



# Community Report

2020-2021



[psd70.ab.ca](https://psd70.ab.ca)

## OUR VISION

### WHERE WE ARE GOING

Our students possess the confidence, resilience, insight and skills required to thrive in, and positively impact, the world.

## OUR MISSION

### HOW WE WILL GET THERE

We assure supportive learning environments, meaningful experiences and healthy relationships that create opportunities to develop resilience, to gain diversity in perspectives and to achieve enduring success.



### Our stories

Scan this QR code to watch videos from across the division.



## Welcome

Our Ultimate Goal of Student Success and Well-being endures, despite the challenges of the current conditions in public education. Planning and delivering supportive learning environments, meaningful experiences, and healthy relationships in the midst of and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic is what Parkland School Division (PSD) is all about. We could not be more proud of our staff and students for their resilience!

Something we knew for certain was that staff, families and community members were going to have to do their best work to guide children through this trying time. We are proud of our students for their persistence, positivity and dedication to learning. We also thank them for reminding us to have fun along the way.

We thank everyone across the division for their part in making sure children have access to quality education. Each member of the PSD community made extra efforts, even when it was uncomfortable to do so, to face challenges head-on and to reach out to others. The hearts and minds within our school communities are incredible.

The *Choice in Education Act*, which took effect September 1, 2020, affirms that parents have the right to choose the kind of education they feel will be best for their children. Parkland School Division has a strong history of offering numerous educational programming choices and continues to do so with the recent implementation of various new programs, despite challenges related to COVID-19. From Virtual Learning to our new Parkland Student Athlete Academy, our staff and students have shown that a global pandemic may change how we learn but cannot stop learning opportunities that are purposeful, essential, relevant, authentic and responsive.

We will all come through this forever changed, but also more confident in what we can do when we must. Rest assured that PSD will continue to have student success and well-being at the heart of everything we do.

**Lorraine Stewart**  
BOARD CHAIR

**Shauna Boyce**  
SUPERINTENDENT

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Find Trustee profiles and Board  
meeting information at  
[www.psd70.ab.ca/Board.php](http://www.psd70.ab.ca/Board.php)

## Executive Leadership Team



**Shauna Boyce**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



**Mark Francis**  
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT



**Scott Johnston**  
ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Dianne McConnell**  
ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT



**Scott McFadyen**  
ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT

# OUR VALUES

## WHAT GUIDES US

Learning opportunities that are purposeful, essential, relevant, authentic and responsive  
Excellence in achievement  
Trustworthy, respectful relationships  
Resilience with self-awareness

# OUR ENDURING PRIORITIES

## WHAT KEEPS US GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Inspired Exploration  
Connected Community  
Confident Resilience  
Meaningful Engagement  
Wellness Culture  
Resource Stewardship

# OUR ULTIMATE GOAL

## THE REWARD FOR GETTING THERE

Student Success and Well-being

Explore our reports and publications at  
[www.psd70.ab.ca/Reports.php](http://www.psd70.ab.ca/Reports.php)

# IMPORTANT STEPS WE ARE TAKING

Parkland School Division is home to over 11,500 students across 22 schools, two high school outreaches and a number of alternative learning locations. Here are a few highlights from across the division:

## Expanding Learning Options

Our growing selection of Programs of Choice offers families a variety of optional learning opportunities that meet the diverse needs and interests of students while following Alberta's program of study. Existing options include French Immersion, the Maranatha Christian Program and Nature Kindergarten. Exciting new Programs of Choice include:

### Virtual Learning (Gr. 1-12)

Virtual Learning is a teacher-directed program, supported by the staff from Connections for Learning, that allows students to work full-time from home using virtual learning tools and remote access to content. Virtual Learning is a full-time program requiring a full-year commitment.

### Building Futures (Gr. 10)

Building Futures offers students a unique, immersive one-year experience that allows them to step beyond the traditional classroom into an authentic learning challenge—building a house from the ground up. Through a partnership with Coventry Homes, students learn in both an on-site classroom, where they take academic courses taught by teachers, and then on-site where they become part of the home-building team.

### Parkland Student Athlete Academy (Gr. 6-12)

The PSAA provides students in pursuit of high performance athletics with technical, theoretical and experiential opportunities, while keeping them engaged in a school community focused on academic achievement. Partnerships with local sports organizations allow PSAA students to choose from various athletic disciplines.

Learn more about all of our Programs of Choice at [www.psd70.ab.ca/Programs.php](http://www.psd70.ab.ca/Programs.php).



## Strengthening Student Transportation

We operate one of the largest student transportation systems in the province, serving not only our division but Evergreen Catholic Schools, other neighbouring jurisdictions and some area private schools. Enlisting local bus contractors, we oversee 155 routes that provide service to more than 7,000 student riders. Our fleet travels over 19,000 kilometres each school day.

Transportation Services regularly reviews best practices to ensure safety and quality service delivery. For example, in summer 2021, the department will undergo technology upgrades to strengthen navigation and bus pass systems.

To learn more about bus safety and services, visit us at [www.psd70.ab.ca/Transportation.php](http://www.psd70.ab.ca/Transportation.php).



## Assessing Academic Achievement

Our Annual Education Results Report (AERR) addresses the previous year's achievement of each of the Board's locally-developed goals and Alberta Education's Business Plan outcomes.

Traditionally, the AERR includes results from Provincial Achievement Tests (for Grades 6 and 9) and Diploma Exams (usually held in June), but these evaluations were cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. To produce an accurate and meaningful depiction of academic achievement for the 2019-2020 school year, we used a combination of provincial Accountability Pillar information, PSD's Capital Plan, financial data and feedback from stakeholders, the Board of Trustees, Senior Administration, Lead Team and the Council of School Councils. The complete 2019-2020 AERR is available at [www.psd70.ab.ca/Reports.php](http://www.psd70.ab.ca/Reports.php).

## Embracing Indigenous Learning

Strengthening our relationships with neighbouring Paul First Nation (PFN) continues to be a priority, and together we are working to support Indigenous learners.

With the involvement of community and PFN Elders, we are creating meaningful Indigenous learning opportunities that connect staff and students mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

In three schools, we embarked on a Stoney language and culture pilot with four PFN community members. We look forward to hearing from the children about their experiences.



In addition to creating school-based supports for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, we are committed to fulfilling recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action, namely:

- **57** — PSD created an Indigenous Foundational Knowledge Certificate of Completion and provides multiple professional development opportunities for all employees.
- **63. i** — Teachers in all grades are embedding the learning of treaties, residential schooling and Indigenous history into the yearly program.
- **63. ii & iii** — Staff are learning Indigenous protocols and best practices to support respectful learning of Indigenous history and are working with students to deepen intercultural understanding, empathy and mutual respect.
- **63. iv** — PSD school administrators are working to identify teacher training needs relating to the Calls to Action.

## Improving and Creating Learning Spaces

### Stony Plain Central Replacement School

Planning and preparation continue on the division's third brand new school in the past five years. PSD is excited to team up again with Marshall-Lee Construction Corp. on the project. They are the same contractor that completed the current Memorial Composite High School back in 2010. Construction on the new Stony Plain Central site is set to begin in spring 2021.

### Woodhaven Modernization Project

In fall 2020, the new 3,000 square metre building addition opened to the school community for regular use. Expansion areas include a full-size gym and 16 classrooms, which is enough learning space to accommodate 400 more students.

The final phase focuses on renovations within the existing school building, with completion of the entire modernization project scheduled for September 2021.



# EDUCATION AND COVID-19

## Local impact of a global ordeal

The pandemic caused by COVID-19 presented challenges that most of us never imagined. From stringent safety measures and new protocols to temporary school closures and at-home learning.

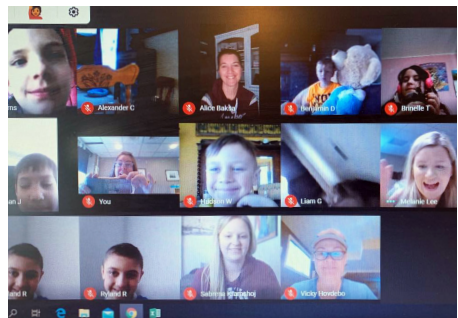
Though times were strange and footing unsure, our commitment to delivering quality education endured.

Province-wide school closures created a landscape where online learning became a critical learning tool overnight. Teachers, administration and support staff quickly pivoted to provide meaningful, engaging and connective online learning experiences.

Our students, their families and community partners all adapted to learning in new ways, in new environments and were committed to making an effort to succeed. This collective persistence became a defining attribute across the division, especially during multiple transitions to at-home learning.

Even with the uncertainty of what learning would look like going forward, people from across the division held to our enduring priorities of resilience, exploration and community. We all made choices to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students and children.

A special thank you to our Facilities and Custodial staff for their hard work in keeping all learning environments safe.



## Educational Options

At the start of the 2020–2021 school year, we offered four educational options to meet the needs of students and their families.

These options allowed parents and guardians to make informed decisions for their children and families during the pandemic.

### Option 1

Return to in-person classes with additional health protocols in place to keep students and staff safe.

### Option 2

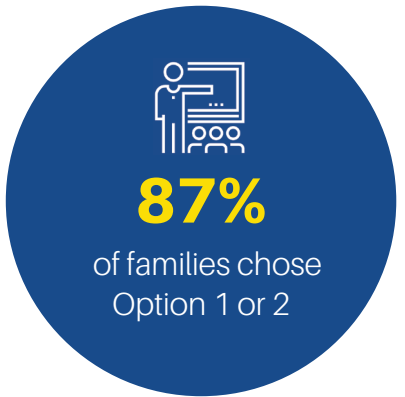
Teacher-supported at-home learning, with an eventual return to in-person classes. Student remains enrolled at their designated school.

### Option 3 - Virtual Learning

Teacher-directed learning that allows Grade 1–12 students to work from home via online learning tools and remote access to content. The program requires a full-year commitment to full-time at-home learning.

### Option 4 - Home Education

Parent-directed learning with access to teacher support through the Connections for Learning campus.



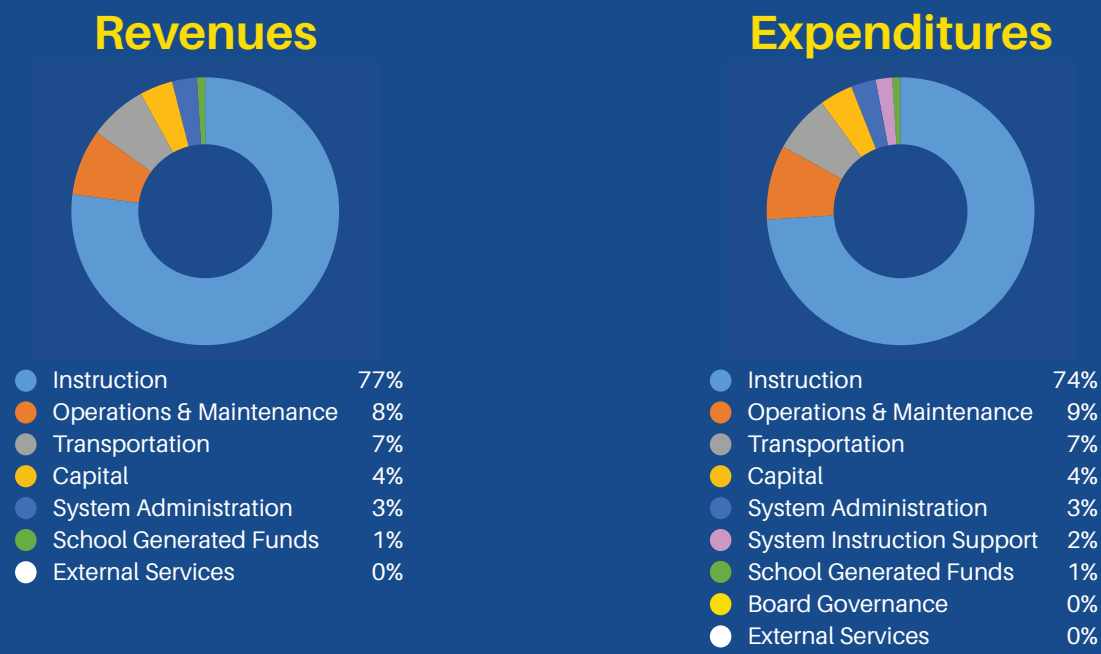
Find COVID-19 info. for families and staff at  
[www.psd70.ab.ca/COVID19.php](http://www.psd70.ab.ca/COVID19.php)

2019-2020

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Division allocates revenues in accordance with decision-making beliefs and guiding principles. As such, the vast majority of funding is sent directly to schools and distribution of funds is left to school-based leaders.

- Revenues over the previous year show a decrease of \$9,681,328 (-7.2%).
- Expenditures over the previous year show a decrease of \$9,579,163 (-7.1%).
- The cost of educating 11,600 students was \$124,943,328.
- \$96,419,091 (77.2%) of total funds (which includes Instruction, School Generated Funds and System Instruction) was spent directly on students in the classroom.
- The single largest classroom expenditure was for staff salaries and benefits. The average teaching cost was \$111,888 (\$100,488 excluding Alberta Teachers’ Retirement Fund costs).
- The cost for Board and System Administration was below the province’s cap of 3.6% of expenditures for a total of \$3,954,813 (3.2% of total expenditures).
- Expenditures to transport students to and from school amounted to \$8,358,721 (6.7%).
- The cost of maintaining and operating 23 sites amounted to \$16,139,349 (12.9%).
- Parkland’s annual operating deficit is \$251,437 which primarily relates to a deficit in maintenance related to an increase in insurance premiums, and a deficit in transportation offset by surpluses in instruction and administration.
- The division had budgeted an operating deficit in the preliminary budget of \$416,042 or 0.31% of revenues. The deficit for 2019–2020 was \$251,437 or 0.20% of revenues.
- The total accumulated surplus from operations is \$ 5,813,220. This includes \$949,524 from School Generated Funds and \$943,769 that is unrestricted.
- Capital funding equated to \$4,761,121 (3.8% of revenues).
- Parkland’s capital reserves amount to \$4,159,414.
- Capital projects included Copperhaven School, the Woodhaven modernization, Stony Plain Central replacement school, modular classrooms for Prescott Learning Centre and Millgrove School, Infrastructure, Maintenance & Renewal projects and Capital Maintenance Renewal projects.



Centre for Education

Our administrative hub houses staff from various departments, who provide support to learning sites across the division.

- Facilities Services

Provides solutions to maintaining and improving facilities and oversees custodial and maintenance services.
- Financial Services

Is responsible for the development of timely and accurate financial reporting, payroll, purchasing and records management.
- Human Resources

Recruits and supports the Division’s more than 1,160 employees, including over 650 certificated teaching staff.

- Learning Services

Focuses on curriculum, student services, educational technology and issues resolution.
- Strategic Communications

Supports schools and staff through planning and evaluation, advertising and website services.
- Technology Services

Provides technical support through a team of computer technicians and database, network and cloud administrators.
- Transportation Services

Operates a regional student busing system that provides exceptional safety to all riders.

Our Schools

- Blueberry School (K-9)  
blueberry.psd70.ab.ca

Brookwood School (K-4)  
brookwood.psd70.ab.ca

École Broxton Park School (K-9)  
broxtonpark.psd70.ab.ca

Connections For Learning (1-12)  
cfl.psd70.ab.ca

Copperhaven School (K-9)  
copperhaven.psd70.ab.ca

Duffield School (K-9)  
duffield.psd70.ab.ca

Entwistle School (K-9)  
entwistle.psd70.ab.ca

Forest Green School (K-6)  
forestgreen.psd70.ab.ca
- Graminia School (K-9)  
graminia.psd70.ab.ca

Greystone Centennial Middle School (5-9)  
greystone.psd70.ab.ca

High Park School (K-9)  
highpark.psd70.ab.ca

Memorial Composite H.S. (10-12)  
mchs.psd70.ab.ca

École Meridian Heights School (K-9)  
meridianheights.psd70.ab.ca

Millgrove School (K-4)  
millgrove.psd70.ab.ca

Muir Lake School (K-9)  
muirlake.psd70.ab.ca

Parkland Village School (K-4)  
parklandvillage.psd70.ab.ca
- Prescott Learning Centre (K-9)  
prescott.psd70.ab.ca

Spruce Grove Composite H.S. (10-12)  
sgchs.psd70.ab.ca

Stony Plain Central School (K-9)  
stonyplaincentral.psd70.ab.ca

Tomahawk School (K-9)  
tomahawk.psd70.ab.ca

Wabamun School (K-9)  
wabamun.psd70.ab.ca

Woodhaven Middle School (5-9)  
woodhaven.psd70.ab.ca

## **Centre for Education**

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