2024 – 2025 GUIDE TO EDUCATION UPDATE

On August 28, the Deputy Minister released the update to the Guide to Education for the 2024-2025 school year. The Guide is an important document for school and system leaders to support education delivery in the province and is the key education policy repository for the Ministry of Education.

The guide includes information and expectations about early childhood services (ECS) to Grade 12 programming, education delivery, and achievement standards (cont).

A summary of the key changes for the current year is available online.

Alberta Education

NEW SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM PILOTING

GPPSD's curriculum-lead staff are finalizing the plan to support the pilot implementation of some or all of the learning outcomes in the draft Kindergarten to Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum.

More than 130 division teachers have indicated their intention to participate in the piloting. The curriculum leads are working to formalize the division's participant list, which must be submitted to Alberta Education to secure funds to provide teacher release time for professional learning and other support.
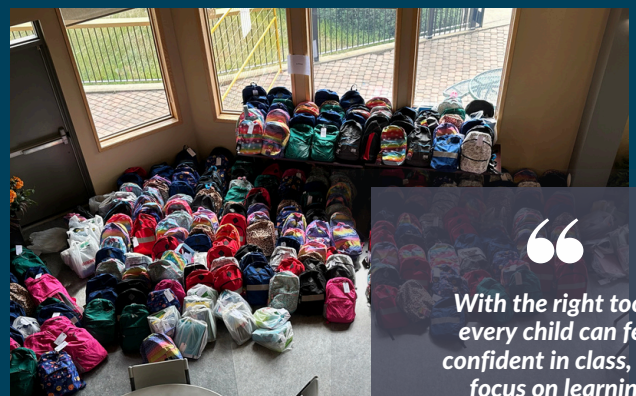
UNITED WAY'S TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

Gratitude was extended to the community of Grande Prairie and the United Way Alberta Northwest for providing back-to-school supplies for over 300 GPPSD students through the 2024 Tools for Schools Campaign.

The Board thanked GPPSD school staff and community partners for their work last spring identifying students who could use a hand-up.

GPPSD Director of Inclusive Learning, Nancy Gorgichuk, along with division maintenance staff, picked up and distributed the packs during the All Administrators Meeting on August 20, 2024.

Image: Ken Loudon Executive Director of UWANW & Nancy Gorgichuk, Director of Inclusive Learning

> "
> *With the right tools, every child can feel confident in class, and focus on learning without worries.*

APPLE SCHOOLS PILOT

Discussions are taking place regarding the potential of piloting the APPLE Schools program, a comprehensive school-based health promotion initiative, in the division schools. Details are currently being finalized for the program to be implemented in four division schools, at no cost to the division, beginning in January for a period of two to three years.

INFORMATION ABOUT APPLE SCHOOLS

APPLE Schools is an acronym that stands for A Project Promoting Healthy Living for Everyone in Schools

The program aligns with Priority 2 in GPPSD"s 3-Year Education Plan: "The emotional, physical, and mental health of all students and staff is supported".

The program uses a Comprehensive School Health (CSH) approach to empower school communities to lead, choose and be healthy. Read more by visiting https://appleschools.ca/.

More information about the location and content of the program within GPPSD schools will be shared as it is finalized.

Students in APPLE Schools take ownership of their own health and demonstrate:

Increased Physical Activity
- 35% increase in physical activity
- 2-3 times more steps taken per day
- Increases in physical activity during school hours, afterschool hours, and on weekends

Improved Dietary Habits
- Students eat 10% more fruits and vegetables and consume 237 fewer calories per day. (2)

Better Mental Health
- Students have fewer mental health visits to the doctor during adolescence than students who did not attend an APPLE school during childhood. (7)

Decreased Obesity
- Students are nearly 40% less likely to be obese than in comparison schools. (2)

Improvements in Health for All Students
- Increases in physical activity are seen across all students, regardless of whether they were active or not beforehand
- Children with the lowest starting levels of activity benefit the most.
- The project helps both average and overweight students, and students of diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

Improvements in Learning Outcomes
- Students show improved quality of life, leadership abilities, productivity and learning outcomes. (1)

Return on Investment
- For every $1 spent on the program, $3.20 in future health care costs are avoided.
- Every $1 spent on the program will save $8.60 in future costs when considering costs associated with productivity loss and premature death.

Paradigm Shift
- APPLE Schools represents a paradigm shift-changing the current approach to health in Alberta from a focus on acute care, after-the-fact health interventions, into a truly effective and preventive approach.
- Students in APPLE Schools take the message of active living and healthy eating into their own leisure time outside of school hours.
- APPLE Schools represents a commitment to health promotion and disease prevention that targets children at a critical stage of development when life-long habits are being formed (ages 5-7).

Board Meetings

6:00 p.m., Central Office Board Room, Grande Prairie Public School Division

Future Board Meetings

September 24, 2024
October 8, 2024
October 22, 2024
November 12, 2024
November 26, 2024
December 10, 2024
January 10, 2025
January 28, 2025
February 11, 2025
February 25, 2025
March 11, 2025
March 25, 2025
April 8, 2025
April 22, 2025
May 13, 2025
May 25, 2025
June 10, 2025

Individuals or groups who wish to make comment on any specific item on the agenda of a Board meeting are required to register with the Board Office by noon of the day of the Board meeting. The full Board Policy 7 can be found on our website

GPPSD GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Trustees discussed the GPPSD Board Governance Framework being developed this year. The goal is to make the beliefs, values, and actions at the division's core of board governance more visible.

The document will describe board governance in more detail for individuals or groups interested in the school division's governance and support school board trustee candidates in future municipal elections.

Image (L-R): Trustee Andre Ouellette, Trustee Ray Buziak, MLA Grande Prairie Nolan Dyck, MLA Grande Prairie-Wapiti Ron Wiebe, Trustee Chris Johnston, Board Chair Joan Nellis