



Annapolis Valley Regional School Board Report to the Community 2016-2017

Welcome to the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board's Annual Report to the Community. We invite you to look inside to learn more about what is happening in our schools.

AVRSB is guided by three goals, established each year in our annual Education Business Plan:

- To improve student achievement
- To strengthen safe and inclusive school environments
- To enhance race relations, cross cultural understanding and respect for human rights

The 2016-2017 school year provided many opportunities to reflect on our practices and to focus on providing the best education to students.

AVRSB is part of a larger community of people who care deeply about student success and supporting families.

Our vision of Working Together for Students is achieved through collaboration with organizations, agencies, individuals and families.

Thank you for being part of our community, and for working together with us for students.

*Thank you,
wela'lin
and merci!*



*Board Chair Lavinia Parrish Zwicker
and Superintendent of Schools Roberta Kubik*



12,915 Students



Guiding Principles

- Students First · Focus on Learning
- Positive Environment · Respect for Diversity
- Collaboration, Partnerships and Cooperation

AVRSB in 2016-2017



Vision

Working Together
for Students



41 Schools + 2 Adult High Schools



Mission

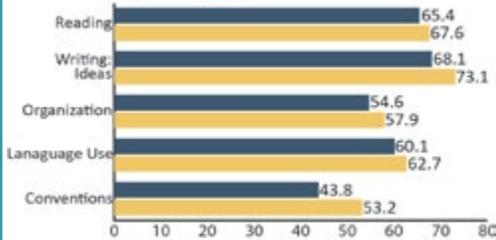
To create a supportive, student-centred environment where each student succeeds and all educational partners are valued.

Provincial Assessment Results

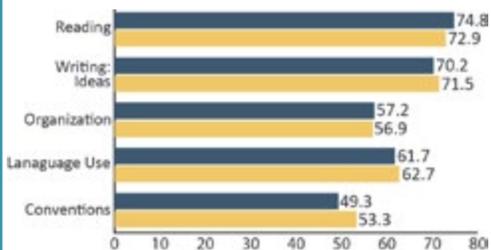
Assessments are a snapshot of student learning in key areas of mathematics and literacy (reading and components of writing). The graphs below show the percentage of students meeting expectations in these areas in 2016-2017.

AVRSB Province

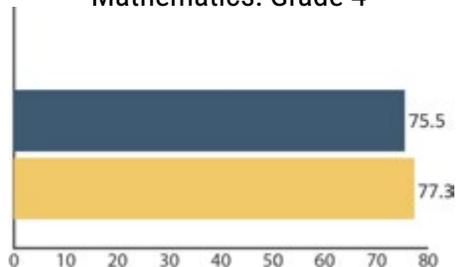
Literacy: Grade 3



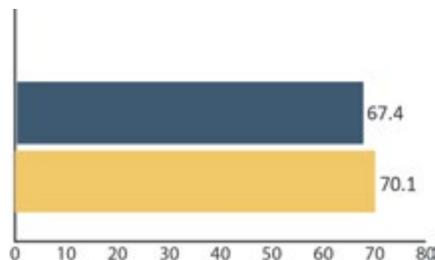
Literacy: Grade 6



Mathematics: Grade 4



Mathematics: Grade 6



Working Together for Students

Grade Level Transition Complete

This year, we achieved consistent grade-level configuration across our region, with the completion of a grade transition in the West Hants area. All schools now follow a Grade Primary to 5, 6 to 8 and 9 to 12 model.

French Immersion: Responding to the Community

A French Immersion survey was conducted in November 2016. 162 responses were received, indicating overall support of our Regional French Immersion Program and the teachers and staff who deliver it. Work is underway to address areas such as regional coverage, program availability and course offerings.

New Intensive French Program

For the first time, Intensive French is now being offered in Grade 6 at Pine Ridge Middle School. This provincial program is structured to provide half of all instruction in French, half in English.

School Start Times Aligned

Following public consultations and a lengthy planning process based on current research, our governing board adopted a motion to align start times in the West Kings Family of Schools with those of other school families across the region. A later start time for West Kings District High School and earlier start times for some of its feeder schools will be implemented in September 2018. School communities will prepare for this transition in the 2017-2018 school year.

P to 5 Literacy Support

Literacy Mentor support for teachers now spans Grades Primary to 5.



Early Literacy Teachers

Early Literacy Teachers now support all elementary schools, helping students who need an extra boost to meet literacy expectations.

Skilled Trades Coming to CKRHS

A Skilled Trades Centre for Central Kings Rural High School was announced this year. This program introduces students to all aspects of skilled trades professions. Once established, this will be the fourth Skilled Trades Centre in AVRSB. Similar programs are in place at Avon View High School, Annapolis West Education Centre, and Bridgetown Regional Community School.

Bridgetown Regional Community School To Open

Throughout 2016-2017, AVRSB has been supporting the construction of the new P-12 Bridgetown Regional Community School (BRCS), slated to open in September 2017. BRCS will offer a Skilled Trades Program, a P-5 learning commons, outdoor learning areas and a rooftop garden. An opening celebration is planned for Fall 2017.

Wolfville School Renovations Complete

Renovations at Wolfville School were completed in June 2017, following 18 months of work to update learning spaces, the school gym, cafeteria, and the building's exterior. A re-opening celebration is planned for Fall 2017.

New Transportation Software

BusPlanner Web software has been rolled out this year to provide greater access to transportation information for families, and to assist staff with transportation planning and mapping. This software also gives school-based staff quick, one-stop access to student transportation information.

Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights

Community Connections

Since 2005, the Community Connections project has been strengthening relationships between schools and the cultural communities they serve. This year, 14 school administrators involved in Community Connections received culturally-responsive education training organized by AVRSB's RCH Division with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. They explored ways to integrate multiculturalism in schools, and strategies to lead courageous conversations about race as part of efforts to support the success of students of African and Indigenous descent.

Mi'kmaq Education Consultant

The Mi'kmaq Education Consultant supervises Native Student Advisors and provides professional development and Treaty Education support to teachers, in addition to hands-on classroom workshops for students. Relationship building is another focus; In 2016-2017, the Mi'kmaq Education Consultant has been part of meetings with Education Committees of the three First Nation communities that AVRSB serves, and has hosted teas with Elders of each community.

Online Resources for Teachers and Staff

A Google Classroom is now available to all educators and staff, offering information on Treaty Education, Africentricity, sexual orientation and gender identity, reporting RCH incidents, using bias evaluation tools, along with a range of videos and resources for presentations.

Student Support Worker & Native Student Advisor Programs

The Native Student Advisor (NSA) and Student Support Worker (SSW) programs continue to provide culturally-focused support and enrichment opportunities to self-identified students. This year, NSAs and SSWs also facilitated a session for teachers as part of our Middle Level Showcase, sharing strategies for a culturally-responsive approach to supporting academic, personal and emotional growth for students of Indigenous and African descent.

Working with SSW Sharmay Beals-Wentzell, students of African descent at three West Hants area schools are connecting with communities through kindness projects. One project involves studying the history, math, art and geography associated with quilt patterns used as a form of communication in the Underground Railroad. Soon, students will present finished quilts featuring these traditional patterns to three churches serving African Nova Scotian communities.



221 students of First Nation or Indigenous ancestry were supported by a Native Student Advisor this year.



364 students of African descent were supported by a Student Support Worker this year.

51%

51% of students self-identified their ancestry this year.



Technology and Learning

Chromebooks in all Schools

All elementary schools received Chromebook sets this year. Across AVRSB, 931 Chromebooks were deployed this year, for a total of 4,094 in use--Chromebooks now make up over 1/3 of all technology devices in schools.

Innovation Centre Launched

The AVRSB Innovation Centre was created this year. Based at Horton High School, the centre provides school-based staff with a lending library of the latest classroom technology resources such as 3D printers, GoPro cameras, science probes and sensors, digital microscopes, robotics kits and more. The centre has been a great success, giving students and classrooms on-demand access to new technologies needed for specific curriculum outcomes.

Increased Technology Access

AVRSB has achieved a 1.22:1 device-to-student ratio. Students now have increased access to tablets, Chromebooks and netbooks, and traditional computers.

Beebots Develop Coding Skills

Every elementary school now has a Beebot kit. These are programmable robots used to introduce coding to our youngest students. 208 Beebots and 58 Beebot kits were deployed this year.

Wireless Internet Upgrades

All AVRSB schools have wireless internet access, with upgrades to existing wireless systems in progress to provide a network capable of supporting a 1:1 student-to-device model.

Tech Tune Up 2017

In March 2017, AVRSB hosted Tech Tune Up 2017, a conference for school board information technology staff to receive professional development and information on new trends in technology.



AVRSB@21C Student Innovation Conference

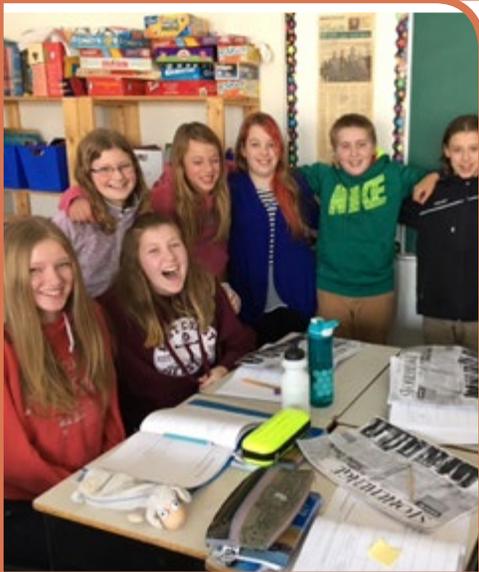
More than 80 AVRSB high school students took part in the second annual AVRSB@21C student innovation conference on April 26.

Students interacted with entrepreneurs, tech experts and innovators as they developed ideas to address challenges such as clean energy, rural internet access, and changing demographics. The goal of the conference is to have students explore skills that can lead to careers and opportunities in their own communities. As part of the experience, each group receives expert feedback on their business ideas or solutions, and opportunities to work with entrepreneurial coaches and business incubators to continue the development process.

This unique learning opportunity is possible because of the many partners who lend their expertise as coaches and guest speakers. Thank you for supporting student innovation!



A team of student entrepreneurs brainstorming ideas at Acadia University's Fountain Commons during AVRSB@21C.



Learn, Inspire, Grow: Middle Level Showcase

Over 300 teachers, educational assistants, library technicians, school secretaries, Student Support Workers, Native Student Advisors and other staff who work with middle level students attended AVRSB's Middle Level Showcase to share knowledge, learn and reflect on best practices in supporting students in Grades 6-8. This showcase was developed as part of AVRSB's three-year Middle Level Review process. Year 2 of this review is now complete. Areas of focus include teaming, collaborative learning time and improved advocacy for students.

The Middle Level Showcase event featured numerous sessions focused on student learning and development, and a keynote address by educator Jack Berckmeyer. Participants say the day was a great opportunity to connect with their colleagues and discover new ideas to help middle level students succeed. Plans are already in the works for a High School Showcase in 2017-2018, focusing on all aspects of supporting students in grades 9 to 12.

Transportation Division Awarded Gold Status

AVRSB's Transportation Division once again achieved gold standing at the annual Nova Scotia Pupil Transportation Awards. This rating is for high standards in bus driver and student training, accident prevention, bus and garage cleanliness, preventative maintenance and compliance with regulations. AVRSB also received the Gerald W. Buchan Award for earning top scores in the areas above.



School bus safety training for students is part of earning gold status.

We are proud of our Transportation Division staff, and the staff of our contracted carrier, Stock Transportation, for keeping students safe on their travels to and from school.

2016-2017 Budget

\$134,948,915

School Services	80.42%	
Operations Services	17.24%	
Regional Management	2.06%	
Board Governance	0.28%	

