



# ***Peace River School Division***

***Learning Together - Success for All***

**November 24, 2023**

**For Immediate Release:** The Peace River School Division will soon release their Annual Education Results Report. Superintendent Adam Murray shared the Division's draft Annual Education Results Report (AERR) with the board at the November 16 meeting. The AERR provides an overall summary of the progress the Division has made with relation to the three strategic goals in the Board's three-year education plan. The AERR also highlights areas of emphasis for ongoing work.

The information contained within the AERR includes both Divisional and Provincial data on student achievement for our Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. This disaggregation of achievement results for the Division is consistent with the reporting of provincial data and helps to more accurately examine the achievement gap between our Indigenous and non-Indigenous learners. Through this approach, the Division is able to identify and implement specific strategies to help narrow any gaps in achievement. The AERR results show good progress in narrowing the achievement gaps across grade levels, which is hugely celebratory for the PRSD.

Addressing the Division's first goal, that all students are literate, the AERR shares very positive data beginning with early years assessment data. This data shows a significant drop in the number of students considered at risk from the beginning to the end of the school year.

Addressing the Division's second goal, that all students are numerate, the AERR data indicate that more than 80% of PRSD students are confident in their math skills. Report card data also show significant growth in the number of Grade 10-12 students meeting or mastering grade-level expectations in numeracy. This particular set of data also shows a positive trend towards closing the achievement gap between the Division's non-Indigenous students and Indigenous students.

Addressing the Division's third goal: That all students are successful through inclusionary practices, Murray spoke at length about the importance of regular school attendance. The Division's attendance data show approximately 58% of the PRSD students attended school in 2022-23 less than 90% of the time. By tracking student success, PRSD knows students who attend school less than 90% of the time generally do more poorly.

"These students are losing not only those huge building blocks for continuous learning, but also the ability to focus for an entire day. That's muscle memory," Superintendent Murray said about students in Grades 1 to 4 who miss significant amounts of school.

The AERR also shows approximately one in every nine PRSD students has either a Behaviour Support Plan (BSP) or Individual Program Plan (IPP) in place. These important tools are used to support students of all abilities and enable them to be included in classroom and school activities alongside their peers.



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Following Murray's presentation, Board Vice Chair Lacey Buchinski asked about the amount of time teachers spend assessing students through either formative or summative assessments.

"I would say we don't do nearly enough assessment," said Deputy Superintendent Jeff Thompson in reply. "It's impossible to be an effective teacher, without first assessing."

"We are shifting the culture," said Superintendent Murray. "Back to an era where all teachers understand formative assessments, and their ability to use these assessments to tailor and adjust instruction. That process can happen in Grade 1 and it can still happen in Grade 12."

"There is a change afoot," added Thompson. "We are attempting to reprogram the thinking around assessments. Teaching has two components - instruction and assessment. We want to flip that order to reflect the fact that quality teaching starts with quality assessment data that includes a large amount of formative assessment to inform instruction and the learning process, and a small amount of summative assessment to measure ultimate student achievement."

For more information, read the Division's Three-Year Education plan [here](#). The 2022-23 AERR will be available on the homepage of our website, [www.prsd.ab.ca](http://www.prsd.ab.ca), by November 30.

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