



E.W. Pratt High School

Education Plan 2023-24

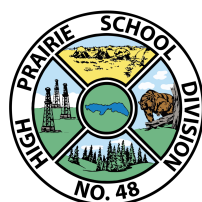
Mission

E.W. Pratt High School strives to prepare students who will:

- Honour and respect First Nations, Metis and Inuit culture and traditions
- Demonstrate leadership in civic, social and environmental concerns
- Engage in 21st century learning
- Balance academic, athletic and creative endeavours
- Progress in a positive and focused school environment
- Develop and have respect for self and others
- Advocate for their diverse learning needs
- Demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning
- Develop career awareness to make informed decisions
- Demonstrate social and emotional awareness and competence

Vision

E.W. Pratt High School provides a caring educational climate which challenges and inspires students towards fulfilling their personal aspirations in becoming responsible and productive members of society.



**Principal**

Etta Viens

Vice Principal

Hillary Hinds

About Us

E.W. Pratt High School, a part of High Prairie School Division, is located in the town of High Prairie in northern Alberta within Big Lakes County. It is located at the junction of Highway 2 and Highway 749, approximately 371 kilometres northwest of Edmonton and 118 kilometres west of Slave Lake.

Our students are offered an academic program with an extensive list of options as well as a wide variety of activities in which to become involved. Our students represent eight different communities in the surrounding region and our staff continues to pride itself in building our students into a single cohesive community. Our student population of approximately 310 students access a wide variety of amenities in the community including an indoor pool, curling rink, skating rink, bowling alley (Enilda), greenhouse, JC Park, and the agriculture centre.

About the Plan

This plan was developed in collaboration with our staff, students, and parents through collaboration sessions, online surveys, and online meetings. This plan will be used to guide our school decisions to meet the identified needs of our school community.

Successes

- Our lunch program success continues to increase.
- Our breakfast program continues to grow in popularity.
- Extra-curricular activities have increased this past year, with more student engagement.
- Optional programs continue to expand and improve, including Foods, Finance and Entrepreneurship, Agricultural Leadership, and Robotics and Coding.
- More student involvement, and a higher success rate, regarding dual credit opportunities for students including Business Administration and Power Engineering. Every year, we also have at least one student take the Oil and Gas and Practical Nurse Course dual credit offering. These dual credit opportunities are helping our returning students in their transition to post-secondary institutions.
- Our school offers a RAP (Registered Apprenticeship Program) and at least two students participate every year with local mechanic shops. In the past, we've also had welding and RV technician opportunities for students.
- Our transition rate has been increasing year over year. We have are continuing to offer students opportunities to learn about post-secondary institutions (campus tours and visits from recruiters) so our students are aware of the programs available to them.
- We are also very proud of our incredible Art programming available to students. They are featured regularly in our local media, and produce a high-calibre product. Students have won awards for the art they produce on a regular basis.
- We were very lucky to have one of our students nominated for the Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award from the Alberta School Boards Association.
- Our school nutrition program was featured at the most recent Ever Active Schools Symposium. Our school Wellness Coach and Foods Teacher presented on the incredible foods program, which has grown to have our own students preparing and serving hot lunches to students, to school authorities across the province. This has prompted students in our school to rethink their future career goals to now include culinary arts as a strong option. We have four students who are now seeking post-secondary education in the field of culinary arts.
- Our students are taking advantage of our new and expanded lunchtime remediation program where students can access teachers for extra help with their schoolwork. This was noted by students during our most recent school survey where there was a 26% increase in the number of students who felt they could receive help at school on their coursework.

Challenges

- Teachers continue to work with students to ensure that use of cell phones use during class contributes to learning rather than distracting from the lesson.
- Staff continue to work on increasing student engagement to combat sporadic attendance that could impede success at school.
- Assignment submission has improved, but not always on time. Staff are trying new and inventive ways, including regular contact with parents and guardians, to help students be successful in the timely submission of their assignments.
- While we do have some students who have been known to exhibit test avoidance behaviours, staff are working on ways to overcome that test anxiety and provide accommodations, including quiet spaces and ambient noise, to address this concern.
- Every year we work together to establish clear guidelines and routines with students to prevent skipping behaviour and gathering in hallways and bathrooms. While we still put effort into this challenge, we know that it is not isolated to our school or our division, and have noticed significant improvements on the part of our students.

Results of the Successes/Challenges

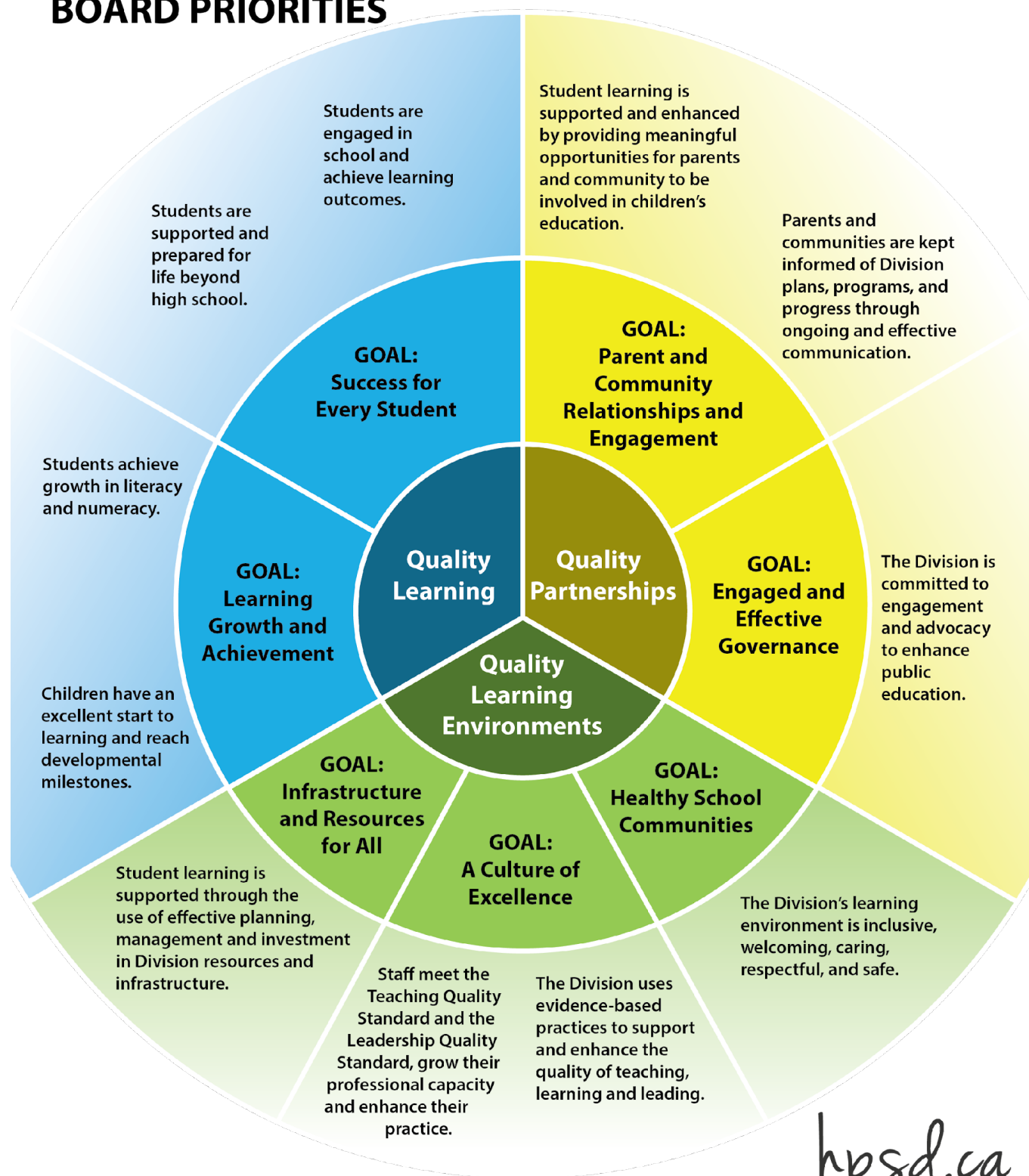
- We continue to see improvement in attitude, engagement, and school culture.
- Attendance has improved overall.
- More students participate in sports.
- More students eat healthy breakfasts and lunches.
- We continue to increase course offerings according to student demand. We will be offering Drama, Creative Writing, Finance Entrepreneurship, Agricultural Leadership, and Guitar. Some parents and students are asking for Cree language courses, which we are actively looking into.
- Our school is being recognized on the local and provincial level for our many successes, both for our students and our staff.

Observations regarding comparison of Education Plan to this year's survey data:

- More people responded to the survey compared to the last two years.
- Data shows improved student relationships and stronger staff connections.
- Students feel safe coming to and from the school, an improvement over last year.
- Students feel like adults care more this year than last year.
- 9% more students feel like someone notices when they are not at school.
- More parents are satisfied with the overall education their children receive.
- More students are satisfied with the specialized supports and services they need but need to continue promoting different learning accommodations and supports that are universally offered to all students to increase parent awareness.
- Many parents feel we are teaching their child to be successful at work when they have completed school.
- Parents are more satisfied with our community outreach to them than previous years.
- 26% increase in the number of students who are comfortable getting help with schoolwork from teachers.
- 11% more students feel their teacher will help them if they have a problem.

- 10% less students feel they have an adult at school to talk to about problems.
- Students feel keeping the school exterior doors locked makes them feel safer.
- 9% more students would miss the lunch program if the program ended.

HIGH PRAIRIE SCHOOL DIVISION BOARD PRIORITIES



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Effective September 2023

School Goals

1. **Goal #1 = Improve Communication and Engagement to Foster Quality Relationships with Parents and Community**

(Aligns with Division priority of Quality Partnership, Parent and Community Relationships and Engagement goal - outcome regarding the support and enhancement of meaningful opportunities for involvement in education)

Strategies

- Increase weekly online posts to our regular website and online calendar. (Goal #1)
- Work on social media engagement with the community by being strategic when posting good news and important information to ensure a broader reach for our content. (Goal #1)
- Continue working with the local newspaper for school activities. (Goal #1)
- Continue engagement with feeder schools (in town and out) through collaborative events with schools in High Prairie like parent nights with guest speakers. We also created a High Prairie events calendar and the Principals in High Prairie meet regularly to discuss upcoming events and opportunities. (Goal #1)
- Strategies to honour students: attendance awards, honours trip. (Goal #1)
- Invite parents to in-person assemblies. (Goal #1)
- We invited a group into the school (Live Different) to train students to take leadership roles so that next year, we can have a student leadership group. (Goal #1)
- Inviting parents and guardians to be part of the planning process for school events and activities, including extracurricular opportunities, to improve overall parental engagement. (Goal #1)
- Bring community elders in for special workshops and events. (Goal #1)
- Teach parents how to review marks and monitor learning through evening sessions on Edsebli so they are equipped to use the software and be more informed of their child's progress, attendance, and achievement. (Goal #1)
- Offering a lunchtime remediation program for students to seek help on schoolwork from their teachers. (Goal #1)

Performance Measures

- On the provincial survey, parental involvement will increase from 77.2% to 80% (currently 82%).
- On the Divisional Student Survey, the percentage of students reporting no-one would notice if they were absent will decrease from 29% to 15% (currently at 21%).
- Increase the rate of participation in the School Council to 10% from .01% (currently at 2%).

2. **Goal #2 – Establish a Healthy School, Especially Regarding Mental Health and Staff and Student Engagement**

(Aligns with Division priority of Quality Learning Environments, Healthy School Communities goal – outcome regarding establishing an inclusive, welcoming, caring, respectful and safe environment)

Strategies

- Continue expanding our course offerings. (Goal #2)
- Continue improving our Collaborative Response teamwork and record-keeping, experimenting with different formats for meetings. (Goal #2)
- Employ student awards for attendance to improve attendance awareness. (Goal #2)
- Teach students more strategies for handling anxiety and stress. (Goal #2)
- Increase the number of opportunities for community activities to foster parent and student engagement. (Goal #2)
- Creating a welcoming environment that is safe through individualized strategies that each staff member can do to provide safe spaces and build relationships. One example is rephrasing how staff connect with students to positively reinforce student behaviour (i.e. “Welcome back! We are so happy to see you today.” for students returning from an extended absence). (Goal #2)
- Allow teachers to teach and develop courses in their areas of passion (passionate teachers foster student engagement). One example is staff developing an Agricultural Leadership Program for students. All new courses are promoted internally through teacher-led collaboration at registration time. (Goal #2)
- Offering a lunchtime remediation program for students to seek help on schoolwork from their teachers. (Goal #2)

Performance Measures

- See a reduction in the number of students receiving targeted social/emotional supports from 9% to 7% (currently 6%).
- On the Divisional Student Survey, the number of students that report feeling they belong at school will increase from 48% to 56% (currently 51%).
- On the Divisional Student Survey, the number of students that report bullying being common at school will decrease from 24% to 18% (currently at 35%).
- On the provincial survey, satisfaction with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies will increase from 74% to 82%.

3. **Goal #3 - Address the gaps (in numeracy and literacy) through collaboration**

(Aligns with Division priority of Quality Learning, goal of Learning Growth and Achievement, outcome regarding students achievement of growth in literacy and numeracy)

Strategies

- Develop more bridging courses, especially for Math and Science. Currently, we offer a Math Fusion course (Math 15 and Math 10C combined) and we are exploring ways to replicate this successful process with Science, Social Studies, and English. (Goal #3)
- Using collaboration time between teachers to share success stories about using different supports for numeracy and literacy, including offering new tools such as IXL,

Read & Write, Grammarly. We brainstorm new ways to use newer literacy and numeracy supports in all classes. A recent example was when we identified that students were having difficulties with fractions. Staff began trialling fraction labels on clocks to reinforce this numeracy outcome and improve learner understanding. (Goal #3)

- Collaborating with the staff at Prairie River Junior High School to develop new methods of ensuring students choose correct courses for their needs and abilities, including monitoring over three years. We look at trends in how students are performing to provide opportunities and programming to meet their needs. Our Timetable is then developed to meet the needs of students, not on the availability of teachers. (Goal #3)
- Continue offering lunchtime remediation to help students with schoolwork. (Goal #3)
- Increasing the use of the community classroom to teach life skills to students in addition to the core subjects. This is also being done in collaboration with staff from PRJHS to understand the needs of upcoming students. (Goal #3)
- Offer year-long courses like Band, Foods, and PE (once every second day for both semesters) to distribute the amount of instruction time evenly throughout the school year so students can develop their skills. (Goal #3)
- Utilize the full capacity of Dossier to investigate detailed PAT and Diploma exam information. (Goal #3)
- Working collaboratively with the HPSD Literacy Committee to explore and evaluate literacy diagnostic tools that will guide teaching to improve student performance in targeted areas. (Goal #3)
- Working with the HPSD Numeracy Committee to explore alternatives to MIPI to provide more detailed information than the MIPI. Currently, MIPI only provides guidance up to Grade 10. This collaboration will allow us to have more guidance for students in all grade levels. (Goal #3)
- Increase collaboration regarding numeracy and literacy presence in all domains, including using common language across all subjects. (Goal #3)
- Increase student responsibility and resiliency by employing targeted strategies to decrease test avoidance, improve overall attendance, and improve timely submission of assignments. Some examples include using ambient noise for students, providing quiet/isolated spaces for testing, and continuous contact with parents regarding assignments. (Goal #3)
- Working collaboratively with leaders and supervisors in local sports teams/associations to ensure student academic performance takes precedence when considering sporting opportunities. This is done through regular meetings and active communication between the sports leaders and school leaders to decrease the amount of class time missed for sports, and that learner plans are in place to address curricular outcomes that the student must complete prior to sporting trips. (Goal #3)

Performance Measures

- See a reduction in the number of students receiving targeted literacy supports from 5% to 3% (currently 1%).
- See a reduction in the number of students receiving targeted numeracy supports from 6% to 3% (currently 6%).
- On provincial results, an increased rate of High School Completion from 50.6% to 57% (currently at 53%).
- On provincial results, an increased rate of Transition to post-secondary programs (apprenticeship or institution) (4yr) from 47% to 55%.