

Education Plan and Annual Report Summary

About Pembina Hills School Division

Pembina Hills School Division has 16 schools. Barrhead Composite High School has four feeder schools—Fort Assiniboine, Neerlandia Public Christian, École Barrhead Elementary and Dunstable. R.F. Staples Secondary School in Westlock also has four feeder schools: Pembina North Community School, École Westlock Elementary, Busby and Eleanor Hall. The Barrhead and Westlock high schools also operate off-site Outreach Schools. Swan Hills is a stand-alone K-12 school. Sunny Bend Colony and Pibroch Colony have Hutterite schools. Neerlandia's school has an alternate public program focusing on nondenominational Christian Education. Vista Virtual School provides direct teacher instruction from a distance using online and print services.

Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC)

On behalf of the provincial government, ADLC supports Alberta schools and their students by providing Grade 1-12 course instruction and teaching resources. Governed by the Pembina Hills school board, ADLC is accountable to both the board and Alberta Education. The current service agreement expires August 31, 2020.

Our Priorities

Our results provide reasons for continued focus on three main priorities:

- Student-Teacher Relationships
- Literacy and Numeracy
- Support for Staff

Community Partners are Key

Our schools are the heart of our communities and we count on the partnerships that have been forged. In 2018-19 we collaborated with 136 partners! This is in addition to the 670 volunteers who help in our schools. They coach, read with kids, support classrooms, help out with special events, and lend us their experience in so many ways. For that we are forever thankful!

Safe and Caring Places to Learn

Our schools have excellent learning cultures where children and staff feel safe to learn and grow. PHSD achieved a high rating on this provincial measure. Although we have declined from last year's 'excellent' rating, the results of the local survey showed that 97% of parents agree that their child's school is safe and caring.

School Councils Have a Role

The board has focused on developing effectiveness and collaboration by hosting Council of School Council meetings twice a year. Almost 90% of parents who responded to our annual survey agreed that School Councils have a meaningful role. The value of School Councils is in their ability to translate the needs of the community into actions possible in the schools. Our school principals rely on their School Councils as the ears, eyes and voice of the community.

Results that Matter

Provincial Achievement Tests

Our student results:

- are lower than the province in Social Studies 6
- are on par with the province in ELA 6, Math 6, Science 6, ELA 9, Science 9 And Social Studies 9
- have exceeded the province in Math 9 and each of the 4 K&E subjects (ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies)

Over the past three years, our PAT results have:

- remained stable in Science 6, Social Studies 6, ELA 9, Math 9, Science 9, Social Studies 9, K&E ELA and K&E Science
- improved in ELA 6, Math 6, K&E Math and K&E Social Studies

Diploma Exams

Compared to the province, our students' average final course marks in Diploma Exam subjects:

- are on par with the province in ELA 30-1, ELA 30-2, Social Studies 30-1, Social Studies 30-2, Math 30-1, Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- have exceeded the province in Math 30-2 and Science 30

Over the past three years, average final course marks have:

- declined in Math 30-1
- remained stable in ELA 30-1, ELA 30-2, Social Studies 30-1, Social Studies 30-2, Math 30-2 and Chemistry
- have improved in Biology, Physics and Science 30

Low Drop Out Rate

We can celebrate maintaining a very low drop out rate — less than 2% of students aged 14-18 drop out of our community schools. And we can be very proud of the continuous improvement of our high school completion rate — on average, 83% and 90% of the students in our two largest high schools graduate within three years.

Read the full Education Plan and Annual Report at www.pembinahills.ca/education-plans/

Read the Financial Statements at www.pembinahills.ca/financial-reports/

Accountability Pillar Overall Summary

The Ministry of Education provides a summary of 16 measures. Seven of these are based on survey results—with blue letters—and the others are based on specific data gathered from student information systems—with black letters.

The Achievement Evaluation and Improvement Evaluation in the table below are combined for an Overall Rating as follows.

| Overall Evaluation Rating Scale | Excellent | Good | Acceptable | Issue | Concern |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|------------|-------|---------|
| Measure | Achievement | Improvement | Overall | | |
| Safe and Caring | High | Maintained | Good | | |
| Program of Studies | Intermediate | Declined | Issue | | |
| Education Quality | High | Maintained | Good | | |
| Drop Out Rate | High | Improved | Good | | |
| High School Completion Rate (3yr) | High | Maintained | Good | | |
| PAT: Acceptable | Intermediate | Improved | Good | | |
| PAT: Excellence | Intermediate | Maintained | Acceptable | | |
| Diploma: Acceptable | Intermediate | Maintained | Acceptable | | |
| Diploma: Excellence | Very High | Improved Significantly | Excellent | | |
| Diploma Exam (4+ Exams) | Low | Maintained | Issue | | |
| Rutherford Eligibility Rate | Intermediate | Maintained | Acceptable | | |
| Transition Rate (6yr) | Intermediate | Maintained | Acceptable | | |
| Work Preparation | High | Maintained | Good | | |
| Citizenship | High | Declined | Acceptable | | |
| Parental Involvement | Low | Declined | Issue | | |
| School Involvement | High | Maintained | Good | | |

Addressing Our Challenges

The overall summary pictured above reveals an area of concern related to “Program of Studies”. Within this theme, questions of satisfaction with opportunity for access to language programs, drama and music and health declined while most other results were reasonably similar to previous years.

Another issue area is under “Parental Involvement”. The questions that impacted the declined rating are those that asked about parents’ involvement in decisions about their child’s education, and their opportunities for involvement in those decisions. This was most pronounced in the responses from parents of grade 7-9 and 10-12 students. In contrast, PHSD survey data showed consistency on a similar question regarding parent’s opportunity for involvement in decision making - about 86% satisfaction.

PHSD administration and staff will continue to focus on the Education Plan priorities trusting that efforts in these areas will have a positive impact on the broad items of our ‘report card’.

The Pembina Hills audited financial statements for 2018-19 include:

- Revenue of \$60.17 Million
- Expenses of \$62.22 Million
- Operating deficit of \$2.05 Million

Together with the Alberta Distance Learning Centre, the division manages a combined operating budget of over \$80 Million.

