## School District No. 60 (Peace River North)

## ACCOUNTABILITY CONTRACT

## 2005-06

## DISTRICT CONTEXT:

The Peace River North School District is located on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains in the northern tip of the Canadian Prairies. The region's economy is both prosperous and expanding. This positive economic outlook is based on the petro-chemical, agriculture, forestry, tourism and commercial/service industries. The availability of employment has an impact on the secondary student population with estimates of $70 \%$ of our secondary students working between 14 and 40 hours weekly. We are in the unique situation of experiencing an increase in student enrolment. Our student numbers have increased from 5650 to 5716 FTE.

Our schools range in size and number including an Open Learning School, three two-room rural schools and four kindergarten to secondary grade schools. The major center, Fort St. John, hosts six modern elementary schools, two junior secondary schools, and one large senior secondary school. There are also three elementary schools in the surrounding communities of Taylor, Charlie Lake and Baldonnel. The district hosts one of the nine provincial Distance Education Schools, which serves the northeast region and parts of the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

The district's student population is diverse. At this time, we accommodate the education needs of our First Nations students who make up $18 \%$ of our student population, our European ESL students, and the dominant Caucasian student population. The district's character is also diverse with the need to blend rural and urban philosophies and the distinct provincial perspectives of two strong provinces, Alberta and B.C. There is also a strong northern influence with a community philosophy that values personal resilience, the sense of entrepreneurial spirit, and hard work.

The district is committed to providing a quality education program to all students. Specific areas of strength based on student performance that we would like to celebrate include:

- success of our early literacy program resulting in steadily increasing numbers of students meeting or exceeding targets in reading;
- achievement of our Aboriginal students who continue to perform above Provincial levels in a variety of measures of school success;
- student improvement in writing, resulting from the integration of technology through the Wireless Writing Program; and
- success of our career programs as evidenced by high completion rates in secondary school apprenticeships and level one training in a range of trades and technical areas leading to subsequent employment.

District staff, in consultation with representatives from different stakeholder groups, have developed the district Accountability Contract. An interactive process involving data driven dialogue with district administrators, trustees, students, parents and teachers, along with an extensive review of the school Improvement Plans developed by School Planning Councils, took place before submitting the final document. School administrators participated in activities to ensure that the Accountability Contract and School Improvement Plans were aligned and provided input on the prioritization of district goals. Thus, the district accountability contract reflects both school and district goals. The First Nations Council and district First Nations support staff were actively involved in articulating goals for Aboriginal students.

School District No. 60 participated in a District Review in April of 2004. The review team made three recommendations to the district, summarized below with our response:
(1). That the district reduce and prioritize district goals, and ensure thoughtful selection and consistent use of data when setting goals to support student achievement at the school level.

- The Accountability Contract has been revised to eliminate some goals and objectives to permit a focus on priorities.
- Principals and Vice-Principals have participated in coaching sessions with John Taylor and training with Bruce Wellman on effective use of data for setting and monitoring student achievement goals.
- Principals and Vice-Principals engage in peer reviews of their draft school improvement plans, receive feedback from district staff, and then present their plans, along with members of their School Planning Councils, to a review committee comprised of members of the Board and district staff.
(2). That the district work in partnership with the Aboriginal communities to develop an Enhancement Agreement which supports Aboriginal student achievement and encourages deeper understanding of local Aboriginal history and culture for all students and staff.
- After a lengthy process of consultation with the First Nations community, an Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement has been developed and presented to the Board of Trustees for review. The approval process is expected to be completed by early 2006. This document outlines a range of strategies to promote a deeper understanding of local Aboriginal history and culture.
(3). That the district develop more two-way dialogue with partner groups.
- The Board rotates the second Board Meeting each month to a different school venue, encouraging parents to participate and provide feedback to Board members and district staff, and offering an opportunity for them to showcase their schools.
- The Superintendent hosts a monthly meeting with the SUP-PAC Committee, whose membership includes the President of each school PAC. This forum permits two-way dialogue with parents regarding a wide range of educational issues focused on student achievement.
- The district will create a Student Achievement Interpretative Committee with representation from our School Trustees and stakeholder groups. The purpose of the committee will be to review information on student achievement and make recommendations to the Board regarding learning priorities and goal setting.

The district has developed an early Spring training session and year-end evaluation session for School Planning Councils. All schools and School Planning Councils participate in a district-wide planning day held in May of each year.

GOAL 1: To develop students who are socially responsible and contribute positively to a safe and caring school environment.

RATIONALE FOR THE GOAL: Provincial Satisfaction Survey results indicate very little change in our results from last year in response to the following three questions:

1) At school are you bullied, teased or picked on? - $16 \%$ of Grade 4 students, $12 \%$ of Grade 7 students, $13 \%$ of Grade 10 students, and $7 \%$ of Grade 12 students felt that they had been bullied at school.
2) Do you feel safe at school? - 79\% of Grade 4 students, $75 \%$ of Grade 7 students, $76 \%$ of Grade 10 students, and $76 \%$ of Grade 12 students said they felt safe at school.
3) At school do you respect people who are different from you? - $86 \%$ of Grade 4 students, $86 \%$ of Grade 7 students, $80 \%$ of Grade 10 students, and $85 \%$ of Grade 12 students felt that they respected people who were different than them.
There were no significant changes from last year other than $5 \%$ more of our Grade 12 students said they felt safe at school. On all three questions Grade 4 students and Elementary Parents were less satisfied than the rest of the province.

District suspension data indicates a reduction in the number of student suspensions; however, we see a need to analyze the inconsistencies from year-to-year.



| Performance Indicator/Evidence |  |  |  |  | Target | Results |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Suspension Data: |  |  |  |  | To consistently reduce the total number of suspensions issued per year. Our target for $2005 / 06$ is 300 or lower. <br> *The number of suspensions for "Fighting" and "Drugs and Alcohol" has fluctuated dramatically from year-toyear. Our Social Responsibility Leadership Team will analyze the use, and reporting, of student suspensions on a districtwide basis. | Differences - the table below shows the differences between this year and last: |  |  |  |
| Year | Fighting | Drugs/Alc | Other | Total |  |  |  |  |  |
| 00/01 | 84 | 86 | 199 | 369 |  |  | 03/04 | 04/05 | Difference |
| 01/02 | 154 | 94 | 225 | 473 |  | Fighting | 92 | 116 | +24 |
| 02/03 | 73 | 81 | 218 | 372 |  | Dr/Alc | 95 | 52 | -43 |
| 03/04 | 92 | 95 | 286 | 473 |  | Other | 286 | 209 | -77 |
| 04/05 | 116 | 52 | 209 | 377 |  | Total | 473 | 377 | -96 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |



## Strategies:

- The District Social Responsibility Leadership Team will oversee the implementation of Effective Behaviour Support (EBS) in pilot schools this year. The committee will meet monthly and attend an EBS Planning Session in the fall of 2005.
- The District Social Responsibility Leadership Team will review instructional materials for implementation of the CAPP curriculum and use of the B.C. Performance Standards on Social Responsibility.
- The District Social Responsibility Leadership Team will work with First Nations Education staff to develop and implement a District Aboriginal Healing Circle to add to our arsenal of interventions.


## Structures:

- A localized Social Responsibility/Satisfaction Survey for students and parents will be designed and administered at selected Grade levels.
- In an effort to align our Social Responsibility initiatives and Student Conduct/Discipline, the Assistant Superintendent will now be responsible for both areas.


## GOAL 2: To improve student achievement in writing.

RATIONALE FOR THE GOAL: There has been a historical trend of student performance on the Grades 4 and 7 Writing FSA falling below the provincial results. In 2001/2002 the district initiated the Wireless Writing Project as one strategy to improve writing skills at the upper elementary level. This project integrates technology with the use of the B.C. Writing Performance Standards, and staff development to improve student success in writing. The project was initiated district-wide, at the Grades $6 / 7$ level in 2003 with positive outcomes, and will expand to Grade 8 this year. We will continue to monitor the impact of this project on student achievement in Writing.

OBJECTIVE 2.1: Improve writing skills at the K through Grade 10 levels

| Performance Indicator/ | vidence |  |  | Target | Results |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | District and Provincial Results For Writing FSA Grade 4 |  |  | Increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in | 2004/05 <br> Progress toward target made. Writing performance increased from $85 \%$ to $90 \%$ |
| Year | District Meeting or Exceeding Expect. | Province Meeting or Exceeding Expect. | District Compare to Province | the Grade 4 Writing FSA from 90\% to 95\% by June 2007. | (+/- $3.8 \%$ ) and was not significantly different from Provincial results. |
| 00/01 | 84\% | 91\% | below |  |  |
| 01/02 | 90\% | 94\% | below |  |  |
| 02/03 | 93\% | 94\% | NSD |  |  |
| 03/04 | 85\% | 91\% | below |  |  |
| 04/05 | 90\% | 93\% | NSD |  |  |
| 05/06 |  |  |  |  |  |

District and Provincial Results
For Writing FSA
Grade 7

| Year | District <br> Meeting or <br> Exceeding <br> Expect. | Province <br> Meeting or <br> Exceeding <br> Expect. | District <br> Compare <br> to <br> Province |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $00 / 01$ | $73 \%$ | $81 \%$ | below |
| $01 / 02$ | $74 \%$ | $84 \%$ | below |
| $02 / 03$ | $76 \%$ | $79 \%$ | NSD |
| $03 / 04$ | $90 \%$ | $90 \%$ | NSD |
| $04 / 05$ | $87 \%$ | $90 \%$ | NSD |
| $05 / 06$ |  |  |  |

District and Provincial Results Graduation Program Exam

English 10

| Year | District <br> Average <br> Best Mark | Province <br> Average <br> Best Mark | District <br> Compare <br> to <br> Province |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $04 / 05$ | $67 \%$ | $69 \%$ | below |
| $05 / 06$ |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Aggregated Final Report Card Data
\% of Students with C+ or better in Writing/English

| Grade | $02 / 03$ | $03 / 04$ | $04 / 05$ | $05 / 06$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4 | $77 \%$ | $76 \%$ | $76 \%$ |  |
| 7 | $70 \%$ | $66 \%$ | $71 \%$ |  |
| 10 | $45 \%$ | $55 \%$ | $49 \%$ |  |

Aggregated Final Report Card Data \% of Students with I or F

English 10

| Grade | $02 / 03$ | $03 / 04$ | $04 / 05$ | $05 / 06$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10 | $16 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $8 \%$ |  |

Increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in the Grade 7 Writing FSA from $87 \%$ to $95 \%$ by June 2007.

District performance on the English 10 Provincial exam will meet or exceed the Provincial performance.

Increase the percentage of students achieving C+ or better on the final report card mark for Writing/English:
Gr. 4 76\% to 90\% Gr. 7 71\% to $90 \%$ Gr. 10 49\% to 70\% by June 2007.

Reduce the percentage of English 10 students who receive a mark of F or I from $8 \%$ to $2 \%$.

## 2004/05

Writing performance decreased from 90\% to $87 \%$ (+/- $3.5 \%$ ) but was not significantly different from Provincial results. Target not met.

Baseline data. Margin of error not known at this time.

Report card performance remained the same at Grade 4, improved slightly at Grade 7, and decreased at Grade 10. Target not met.

Progress toward target made. The percentage of English 10 students receiving a mark of F or I was reduced by 1\% last year.

Wireless Writing Project Internal Data
Overall Results and Results by Grade and Gender:
June 2004 and June 2005
\% of Students Meeting/Exceeding

|  | Not Yet <br> Meeting | Minimally <br> Meeting | Fully <br> Meeting | Exceeds | Fully <br> Meets or <br> Exceeds <br> Combined |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| All Students <br> 2004 (n=693) | 14 | 50 | 30 | 6 | 36 |
| All Students <br> 2005 (n=690) | 12 | 42 | 35 | 11 | 46 |
| Grade 6 <br> 2004 (n=336) | 10 | 52 | 33 | 5 | 38 |
| Grade 6 <br> 2005 (n=319) | 12 | 41 | 38 | 9 | 47 |
| Grade 7 <br> 2004 (n=356) | 18 | 47 | 29 | 6 | 35 |
| Grade 7 <br> $2005(n=346$ | 12 | 44 | 31 | 12 | 43 |
| Boys <br> $2004(n=246)$ | 18 | 56 | 22 | 3 | 25 |
| Boys <br> 2005 (n=332) | 11 | 41 | 36 | 12 | 48 |
| Girls <br> 2004 (n=267) | 8 | 45 | 39 | 8 | 47 |
| Girls <br> $2005(n=319)$ | 12 | 41 | 38 | 9 | 47 |

Wireless Writing Project Internal Data
Student Survey Results
\% of Students Reporting Often/Most of the Time
I like writing

| 2003 | $48 \%$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2004 | $49 \%$ |
| 2005 | $58 \%$ |

Increase the percentage
of students meeting or exceeding expectations in the WWP internal assessment from $88 \%$ to 90\%

Continue to improve student perceptions regarding the efficacy of their writing ability. Increase the percentage of students feeling that they like writing and are good writers to $65 \%$.

2004/05
Progress toward target made.
Nearly half of all students reached the top two levels of achievement, an increase from $36 \%$ in 2004 to $46 \%$ in 2005. There was no significant difference between the percentage of boys and girls scoring in the top two levels of achievement.

A group of students tracked over two years were more successful in meeting Grade-level expectations by the end of Grade 7 than they had been at the end of Grade 6.

Target met. Last year we saw a significant increase in student efficacy in writing.

I am a good writer.

| 2003 | $48 \%$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2004 | $48 \%$ |
| 2005 | $56 \%$ |

## STRATEGIES:

- Increase the number of schools using school-wide writes at the Grades 4-8 levels, using B.C. Performance Standards as a framework for assessment and to inform instruction.
- Continue to work on aligning performance standards with letter Grades in reading and writing.
- Expand school-wide use of Words Their Way to develop spelling and vocabulary skills in writing.


## STRUCTURES:

- Offer collaboration grants to support work of professional learning communities engaged in examining student work, using the B.C. Performance Standards, and adjusting instructional strategies.
- Expand the WWP district-wide to Grade 8 and model, through expanded teacher professional development, the writing initiatives to all English classes. Introduce Grade 8 Math/Science classroom teachers to staff development that aids teachers in integrating laptop technology into their pedagogy. Continue on-going staff development on Wireless Writing for Grades 6 \& 7 classroom teachers. Increase the FTE for Wireless Writing Mentor Teachers from 0.4 to 0.8 to offer in-class support for the program and facilitate transfer of training from workshops.


## GOAL 3: To improve student achievement in Numeracy.

RATIONALE FOR THE GOAL: Classroom instruction in Mathematics across the district has not been consistently aligned with the NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics. A developmental approach to teaching Mathematics is not yet widely used by classroom teachers. At a district Numeracy Alignment Meeting held in the spring of 2003, elementary teachers expressed a reluctance to change their classroom practice due to frustration with the existing instructional resources. In addition, classroom teachers find the B.C. Numeracy Performance Standards difficult to work with. There has been a historical trend of student performance on the Grades 4 and 7 Numeracy FSA falling below the provincial results. District aggregated report card data for $04 / 05$ indicates that the percentage of students achieving "C+" or better in Mathematics improved ,compared to the previous year's data, for students in Grade 7 but dropped for students in Grades 4 and 10.

OBJECTIVE 3.1: To improve mathematics skills at the K through Grade 10 levels.

| Performance Indica | or/Evidence |  |  | Target | Results |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| District and Provincial Results for Numeracy FSA Grade 4 |  |  |  | Increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in the Grade 4 Numeracy FSA from 82\% to 90\% by June 2007. | 2004/05 <br> Numeracy performance dropped from $87 \%$ to 82\% and remained below the Provincial results. Target not met. |
| Year | District Meeting or Exceeding Expect. | Province Meeting or Exceeding Expect. | District Compare to Province |  |  |
| 00/01 | 78\% | 84\% | below |  |  |
| 01/02 | 81\% | 85\% | below |  |  |
| 02/03 | 84\% | 87\% | below |  |  |
| 03/04 | 87\% | 88\% | NSD |  |  |
| 04/05 | 82\% | 87\% | below |  |  |
| 05/06 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | District and Provincial Results for Numeracy FSA Grade 7 |  |  | Increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in the Grade 7 Numeracy FSA from 81\% to 90\% by June 2007. | Progress toward target made. Numeracy performance improved slightly from $80 \%$ to $81 \%$ and was not statistically different from the Provincial results. |
| Year | District Meeting or Exceeding Expect. | Province <br> Meeting or Exceeding Expect. | District Compare to Province |  |  |
| 00/01 | 78\% | 81\% | below |  |  |
| 01/02 | 74\% | 82\% | below |  |  |
| 02/03 | 83\% | 84\% | NSD |  |  |
| 03/04 | 80\% | 83\% | below |  |  |
| 04/05 | 81\% | 83\% | NSD |  |  |
| 05/06 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | District and Provincial Results Graduation Program Exam Principles of Math 10 |  |  | District performance on the three strands of the Math 10 Provincial exams will meet or exceed the Provincial performance. |  |
| Year | District <br> Average Best Mark | Province Average Best Mark | District Compare to Province |  | Baseline data. Margin of error not known at this time. |
| 04/05 | 64\% | 68\% | below |  |  |
| 05/06 |  |  |  |  |  |


| District and Provincial Results Graduation Program Exam Essentials of Math 10 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year | District Average Best Mark | Province Average Best Mark | District Compare to Province |
| 04/05 | 61\% | 60\% | above |
| 05/06 |  |  |  |

District and Provincial Results
Graduation Program Exam

| Year | District <br> Average <br> Best Mark | Province <br> Average <br> Best Mark | District <br> Compare <br> to <br> Province |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $04 / 05$ | $63 \%$ | $62 \%$ | above |
| $05 / 06$ |  |  |  |

Aggregated Final Report Card Data \% of Students with C+ or better in Mathematics

| Grade | $02 / 03$ | $03 / 04$ | $04 / 05$ | $05 / 06$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4 | $77 \%$ | $83 \%$ | $79 \%$ |  |
| 7 | $75 \%$ | $70 \%$ | $77 \%$ |  |
| 10 | $54 \%$ | $58 \%$ | $48 \%$ |  |

Aggregated Final Report Card Data
\% of Students with I or F in Math 10

| Grade | $02 / 03$ | $03 / 04$ | $04 / 05$ | $05 / 06$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10 | $10 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $5 \%$ |  |

## 2004/05

Baseline data. Margin of error not known at this time.

Baseline data. Margin of error not known at this time.

Increase the percentage of students achieving C+ or better on the final report card mark for:
Gr. 4 79\% to 90\%
Gr. 7 77\% to 90\%
Gr. 10 48\% to 75\%
by June 2007.

Reduce the percentage of Math10 students who receive a mark of F or I from 5\% to $2 \%$.

## STRATEGIES:

- Expand implementation of Math Makes Sense from Grades K, 1, and 3 to include Grades 2, 4, and 5. Provide orientation and assessment training sessions for all Grade 2, 4, and 5 classroom teachers and school administrators.
- Complete school inventories of math manipulatives and assist with funding to eliminate gaps in resources.
- Certify four classroom teachers as trainers for Power of Ten. Continue with Power of Ten workshops for primary and intermediate classroom teachers, facilitated by our new local trainers. Contract Trevor Calkins to consult with trainers, offer demonstration classroom lessons, complete training session with Learning Assistants, and provide a parent workshop.
- Continue work on the design and implementation of a district-wide assessment tool for numeracy at the Grades 8 \& 9 levels.
- Coordinate a common assessment, using the assessment tools available with the new elementary math program, at Grades K through 7.


## STRUCTURES:

- Offer collaboration grants to support work of professional learning communities engaged in examining student work, using the B.C. Performance Standards, and adjusting instructional strategies.
- Establish a Math Mentor at each elementary school. Hire a 0.2 Elementary Numeracy Coach to coordinate Math Mentors.


## GOAL 4: To improve Aboriginal student performance on a K-12 basis and to address their emotional needs.

RATIONALE FOR THE GOAL: Although our Aboriginal students do well in comparison to the province, there is a disparity between the academic performance levels of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. In the spring of 2004, a District Review Committee advised that we work in partnership with Aboriginal communities to develop an Enhancement Agreement to support Aboriginal student achievement. We were advised to encourage a deeper understanding of local Aboriginal history and culture for all students and staff. Our First Nations Education staff has worked tirelessly, holding more than twenty focus group meetings, to develop a draft Enhancement Agreement that we are hoping to sign-off in early 2006. The four goals in our Enhancement Agreement include Student Wellness, the establishment of a district-wide Cultural Program to promote Cross-Cultural Awareness, and to increase Academic Success. Our objective is to sign-off and begin to implement our Aboriginal Educational Enhancement Agreement by late November.

Grade-to-Grade transition data for 2003-04 show that $75 \%$ of Aboriginal students who enter Grade 8 graduate with a Dogwood diploma after six years. While this exceeded by $29 \%$ the provincial rate of $46 \%$ we are still below our non-aboriginal rate of $86 \%$. Additionally, Foundational Skills Assessment results indicate that our students exceeded the provincial average on five of six FSA exams and improved over last year on four of six. Our goal was to decrease the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal achievement by $5 \%$ on all exams. We were successful on two of the six and were within $1 \%$ of our target on three others. Grade 7 Writing, however, saw the gap increase from $3 \%$ to $15 \%$.

Objective 4.1:- Reduce the gap between Aboriginal students and the total student performance on FSA exams in our district.

| Performance Indicator/Evidence |  |  |  |  |  | Target | Results |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The gap between Aboriginal and all students scores on FSA exams: |  |  |  |  |  | Reduce the gap between Aboriginal and the total student population by 5\% per year on each FSA exam. | The difference between this year and last: |  |  |
|  | 00/01 | 01/02 | 02/03 | 03/04 | 04/05 |  | Grade 4 Reading |  |  |
| Grade 4 Reading | 12\% | 9\% | 13\% | 13\% | 9\% |  |  | 4\% |  |
| Grade 4 Writing | 7\% | 4\% | 4\% | 8\% | 3\% |  | Grade 4 Numeracy | $5 \%$ $8 \%$ |  |
| Grade 4 Numeracy | 10\% | 6\% | 7\% | 15\% | 7\% |  | Grade 7 Reading | 4\% |  |
| Grade 7 Reading | 19\% | 11\% | 19\% | 19\% | 15\% |  | Grade 7 Writing | -12\% |  |
| Grade 7 <br> Writing | 21\% | 4\% | 20\% | 3\% | 15\% |  | Grade 7 Numeracy | 4\% |  |
| Grade 7 <br> Numeracy | 15\% | 9\% | 6\% | 16\% | 12\% |  | We reduced the gap met our 5\% target on | ve of exam | We |

Objective 4.2: To increase the percentage of Aboriginal students who complete their Dogwood diploma within 6 years.


## Strategies:

Bring the development process of the Aboriginal Educational Enhancement Agreement to conclusion and begin implementation of the document and the strategies embedded within. These include:

- Continuing to offer First Nations Support programs at North Peace Senior Secondary and Dr. Kearney Junior Secondary and to monitor their results.
- Continuing to track Aboriginal Early Literacy data.
- Collecting information regarding reasons for withdrawals by Aboriginal students consistently on a district-wide basis.


## Structures:

New structures included in our proposed Enhancement Agreement are:

- The development and implementation of an Aboriginal Peer Helping Program.
- The development of curriculum for our Aboriginal Cultural Program.
- The development and administration of a "Belonging" survey.
- The creation of a District Aboriginal Healing Circle to address discipline issues.
- The production of a monthly First Nations Education newsletter.


## GOAL 5: To improve student transition and final exam results.

RATIONALE FOR THE GOAL: An analysis of Dogwood Completion Rates Within Six Years indicates that the district enjoys a favorable rate that is above that of the province. The trend lines for sub groups (males, females, and Aboriginal students) show an upward trend, while the trend line for nonAboriginals is flat. The Dogwood completion rate for 2004/05 is not available at the time of writing. At the same time, an analysis of our Grade Progression Rates over six years indicates that while we are above the provincial rate for all sub populations, and in particular Aboriginal students, there is a marked decrease in the number of students moving from Grade 11 into Grade 12. This is a trend that we are working to reverse with some success. We need to continue our work in this area because it impacts directly on the number of students who are able to successfully graduate with a Dogwood diploma. Data for 2004/05 are not available to us at the time of writing.

An analysis of our Grade 12 Provincial Examination Average Scores indicates that we are making progress toward our target of meeting or exceeding the provincial average in all subjects. There are some subjects, however, that continue to remain an area of concern. Data for 2004/05 are not available at this time. While we enjoy a Dogwood completion rate above the provincial average, we need to be concerned with the level of success our students have in writing our final examinations since these marks determine many career opportunities. At the same time that we are improving in our final examination standings, we have experienced a two-year decline in the Grade Point Average (GPA) of our graduates. GPA over time is an indicator of the quality of our graduates. Our standing is currently below the provincial average and that of similar districts. Since GPA is calculated on thirteen graduation courses taken in Grades 11 and 12, it is essential that we examine why this is happening because it has important implications for the ability of our graduates to compete for post secondary career and study opportunities. The fact that some Grade 10 examinations will now be calculated into the GPA as part of the new Graduation Program provides additional impetus for the need to understand and reverse the downward GPA trend. We believe this can be achieved given the success our secondary teachers and administrators have had in improving the average scores in our final examinations

OBJECTIVE 5.1: To increase our Dogwood Completion Rate


| DOGWOOD COMPLETION WITHIN 6 YEARS B.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS | To have each sub population reach $90 \%$ by June 2007. | 2004-05 results are not available at the time of writing. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|       <br> Notes: Students are tracked over time using their Personal Education Numbers (PENs). Students for whom this is the last district of enrolment are included in all district computations, regardless of the first Grade of enrolment. Students moving to another district are excluded from all district computations. The number of students moving out of the province in the 6-year period is estimated from the emigration of Grades 2 to 4 students. Most graduates in the $6^{\text {th }}$ year are excluded, since most graduates graduate after 5 years. |  |  |

OBJECTIVE 5.2: To increase Grade-to-Grade Progression over six years.



OBJECTIVE 5.3: To improve district performance on Grade 12 Final examinations

| Performance Indicator/Evidence |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| COMPARISON OF SCHOOL DISTRICT AND PROVINCIAL MEAN FINAL EXAM SCORES |  |  |  |  |  |
| Exam Mean Score | 00/01 | 01/02 | 02/03 | 03/04 | 04/05 |
| Dist. Applied Math |  | 55 | 66 | 70 | 66 |
| Prov | 51 | 58 | 60 | 61 | 58 |
| Dist. Biology | 57 | 57 | 57 | 59 | 69 |
| Prov. | 64 | 66 | 65 | 67 | 68 |
| Dist. Chemistry | 64 | 64 | 64 | 68 | 68 |
| Prov. | 73 | 73 | 73 | 70 | 71 |
| Dist. Communications | 67 | 69 | 69 | 68 | 69 |
| Prov. | 64 | 67 | 68 | 66 | 66 |
| Dist English | 66 | 69 | 71 | 68 | 71 |
| Prov. | 67 | 68 | 69 | 68 | 70 |
| Dist. Francais Langue | 67 | 61 | 68* | 62 | 65 |
| Prov. | 73 | 71 | 67 | 70 | 70 |
| Dist. French | 73 | 52 | 61 | 73 | 74 |
| Prov. | 76 | 75 | 75 | 76 | 77 |
| Dist. Geography | 71 | 66 | 68 | 80* | 68 |
| Prov. | 74 | 72 | 77 | 77 | 72 |
| Dist. Geology | 66 | 67* | 70* | 64* | 66 |
| Prov. | 63 | 62 | 62 | 64 | 62 |
| Dist. History | 70 | 63 | 59 | 63 | 60 |
| Prov. | 71 | 69 | 67 | 70 | 70 |
| Dist. Mathematics Prin. | 57 | 61 | 66 | 66 | 66 |
| Prov. | 69 | 71 | 72 | 70 | 72 |
| Dist. Physics | 65 | 58 | 70 | 68 | 71 |
| Prov. | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 72 |

Target
To have the district mean
scores in all Grade12 Final examinations meet or exceed the Provincial Mean Score


- Scores included in the above graph are high lighted in yellow on the table to the left
- Scores with asterisks denote exam participation rates below 10\% of the grade 12 populations.
- At the time of writing Provincial mean examination scores were not available for 04/05


## Performance Indicator/Evidence <br> AVERAGE GPA OF GRADUATES

B.C. Public Schools, 1995-2004


All public school students selected in each district, INCLUDING CONTINUING EDUCATION

|  | $\mathbf{1 9 9 5}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 9 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 9 7}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 9 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 9 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 4}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Similar districts maximum | 2.92 | 2.82 | 2.98 | 2.93 | 2.98 | 2.99 | 2.96 | 2.99 | 3.01 | 2.99 |
| Similar districts minimum | 2.99 | 2.69 | 2.82 | 2.83 | 2.84 | 2.87 | 2.71 | 2.80 | 2.85 | 2.86 |
| Peace River North | $\mathbf{2 . 6 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 6 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 7 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 7 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 8 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 8 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 8 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 8 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 7 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 7 8}$ |
| Province | $\mathbf{2 . 8 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 8 7}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 7}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 7}$ |
| No. of grads in district | $\mathbf{2 2 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 8}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 7 1}$ | $\mathbf{3 0 1}$ | $\mathbf{3 3 7}$ | $\mathbf{3 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{3 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{3 4 6}$ |
| No. of districts used for data | $\mathbf{5 8}$ | $\mathbf{5 9}$ | $\mathbf{5 9}$ | $\mathbf{5 9}$ | $\mathbf{6 0}$ | $\mathbf{6 0}$ | $\mathbf{6 0}$ | $\mathbf{6 0}$ | $\mathbf{6 0}$ | $\mathbf{6 0}$ |

## Notes:

- The Ministry's Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated from the best 13 courses which contribute towards graduation
- It is based on final letter Grades, which for provincially examinable subjects are $60 \%$ school marks and 40\% provincial exam marks.
- The Grade points for each letter Grade are $A=4 ; B=3 ; C+=2.5 ; C=2 ; C-=1$
- If a GAP is greater than 3.0, the student is considered by the Ministry to have graduated with Honours Standing
- The Ministry's GPA is different from the GPA used for university eligibility, which uses English and the three highest other Grade 12 courses


## Target

To reverse the downward trend in our district GPA, and establish a target after our GPA review.

## Results

At the time of writing information is not available for 2004-05

## AVERAGE GPA OF GRADUATES

## B.C. Public Schools, 1995-2004



All public school students selected in each district, INCLUDING CONTINUING EDUCATION

|  | $\mathbf{1 9 9 5}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 9 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 9 7}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 9 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 9 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 4}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Similar districts maximum | 2.92 | 2.82 | 2.98 | 2.93 | 2.98 | 2.99 | 2.96 | 2.99 | 3.01 | 2.99 |
| Similar districts minimum | 2.69 | 2.69 | 2.82 | 2.83 | 2.84 | 2.87 | 2.71 | 2.80 | 2.85 | 2.86 |
| Peace River North | $\mathbf{2 . 6 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 6 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 7 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 7 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 8 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 8 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 8 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 8 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 7 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 7 8}$ |
| Province | $\mathbf{2 . 8 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 8 7}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 7}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 9 7}$ |
| No. of grads in district | $\mathbf{2 2 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 8}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 7 1}$ | $\mathbf{3 0 1}$ | $\mathbf{3 3 7}$ | $\mathbf{3 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{3 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{3 4 6}$ |
| No. of districts used for data | $\mathbf{5 8}$ | $\mathbf{5 9}$ | $\mathbf{5 9}$ | $\mathbf{5 9}$ | $\mathbf{6 0}$ | $\mathbf{6 0}$ | $\mathbf{6 0}$ | $\mathbf{6 0}$ | $\mathbf{6 0}$ | $\mathbf{6 0}$ |

## Notes:

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- The Ministry's GPA is different from the GPA used for university eligibility, which uses English and the three highest other Grade 12 courses.

To reverse the downward trend in our district GPA, and establish a target after our GPA review.

At the time of writing information is not available for 2004-05

## Strategies:

- Continue to make it a priority to involve our classroom and itinerant teachers in the consultation and committee work related to the improvement of learning. We will continue to build on this year's work with District Leadership Teams in the areas of literacy, numeracy and social responsibility.
- Senior staff will make it a priority to spend some time each week visiting schools and classrooms to talk about student learning.
- Implement the National Assessment Standards and ensure that district policy is developed to support these standards.
- Create a Student Achievement Interpretative Committee with representation from our School Trustees and all stakeholder groups. The intent of such a committee would be to periodically review information on our student achievement and make appropriate recommendations to the Board with respect to learning priorities and goal setting.
- Continue to bring cross Grade groupings of our secondary teachers together to develop common performance standard expectations based on the BC Performance Standards and curriculum learning outcome requirements.
- Work with administrators and teachers in a collaborative effort to complete a review of our Grade Point Average information and develop appropriate goals and strategies at the school and district level to move our GPA upward.
- To continue to develop and implement an in-service program for administrators that builds capacity for the effective supervision of instruction. We will continue to build on the work of Wellman, Marzano, Hulley and introduce "On Common Ground" in order to deepen our understanding of Professional Learning communities and how to sustain them. We will continue to participate in the Ministry focus groups on Supervision as well as participate in a workshop on this theme with Cathy Elliot and team.


## Structures

- To formally address the question of whether or not our current grade structure is best suited to support the delivery of the New Graduation Program. Based on our finding to this question we may need to examine alternative configurations that would best serve the needs of our students.

GOAL 6: To improve student achievement in reading, with an emphasis on building strong foundation skills in early literacy, extending vocabulary skills, and deepening comprehension skills throughout the elementary years.

RATIONALE FOR THE GOAL: Instructional practice in balanced literacy and guided reading is not yet consistent throughout the later primary Grades (23). The use of formative assessment to guide instruction and monitor student learning is not yet common practice in all classrooms. We now have cohort data, which allows us to track the percentage of students meeting year-end reading targets as they move through the primary Grades. Students are not consistently maintaining gains made in reading at the early primary Grades on into later primary Grades. In addition, we find that boys underachieve as compared with girls at the same Grade level, and Aboriginal students underachieve as compared with their non-Aboriginal peers. As a district, the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the Grade 4 and Grade 7 Reading FSA remains below the provincial results.

OBJECTIVE 6.1: Maintain achievement gains realized through early reading interventions at K/Grade 1 levels on into the later primary years.

OBJECTIVE 5.5: To increase percentage of graduates awarded Provincial Scholarships.

## Strategies

- Continue to make it a priority to involve our classroom and itinerant teachers in the consultation and committee work related to the improvement of learning. We will continue to build on this year's work with District Leadership Teams in the areas of literacy, numeracy and social responsibility.
- Senior staff will make it a priority to spend some time each week visiting schools and classrooms to talk about student learning.
- Implement the National Assessment Standards and ensure that district policy is developed to support these standards.
- Create a Student Achievement Interpretative Committee with representation from our School Trustees and all stakeholder groups. The intent of such a committee would be to periodically review information on our student achievement and make appropriate recommendations to the Board with respect to learning priorities and goal setting.
- Continue to bring cross Grade groupings of our secondary teachers together to develop common performance standard expectations based on the BC Performance Standards and curriculum learning outcome requirements.
- Work with administrators and teachers in a collaborative effort to complete a review of our Grade Point Average information and develop appropriate goals and strategies at the school and district level to move our GPA upward
- To continue to develop and implement an in-service program for administrators that builds capacity for the effective supervision of instruction. We will continue to build on the work of Wellman, Marzano, Hulley and introduce "On Common Ground" in order to deepen our understanding of Professional Learning communities and how to sustain them. We will continue to participate in the Ministry focus groups on Supervision as well as participate in a workshop on this theme with Cathy Elliot and team.


## Structures

- To formally address the question of whether or not our current grade structure is best suited to support the delivery of the New Graduation Program. Based on our finding to this question we may need to examine alternative configurations that would best serve the needs of our students.

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vocabulary skills, and deepening comprehension skills throughout the elementary years. vocabulary skills, and deepening comprehension skills throughout the elementary years.

RATIONALE FOR THE GOAL: Instructional practice in balanced literacy and guided reading is not yet consistent throughout the later primary Grades (23). The use of formative assessment to guide instruction and monitor student learning is not yet common practice in all classrooms. We now have cohort data, which allows us to track the percentage of students meeting year-end reading targets as they move through the primary Grades. Students are not consistently maintaining gains made in reading at the early primary Grades on into later primary Grades. In addition, we find that boys underachieve as compared with girls at the same Grade level, and Aboriginal students underachieve as compared with their non-Aboriginal peers. As a district, the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the Grade 4 and Grade 7 Reading FSA remains below the provincial results.

OBJECTIVE 6.1: Maintain achievement gains realized through early reading interventions at K/Grade 1 levels on into the later primary years.

| Performance Indicator/Evidence |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Early Literacy 2001/2002 Cohort Data |  |  |  |
|  | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 |
| Total | 77 | 76 | 83 |
| Boys | 74 | 73 | 81 |
| Girls | 80 | 80 | 86 |
| Aboriginal | 67 | 66 | 76 |

Early Literacy 2002/2003 Cohort Data
Percentage of Students At or Above Target

|  | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 80 | 81 | $62^{*}$ |
| Boys | 74 | 78 | $57^{*}$ |
| Girls | 87 | 84 | $67^{*}$ |
| Aboriginal | 61 | 64 | $49^{*}$ |

Early Literacy 2003/2004 Cohort Data
Percentage of Students At or Above Target

|  | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 82 | 79 |  |
| Boys | 78 | 75 |  |
| Girls | 88 | 83 |  |
| Aboriginal | 55 | 51 |  |

Results

## 2004/05

Target was met for the 2001/2002 cohort.

The 2002/2003 cohort maintained gains from Grade 1 to Grade 2, but dropped in Grade 3. However, this was the first year of a new assessment in Grade 3 which has a greater emphasis on comprehension.

The 2003/2004 cohort dropped slightly in reading performance from Grade 1 to Grade 2. We will analyze contextual factors to determine reasons for this change, and to plan appropriate interventions.

OBJECTIVE 6.2: Boys will perform as well as girls, in reading, by the end of Grade 3.
OBJECTIVE 6.3: Aboriginal students will perform as well as the general population, in reading, by the end of Grade 3.

| Performance Indica | viden |  |  | Target | Results |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Grade Three Instructional Reading <br> \% of Students Reading Level 25 or Higher With Performance Rating of 3 or 4 |  |  |  | The percentage of boys meeting the target for yearend reading in Grade 3 will improve to match the percentage of girls. <br> The percentage of Aboriginal students meeting the target for year-end reading in Grade 3 will improve to match the general population. | 2004/05 <br> The gap between the performance of boys and girls increased from 5 to 10 percentage points. Target not met. |
|  | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |  |  |
| Total | 83\% | 62\%* |  |  |  |
| Boys | 81\% | 57\%* |  |  | The gap between the performance of |
| Girls | 86\% | 67\%* |  |  | Aboriginal students and the general |
| Aboriginal | 76\% | 49\%* |  |  | population increased from 7 to 13 percentage |
| * New Test |  |  |  |  | points, with Aboriginal students scoring lower. Target not met. |

OBJECTIVE 6.4: Improve reading vocabulary and comprehension in the intermediate Grades (4-7).

| Performance Indi | r/Evidence |  |  | Target | Results |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| District and Provincial Results for Reading FSA <br> \% of Grade 4 Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations |  |  |  | Increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the Grade 4 Reading FSA from $74 \%$ to $85 \%$ by June 2007. | 2004/05 <br> Reading performance dropped from $77 \%$ to $74 \%$ and remained below the Provincial results. Target not met. |
| Year | District Meeting or Exceeding Expect. | Province Meeting or Exceeding Expect. | District Compared to Province |  |  |
| 00/01 | 69\% | 78\% | below |  |  |
| 01/02 | 71\% | 80\% | below |  |  |
| 02/03 | 72\% | 77\% | below |  |  |
| 03/04 | 78\% | 80\% | NSD |  |  |
| 04/05 | 74\% | 79\% | below |  |  |
| 05/06 |  |  |  |  |  |

District and Provincial Results for Reading FSA
\% of Grade 7 Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations

| Year | District <br> Meeting or <br> Exceeding <br> Expect. | Province <br> Meeting or <br> Exceeding <br> Expect. | District <br> Compare <br> to <br> Province |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $00 / 01$ | $74 \%$ | $76 \%$ | NSD |
| $01 / 02$ | $73 \%$ | $76 \%$ | below |
| $02 / 03$ | $71 \%$ | $77 \%$ | below |
| $03 / 04$ | $77 \%$ | $80 \%$ | below |
| $04 / 05$ | $72 \%$ | $77 \%$ | below |
| $05 / 06$ |  |  |  |

Increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the Grade 7 Reading FSA from 72\% to 85\% by June 2007.

2004/05
Reading performance dropped from $77 \%$ to 72\% and remained below the Provincial results. Target not met.

OBJECTIVE 6.5: Ensure that at-risk students at the junior secondary level have the basic literacy skills to allow them to read successfully in the content areas.

| Performance Indicator/Evidence | Target | Results |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Gates McGinitie reading test administered at the beginning and end of the reading intervention course. <br> At Bert Bowes, 15/26 students improved in reading vocabulary, 20/26 improved in comprehension, and 7/26 brought post-intervention scores into the $40^{\text {th }}$ percentile range. | Grade 8 \& 9 students participating in a reading intervention class improve performance on a standardized reading test from below the $20^{\text {th }}$ percentile to the $40^{\text {th }}$ percentile range. | 2004/05 <br> Progress is being made toward target. However, appropriateness of this assessment tool is questioned and a new assessment tool is under review for next year, to be used at both Bert Bowes and Dr. Kearney Junior Secondary Schools. |

## STRATEGIES:

- Engage school administrators in behind the glass and demonstration classroom teaching models of strong primary literacy instruction.
- Pilot the use of "Assessment Walls" to more closely monitor on-going progress of primary students in reading, and to implement interventions on a more timely basis.
- Identify schools where there are populations of students at-risk. In collaboration with administration and staff, implement site specific interventions that are necessary to improve student learning.
- Provide staff development sessions for teachers new to teaching or new to the district on Balanced Literacy/Guided Reading, and SMART Reading.
- Coordinate an Action Research Group for teachers who have participated in the SMART Reading training and are working towards full implementation.
- Introduce district-wide common assessment for reading comprehension at the intermediate Grades (4-7), using DRA or SMART Reading assessment tools in October and June of each school year.


## STRUCTURES:

- Offer collaboration grants to support work of professional learning communities engaged in examining student work, using the B.C. Performance Standards, and adjusting instructional strategies.
- Continue to adjust school schedules to protect 90 minute blocks of uninterrupted time for literacy instruction.
- Protect the instructional time for Reading Recovery teachers in order to maximize the number of weekly lessons.
- Differentiate allocation of additional resources (staff and materials) where there are the highest populations of students at-risk.
- Complete book room inventories at all school sites and provide assistance in eliminating gaps in available student text.
- Increase peer coaching for literacy instruction from 1.0 to 2.0 FTE, establish site based coaches where possible, and provide itinerant coaches where an appropriate teacher leader is not available.

