



Report to the Community

June 2016

Welcome to our third edition of the AVRSB Annual Report to the Community. We are pleased to share this review of the 2015-2016 school year with you. Inside, you will find highlights of new and innovative programs, partnerships and developments that have taken place over the past year to advance AVRSB's three goals:

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

We invite you to take a look inside to find out what is happening in classrooms across our region. We are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of AVRSB students supported by dedicated staff, parents and guardians, volunteers, partners and school communities, all committed to the same thing—working together for students.



Board Chair Lavinia Parrish Zwicker
and Superintendent of Schools Margo Tait

AVRSB at a Glance in 2015-2016



12,922 Students



41 Schools +
2 Adult High Schools

AVRSB's Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles



Vision

Working Together
for Students



Mission

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



Guiding Principles

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

Student Success and Achievement

Provincial Homework and Code of Conduct Policies have been implemented to enrich student learning and ensure schools remain safe, inclusive and equitable environments for all learners



Reading Recovery has been introduced at nine schools to support grade one students who need an early literacy boost. One Reading Recovery Teacher Leader provides support and ongoing training to Reading Recovery teachers at each site.

An Early Mathematics Intervention pilot program was in place at L.E. Shaw Elementary and Three Mile Plains District School, with a teacher delivering direct intervention support to students in grades Primary to three.



AVRSB's Experiential Schools--Highbury Education Centre, Lawrencetown Education Centre and West Hants Education Centre--continue to offer rich, hands-on learning settings with a focus on wellness and personal growth for students who are more successful in a non-traditional classroom. All three schools operate programs for high school students, and LEC also offers a Middle Level Experiential Program.



The Observation Survey of Early Literacy Achievement was administered to all grade one students in September 2015 to assess reading and writing abilities, with a follow-up survey in June 2016 to track progress. Teachers use this data to inform classroom instruction, programming, and intervention to meet students' needs. 772 AVRSB students were assessed in September, with 90% of students meeting or approaching expectations, compared to a provincial average of 85% meeting or approaching expectations. Data from June 2016 will be available in the 2016-2017 school year



First Unified Teams in Canada
Horton High School, Central Kings Rural High School and Middleton Regional High School were the first schools in Canada to launch "Project Unify," an inclusive sports program in partnership with Special Olympics NS.

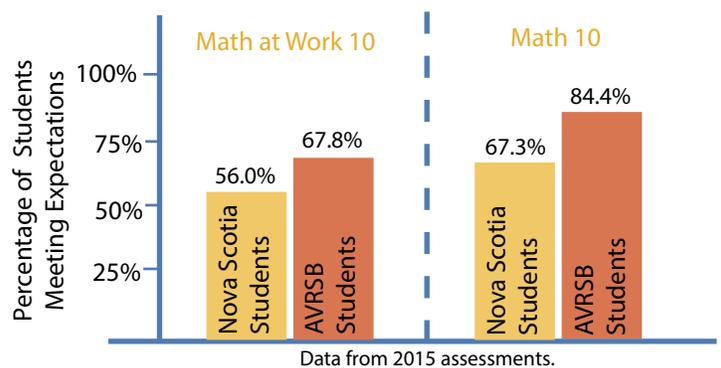


AVRSB Math Strategy Success

AVRSB students continue to perform well in the Grade 10 Nova Scotia Mathematics Examinations. AVRSB students are achieving above the provincial average thanks to students' hard work and the collaborative approach of teachers as part of the AVRSB High School Math Strategy.

Building on the success of the high school strategy, Phase Two of the AVRSB Middle Level Mathematics strategy has been implemented in all grade 6 and 7 classrooms, with grade 8 to be added in 2016-2017.

Grade 10 Nova Scotia Math Examinations



Technology and Innovation

Technology is integrated at all grade levels to support learning where appropriate. Hands-on technology learning through activities like coding and design supports problem-solving, numeracy, literacy and communication skills.

3,027 Chromebooks are in schools, giving students access to "cloud"-based tools for learning and collaboration with teachers and peers. All students and school-based staff have Google Apps for Education accounts available to support these activities.



Nearly 100 high school students took part in the AVRSB@21C student innovation conference. Students worked with experts to develop solutions to challenges like climate change, while learning about technology and business development.

All AVRSB school buildings now have wireless internet access.

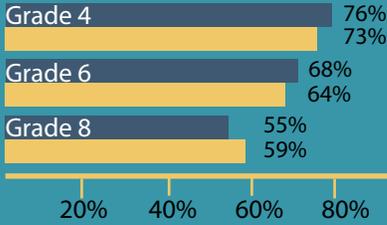


Provincial Assessment Results

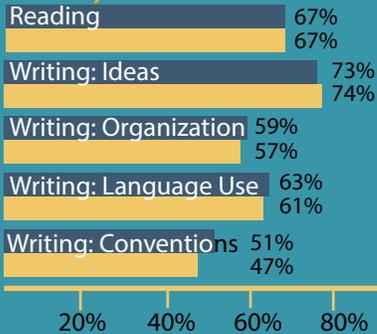
Percentage of students meeting expectations:

■ NS ■ AVRSB

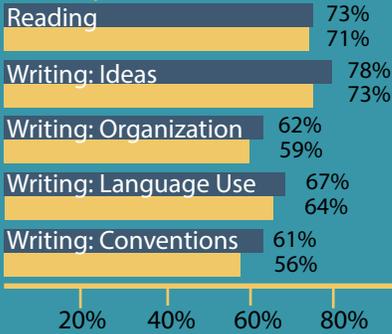
Mathematics



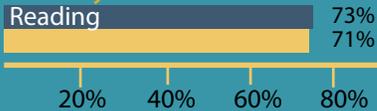
Literacy: Grade 3



Literacy: Grade 6

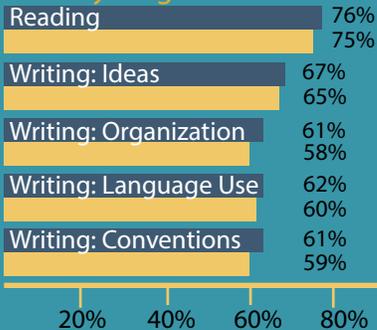


Literacy: Grade 8*



Grade 8 Provincial Writing Assessment was not administered in Nova Scotia in 2014-2015.

Literacy: English 10*



*Grade 3, 4 and 6 data from 2015-2016. Grade 8 and 10 data from 2014-2015. Grade 8 and 10 2015-2016 data available in the 2016-2017 school year.

Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights

Culturally-Responsive Education: Focus on Student Services

Student Services staff, such as speech language pathologists and learning disability specialists, have received professional development on culturally-responsive education practices this year. This training helps ensure student identity, race, culture, ancestry and language are considered and respected in every stage of the program planning process.

Training on Gender, Identity and Transgender Perspectives



School administrators have received training on provincial guidelines for transgender and gender non-conforming students. Administrators ensure staff in schools are aware of these guidelines, and apply them in their day-to-day work.

RCH advisors, Regional Office staff and Board Members have received professional development with LGBTQ+ educator Nolan Pike on gender, identity and transgender perspectives.

First Nation Education Committee Meetings

This year, there has been a focus on networking and building positive relationships between First Nation communities and schools, principals and Native Student Advisors. Through regular meetings with Education Committees of each Mi'kmaq community within AVRSB and the Native Council of Nova Scotia, staff are working to create opportunities for community involvement and strong ties between families and schools.

Self-Identification



We continue to encourage students to self-identify their ancestry and/or Aboriginal identity. This information helps AVRSB better understand students and school communities, contributes to culturally-responsive education practices and allows us to plan appropriate services for all learners.

2014-2015
29%
Students
Self-Identified



2015-2016
51%
Students
Self-Identified

Student Support Worker & Native Student Advisor Programs

The Native Student Advisor and Student Support Worker programs are serving more students, providing culturally-focused support and enrichment opportunities to self-identified students.

235
235 students of First Nation or
Aboriginal ancestry were
supported by a
Native Student Advisor this year,
an increase of 28 students from
2014-2015.



370
370 students of African descent
were supported by a
Student Support Worker this
year, an increase of 11 students
from 2014-2015.





Partnerships

The proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," could not be more true. Students benefit in numerous ways from strong partnerships between AVRSB, schools, service clubs, local businesses, municipalities, government departments and many more.

Thank you to our partners for being part of the village!



West Hants Grade Transition

Schools in West Hants have been planning for a grade configuration change starting in September 2016, when elementary schools will become grade Primary to 5, West Hants Middle School will serve grades 6 to 8, and Avon View High School will become a grade 9 to 12 school. AVHS has undergone renovations to the cafeteria, library and several classroom spaces to accommodate an additional grade level. Throughout the year, transition activities have helped staff, students and families prepare for the transition.

Accessibility at All Schools

With completion of an elevator at Dwight Ross Elementary School, all AVRSB schools are now wheelchair accessible.



Wolfville School

Phase One of renovations began in 2015, focusing on the elementary wing, gym, stage, change rooms, and a building addition. Phase One is winding down in preparation for Phase Two, starting in July 2016. Phase Two will involve demolition of the middle school wing, and the addition of new classrooms and learning spaces for Technology Education, Family Studies and Music, plus a cafeteria and kitchen.



Hantsport School

Renovations began in 2013 and were completed in early 2016. The school exterior and site have been revamped, and the building has been updated with new systems, an elevator, refreshed classrooms, new washrooms, cafeteria, library, Family Studies, Music and administration areas. An official reopening ceremony took place in May 2016.



Early Years Centre at Clark Rutherford Memorial School

AVRSB's first Early Years Centre opened at Clark Rutherford Memorial School in September 2015. Part of a provincial initiative, these centres provide supports and services for young children and their families within school settings. The CRMS Early Years Centre offers early learning programming for four-year-old children, with plans to offer childcare and programs for parents and guardians.



2015-2016 Budget

\$138,530,443

How is the budget distributed?

