

EIPS

QUARTERLY UPDATE

VOL. 5 NO. 2

EIPS IN THE NEWS

Strathcona County drivers warned about passing school buses with lights flashing | *CTV News*

EIPS offers post-secondary coursework
| *The Fort Saskatchewan Record*

Expanding horizons through Language and Culture programs at EIPS | *Education News Canada*

EIPS offers flexible alternative education with Next Step
| *The Fort Saskatchewan Record*

EIPS hosts Métis kitchen party | *The Sherwood Park and Strathcona News*

New name revealed for K-9 replacement school
| *The Sherwood Park and Strathcona News*

Kindness through cooking | *CBC Edmonton A.M.*

FOR STARTERS

Of all the Board Quarterly Updates, this is the one I look forward to sharing most: It's when we feature the *EIPS Annual Education Results Report*. The report reflects on the previous year, detailing the Division's successes, challenges, student achievement and potential growth areas.

What a year it was. We started construction on Forest Grove School, launched Phase 2 of the new elementary curriculum and finalized a three-year engagement plan. We also tackled complexity by developing a new allocation formula, introduced new intervention strategies, expanded Career Pathways and implemented Year 3 of the Division's mental health strategy.

Needless to say, it was a lot of work, and, as a Board, we couldn't be more proud. You can read about all of these and more in the [EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2023-24](#). Collectively, the report affirms the Division's commitment to student achievement and learner needs. Also woven through the narrative is an established collaborative approach—with students, teachers, administrators, support staff, families and communities. That approach has led to a shared vision of strong public education through high-quality, student-centred educational opportunities for all learners.

It's truly inspiring. And, it's why we've dedicated this issue to the [EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2023-24](#). I encourage you all to read it in detail. In the meantime, we've broken down the highlights, starting on Page 2. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

Cathy Allen,
Board Chair, Elk Island Public Schools

INSIDE EIPS



School Open Houses take place throughout the month of February. Prospective students and families are can attend to explore programming, tour the school, meet the staff and ask questions.

New Kindergarten Programming will launch in three EIPS schools. Next year, Wes Hosford Elementary and Mundare School will offer full-time STEM kindergarten programming. Meanwhile, École Parc Élémentaire will offer a new full-time French Immersion kindergarten program. For more information visit eips.ca.

Pink Shirt Day happens on February 26, an annual event celebrated countrywide to promote kindness, healthy relationships and bullying prevention. This year's theme: "Let Kindness Grow." That's exactly what EIPS schools plan to do through various lesson plans and activities, all aimed at fostering kindness, inclusiveness and healthy relationships.

Week of Inspirational Math takes place March 10-14. Schools will host daily math activities—all targeted at developing numeracy skills, learning from mistakes and building strategies to push forward.

INBOX

How will EIPS transition students when it relocates the senior high French Immersion program?

To ensure smooth transitions, the Division has developed a transition plan for impacted students. To develop the plan, several phases of consultations took place. Phase 1, included a survey asking a series of questions about stakeholder needs, concerns, goals and suggestions to make the transition as successful as possible. In Phase 2, EIPS developed a draft transition plan—using the survey data, considering local needs, program requirements and related outcomes-oriented strategies. Then, in Phase 3, the Division shared the draft plan at a public feedback session—collecting even more input from stakeholders to help fine-tune and perfect a final version—Phase 4. To read the plan, and for more information, visit eips.ca.

EIPS ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT 2023-24: HIGHLIGHTS

Every year, EIPS publishes an Annual Education Results Report, which outlines the Division's Four-Year Education Plan, opportunities for growth and how it's supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes. Collectively, the Division uses the report to guide its work and enhance learning going forward. Read the full report at eips.ca.

LOCAL PROFILE AND CONTEXT

EIPS is one of Alberta's largest school divisions, serving more than 17,950 students from kindergarten to Grade 12 in 42 schools—in Sherwood Park, Fort Saskatchewan, Vegreville, Strathcona County, Lamont County and the western portion of the County of Minburn. The Division also employs 1,551 people who work collectively to inspire students to learn, grow and succeed.

Thanks to its size, EIPS is able to provide students with a range of learning opportunities, from pre-kindergarten to Grade 12. These include specialized, faith-based, language, career pathways, academic and outreach programs. That, coupled with strong extracurricular opportunities, family supports and numerous student services, ensures all learners receive a well-rounded education that develops their skills and knowledge.

Overall, 2023-24 was a productive year for EIPS, with much to celebrate. The year also presented challenges and opportunities for growth. What shines through, though, is the priorities, programs and strategies the Division has in place are positively impacting on students. To make that happen, everyone within EIPS came together and stayed committed to its the goals listed in the [Four-Year Education Plan](#).

Results

EIPS' annual results data shows the strategies and goals it has in place are having a positive impact on student achievement and well-being.

The Board continues to focus efforts on: building literacy and numeracy skills for all students, and supporting staff growth through meaningful professional learning and evidence-based best practices.

Funding

Every year, EIPS' budget gets tighter, making operations more challenging. The reason: the province's funding formula for education, student enrolment growth and inflation. As such, the Division closely examined its operations to find cost savings.

The Board approved a budget using available resources to ensure a budget that supports the mission, beliefs and priorities of EIPS.

New Elementary Curriculum

EIPS rolled out Phase 2 of the new elementary curriculum, with three subjects launching in 2023-24—mathematics and English language arts and literature, grades 4-6, and science, kindergarten to Grade 3.

The Board invested resources to create an implementation plan, build capacity and ensure smooth transitions for everyone.

Engagement

EIPS finalized the last project listed within its three-year public engagement plan: how to address school capacity issues, improve attendance areas for junior high students, balance senior high enrolment in Sherwood Park and enhance accommodations for elementary and secondary French Immersion programming.

The Board made the decision to relocate the senior high French Immersion program to Salisbury Composite High, and balance senior high enrolment by redesignating senior high students living in the Lakeland Ridge attendance area to Bev Facey Community High—both effective when the new Sherwood Park replacement school opens.

Mental Health

Work continued on Year 3 of EIPS' Mental Health Strategic Plan. The plan's aims: To better support students' and staff's socio-emotional and foster positive mental health development.

The Board invested significant resources into the strategic plan to enhance supports for students, families and staff—all focused on providing education and resources on mental health literacy, support for student mental health and well-being, capacity building and developing accessible service pathways.

2024-25 EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

NOTE: All dollar amounts are expressed in thousands

Program	Amount	Percentage
Instruction	\$166,129	78%
Operations and Maintenance	\$24,105	11%
Transportation	\$17,413	8%
System Administration	\$4,515	2%
External Services	\$990	1%
TOTAL	\$213,152	100%

ALBERTA EDUCATION ASSURANCE MEASURES: HIGHLIGHTS

Measure	EVALUATION SCORE
Student Learning Engagement	n/a
Citizenship	Intermediate
High School Completion Rate	Very High
Provincial Achievement Tests	High
Diploma Examinations	High
Dropout Rate (1.8%)	Good
Education Quality	High
Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments	n/a
Access to Supports and Services	High
Parental Involvement	Intermediate



Based on the Four-Year Education Plan 2022-26

Priority 1: Promote Growth and Success for All Students

Results

Early learning: Families agree EIPS' Early Learning program prepares children well for Grade 1.

Literacy and numeracy: PAT and diploma examination results are consistently higher than the province.

Indigenous education: Overall educational outcomes for Indigenous students are improving, and consistently higher than the province.

Career pathways: EIPS continues to see strong results related to senior high achievement—thanks, in part, to the Division's vast career pathway programming.

Assurance: Stakeholders are confident students develop the skills needed to succeed after finishing school.

Priority Strategies 2025-26

- Continue building teacher capacity in literacy, numeracy, student engagement and assessment practices.
- Continue using multi-disciplinary teams to address needed interventions and support complex learners.
- Implement high-leverage instructional and assessment practices to support growth in literacy and numeracy.
- Continue developing foundational knowledge about First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives.
- Continue efforts to prepare students in career planning and transitions to post-secondary.

Priority 2: Enhance High-Quality Learning and Working Environments

Results

Learning environments: Families are satisfied with the quality of teaching and education their child receives at school.

Working environments: Staff agree EIPS is a positive place to work and have opportunities to grow.

Infrastructure: Families are satisfied with EIPS' infrastructure.

Assurance: EIPS stakeholders are confident the Division's environments are welcoming, inclusive, respectful and safe.

Priority Strategies 2025-26

- Build capacity through targeted and collaborative learning opportunities related to staff competencies for leadership, teaching and support positions.
- Offer the Educational Assistant Internship.
- Implement Year 5 of EIPS' Mental Health Strategic Plan to better support students and staff.
- Develop efforts to ensure welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning and working environments.
- Improve infrastructure reliability and increase equipment life cycles through ongoing and effective asset management and regular preventative maintenance.
- Continue efforts to ensure secure, safe, robust and reliable technology access.

Priority 3: Enhance Public Education Through Effective Engagement

Results

Engagement: Families agree schools keep them informed about their child's progress and achievement.

Governance: The Board worked diligently to ensure it communicated EIPS' standpoint on a range of topics—the value of public education, funding, autonomous school boards, new curriculum, mental health and well-being, classroom complexity and infrastructure projects.

Assurance: Stakeholders are confident EIPS provides meaningful opportunities for family involvement.

Priority Strategies 2025-26

- Build capacity for families to help support their child's education journey.
- Continue assurance framework efforts.
- Continue developing ways to engage families and school communities—advocacy, consultations, Division news.
- Promote effective communication and build relationships with elected government officials.
- Develop and maintain focused advocacy plans.

BUILDING ASSURANCE

In addition to providing high-quality education to students, EIPS is also responsible for assuring the public it's fulfilling its responsibilities, through reporting, engagement and relationship building. In 2023-24, some of the ways EIPS built assurance, include:

FALL

- Annual Assurance Reviews
- EIPS Annual Education Results Report

WINTER

- EIPS Budget Survey
- School Fee Consultations
- Four-Year Education Plan review
- Alberta Education Assurance Survey
- EIPS Annual Feedback Survey – for families, staff and students

SPRING

- EIPS schools engaged stakeholders to inform budget planning and school education plans
- EIPS Four-Year Education Plan: 2022-26
- Spring budget – using survey feedback

ONGOING

- Advocacy in Action – regular newsletter
- EIPS Quarterly Update – regular newsletter
- Ongoing communication – school newsletters, news releases and email