

THE PALLISER SCHOOL DIVISION

EDUCATION PLAN

June 15, 2021





2021-2025 FOUR YEAR PLAN



Our Commitment

Palliser School Division is committed to engendering and supporting the values of the broader society: empathy, integrity, respect, trust and responsibility. If the children of this community are to realize these values, the division acknowledges its responsibility to provide an exemplary education. It can only do this by establishing a clear sense of the goals it is trying to accomplish, the characteristics of the schools it seeks to provide, and the contributions the various stakeholders must make in order to transform these ideals into reality.

Accountability Statement

The Education Plan for Palliser School Division for the four years commencing Sept. 1, 2021 was prepared under the direction of the Board of Trustees in accordance with the responsibilities under the Education Act and the Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act. This plan was developed in the context of the provincial government's business and fiscal plans. The Division has used its performance results to develop the plan and is committed to implementing the strategies contained within the plan to improve student learning and results. The Board approved the Education Plan for 2021-2025 on May 25, 2021.

Robert Strauss
Board Chair

Dave Driscoll
Superintendent

ABOUT PALLISER SCHOOLS

Palliser's geographical area stretches from Coaldale to Calgary, Alberta. As of fall 2020, the Division currently has approximately 9,400 students. Palliser serves students in ECS through Grade 12 in 51 schools, including 3 outreach programs, 4 alternative Low-German Mennonite programs, 12 alternative program schools, 17 Hutterite colony schools, and an online school, Palliser Beyond Borders. Eleven of Palliser's alternative schools are located in the City of Calgary.

Palliser employs approximately 1,500 staff members in full-time, part-time and casual positions.

The Senior Leadership Team is using the Leadership Quality Standards as the foundational document to shape decision making for the division. As a result, our administrators and senior division leadership are working closely to pursue excellence in the following areas:

1. fostering effective relationships
2. modelling commitment to professional learning
3. embodying visionary leadership
4. leading a learning community
5. supporting the application of foundational knowledge of First Nations, Metis and Inuit
6. providing instructional leadership
7. developing leadership capacity
8. managing school operations and resources
9. understanding and responding to the larger societal context

What we offer*

- Building Futures
- Community Learning Centres
- Dual Credit Programs
- English Language Learning
- Faith-based Programming
- Home Education
- Kindergarten
- Locally Developed Courses
- Off-campus Education
- Online Learning
- Preschool Intervention Programs
- Sports School

*not all programs offered at all schools



Mission Statement

Together we will ensure learning success for all students to develop their unique potential as caring citizens in a changing world.



Creating Cultures of Thinking

We value education as a transformative process that engages students by creating school cultures that value excellence, accountability, integrity, equity and empathy.

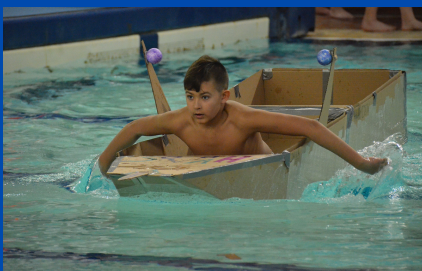
The following beliefs and values are essential to achieve our mission.

Accessibility, Cooperation, Communication, Inclusivity, Diversity, Creativity, Excellence, Critical Thinking, Lifelong Learning, Continuous Improvement, Transparency, Accountability, Respect, Integrity, Fairness, Equity, Empathy, Trust, Responsibility, Commitment.



Palliser School Division has aligned division goals with those established by Alberta Education. Alberta Education goals are:

- Our students are successful.
- Enhance educational outcomes for First Nations, Metis and Inuit students and all other students.
- Our system is inclusive.
- We have excellent teachers, school and school authority leaders.
- Our system is well-governed and managed.



Division goals are:

- WELLNESS - Palliser students will become literate in mental health, gaining knowledge and understanding that will provide them confidence and support in their pursuit of living a healthy life.
- LITERACY - All Palliser students will engage in intentional and meaningful literacy learning across all aspects of daily living.
- NUMERACY - All Palliser students will engage in intentional and meaningful numeracy learning across all aspects of daily living.



Priorities

To achieve our Education Plan, we will focus on:

Schools

- Student engagement - Enhance and promote student voice in their learning.
- Inclusion - Palliser continues to build an environment where diversity is celebrated and all students are supported in their learning endeavours.
- Assessment Practices - Align pedagogical approaches to ensure assessment is relevant and meaningful for students.
- Mental Health - Continue to enhance supports for students and staff.



System

- Literacy and Numeracy continue to be a focus in Palliser across all subjects. We will continue to create opportunities for students to engage in literacy and numeracy learning that allows for student choice, authenticity and shared learning experiences.





Goal One - Wellness

Outcome:

Palliser students will become literate in mental health, gaining knowledge and understanding that will provide them confidence and support in their pursuit of living a healthy life.

Strategies:

- Continue emphasis on mental health promotion and prevention with the rollout of a social-emotional curriculum in every school.
- Expansion of Making Connections Workers in schools.
- Continue development of the Learning Commons within schools to emphasize a welcoming and inclusive learning environment for all students.
- Continue training staff in Mental Health Literacy and Go To Educator.
- Continue with the mental health project for elementary schools.
- Support schools in administering and analyzing Our School surveys for students, parents and staff to identify areas of strength and concerns.

Performance Measures:

- Responses of students who report they have been provided with opportunities to learn about other cultures and people.
- Responses of students who feel they can overcome obstacles.
- Responses of students who say they live a healthy lifestyle.
- Responses of students excessively absent due to health matters.
- Percentage of student conflict incidents reported.
- Overall teacher, parent and student agreement that students are safe at school, learning the importance of caring for others, learning respect for others, and are treated fairly at school.



Goal Two - Literacy

Outcome:

All Palliser students will engage in intentional and meaningful literacy learning across all aspects of daily living.

Strategies:

- Continue emphasis on recognizing various forms of language and literacy across subjects and contexts.
- Continue student participation in engaging literacy learning experiences that allows for student choice, authenticity, and shared literacy experiences.
- Create opportunities for community partnerships that provide literacy support for students and families.
- Support schools in implementing a comprehensive whole-school approach to literacy.
- Continue emphasis on creating opportunities to share and celebrate literacy learning.
- Continue review and support of assessment practices with reading, writing, and language .

Performance Measures:

- Responses of students indicating engagement in real-world, hands-on learning experiences.
- Responses of students who state that their voice counts in their school.
- Responses of students who indicate their schoolwork is meaningful.
- Overall teachers, parents and students satisfied with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies including fine arts, careers, technology, and health and physical education.
- Percentage of students who understand how they learn best.



Goal Three - Numeracy

Outcome:

All Palliser students will engage in intentional and meaningful numeracy learning across all aspects of daily living.

Strategies:

- Map out numeracy initiatives and needs.
- Continue focus on instructional and assessment areas of focus with each school.
- Support schools in using robust data locally administered assessments that support program planning and intervention.
- Continue to provide teachers and schools with targeted numeracy professional learning opportunities.
- Identify and use district teachers and administrators to support numeracy across the curriculum.
- Continue recognizing forms of numeracy across subjects and contexts.
- Support schools with implementing a comprehensive whole-school approach to numeracy.
- Continue to support opportunities to celebrate numeracy within Palliser.

Performance Measures:

- Percentage of students meeting foundational areas of numeracy outcomes.
- Percentage of Gr.1-12 students who met or exceeded expected learning outcomes in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- Overall percentage of students/FNMI students who achieved acceptable standard and the standard of excellence on PAT and diploma exams.
- Overall percentage of teachers, parents, and students indicating their school have improved or stayed the same within the last three years.



2021-2024 Capital Plan

In developing the 3-Year Capital Planning Priorities, the Core Values, Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles of Palliser School Division have led the decision-making process. The priorities developed through this process are envisioned to improve the sustainability of facility operations and maintenance, and to advance the capability and diversity of programming available to students. With historical and current data, three main priorities have been developed. Consultation has led to the development of priority scenarios for the Coalhurst High School, the County Central High School, and Sunny Side School. [LINK TO PLANNING SECTION](#)

Infrastructure, Maintenance and Renewal Projects

Barons, Carmanagy, Champion and Arrowwood parking lots will be paved. New office, washroom reconfiguration at Barons School this summer. Dorothy Dalglish School and Huntsville School will have the fields sodded and seeded. The new school in Coaldale will begin construction.

Coalhurst High School

Coalhurst High School Modernization or Replacement

Given Coalhurst's proximity to West Lethbridge, several Coalhurst high school students leave to attend Chinook High School because the newer facility provides more learning options to students. Palliser School Division would like to modernize or replace the Coalhurst High School to keep students within their community.

County Central High School

County Central High School Modernization or Replacement

Located in the town of Vulcan, County Central High School acts as a central hub for the community. It shares the same site as the town community centre and in part forms the community's recreational hub. The high school has a "body works fitness" facility which is open to the public.

The school lacks natural sunlight and has poor ventilation. The low utilization rate, can be addressed with modernization or replacement as it will provide the opportunity to right-size the facility and reduce operation and maintenance costs.

Sunnyside School

Sunnyside School Replacement

Located on the outskirts of Lethbridge, Sunnyside Elementary School was Constructed in 1952 and received an addition in 1953. Despite lacking programmatic features found in new schools, lacking natural sunlight, and adequate ventilation, the school is very popular. Utilization rates are predicted to increase to 112% in ten years.

2021-2022 Budget

Budget Principles May 31, 2021

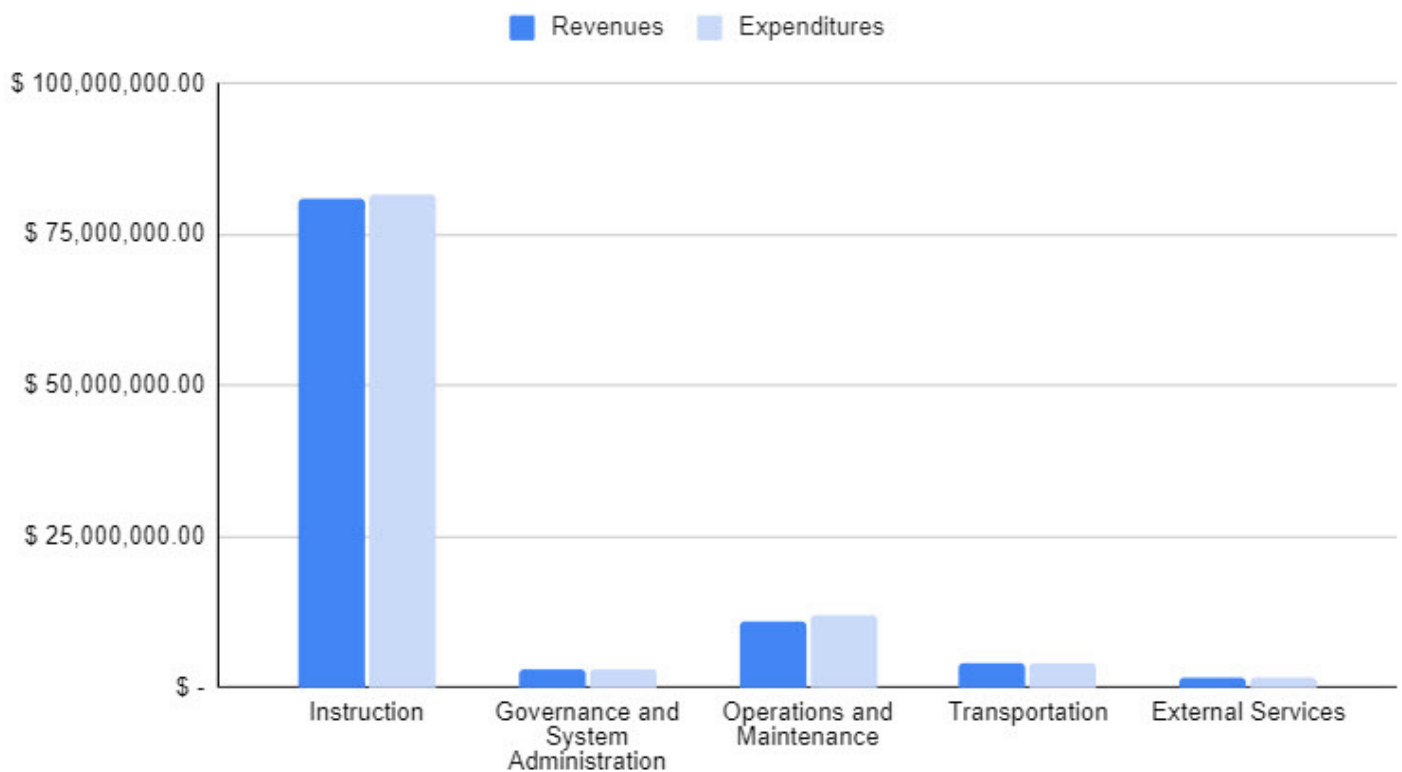
Palliser School Divisions' annual budget is driven by the goals and strategies of its Four Year Plan while addressing the operational needs of the jurisdiction. Recognizing that the superintendent will demonstrate fiscal responsibility by continuing to pursue efficient and effective services, the Board of Trustees has identified the following key priorities to guide the 2021-2022 budget.

- direct classroom funding to maximize student success;
- providing school-based supports for students with complex needs;
- wellness supports; and
- literacy and numeracy skill development.

Palliser School Division is committed to providing the best education it can afford students. Staffing accounts for 80.0% of the total budget.

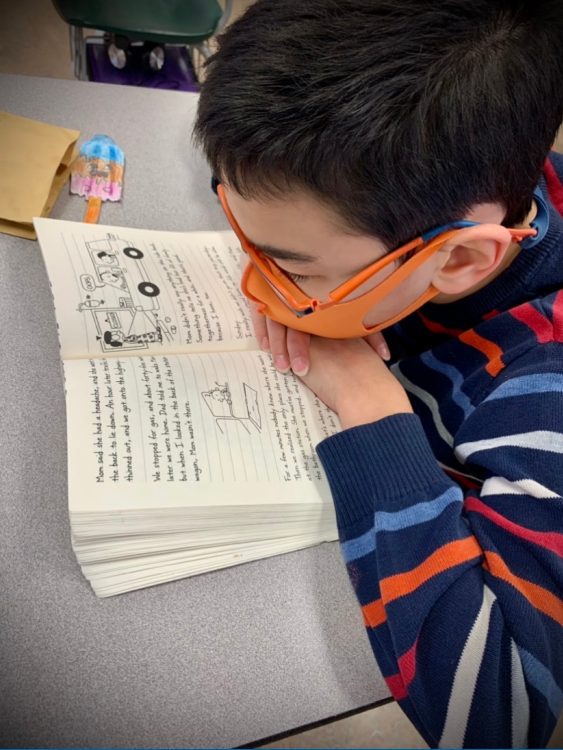
Revenue and Expenses

2021-2022 Revenues and Expenditures



	Revenues	Expenditures
Instruction	\$ 80,853,511.00	\$ 81,637,833.00
Governance and System Administration	\$ 3,198,271.00	\$ 3,039,176.00
Operations and Maintenance	\$ 11,055,571.00	\$ 12,006,523.00
Transportation	\$ 4,195,770.00	\$ 4,131,670.00
External Services	\$ 1,575,666.00	\$ 1,575,666.00
TOTAL	\$ 100,878,789.00	\$ 102,390,868.00

Learn More about Palliser School Division



Palliser School Division encourages parental and community involvement in all schools. Consultation with parents/guardians through school councils is ingrained in Palliser Administrative Procedures, including [Administrative Procedure 102 Three Year School Education Plan](#) which states school plans and results must be prepared by the principal in collaboration with staff, school council, and where appropriate, students.

Palliser Trustees are committed to working with school councils, and they regularly attend school council meetings across the division. Palliser continues to use its [website](#) and social media to engage stakeholders as well. The public can connect with Palliser on Twitter (@PalliserSchools), Instagram (palliserschools) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PalliserRegionalSchools>). Palliser's website allows the public to comment on news stories, as another way to connect and offer feedback.

Palliser School Division encourages our families and community partners to maintain an active interest in the operation of Palliser and our schools, whether through participation in school council or other methods. Palliser information is shared publicly through our website, including Board of Trustee agendas, minutes and highlights packages. As well, dozens of stories and photos about happenings in the division and our schools are regularly posted in the "News" section of our homepage at www.pallisersd.ab.ca.

The Board of Trustees holds regular meetings monthly, except for July. These meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held at Palliser Education Centre in Lethbridge, except during COVID but can be accessed virtually. Palliser Central Office is located in Lethbridge at #101 3305 18 Avenue North. The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Should you have questions, please call the office at 403-328-4111 or toll-free at 1-877-667-1234.

