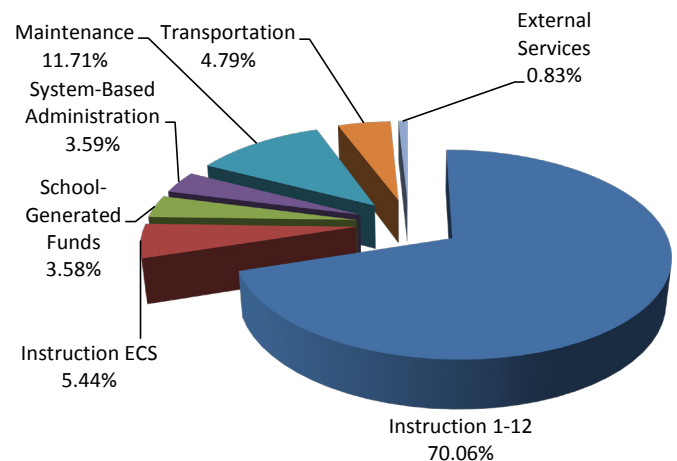
Literacy is a focus of professional development time, including Palliser's four division-wide teacher collaboration days, of resource allocation of both human and material, and of schools goals and planning.

While each Palliser school and each Palliser teacher is at a different stage on the journey of becoming an expert in literacy instruction, the division has seen tremendous growth in a short span of time.

In 2014-2015, it cost \$81 million to serve about 6,840 students from kindergarten through Grade 12. Our biggest expense — and greatest resource — is people, with about 79 per cent of spending allocated to salaries and benefits. Their commitment shows in our outstanding results and student achievement.

Expenditures by Object 2014-2015	\$81,042,216	
Salaries & Benefits	\$63,746,523	78.66%
Services & Supplies	\$12,278,438	15.15%
School-Generated Funds	\$2,902,659	3.58%
All Depreciation & Interest	\$2,114,596	2.61%

Expenditures by Department, 2014-2015



We're listening

In 2014-2015, 66 parents/guardians participated in focus group discussions led by the superintendent or designate as part of four school reviews conducted across Palliser; another 540 provided input through surveys during these reviews. Palliser's Board of Trustees played host to about 200 students, parents,

staff and others at a division-wide stakeholder meeting in May 2015 and held four regional stakeholder meetings prior to that.

Trustees routinely attend school council meetings and encourage all parents to participate in school decision-making.

For more information about Palliser and its programs, please see the complete Report to the Community online at <http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/board-of-trustees/planning-and-reporting>.