



2015

Report to the Community

LEARNING FOR LIFE



 **Simcoe County**
District School Board



Total number of schools, June 2015

87 elementary schools
17 secondary schools
7 Learning Centres

WE INSPIRE + EMPOWER

We inspire and empower learning for life — the Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) new mission statement defines what we do and guides our work.

If we—as students, staff, parents and community partners—do everything we can to inspire and empower our students to learn and succeed, then—together—we'll create a community of learners in Simcoe County who are achieving full potential.

That support system goes beyond academics. It includes the programs that empower well-being, the buildings and learning spaces that inspire creativity and the network of caring adults throughout the county who want the best for the young people growing up here. On the pages that follow, you'll read about some of those great programs. You can always learn more by visiting us online at www.scdsb.on.ca or asking for more information at your local public school.

Follow our news on social media: On Twitter [@SCDSB_Schools](https://twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools), on Facebook at facebook.com/SCDSB, Instagram at [SCDSB](https://www.instagram.com/SCDSB) and on our blog at www.sharingsimcoe.com.



INSPIRE + EMPOWER INNOVATION

New learning tools and training help ignite creativity, build connections

- All school libraries now have green screen video kits to give students new ways to express themselves and communicate ideas.
- Four schools have piloted using ChromeBooks in the classroom. Students use the ChromeBooks with Google Apps for Education (GAFE), and save and share their work in the cloud. Feedback from the project has informed the ongoing computer refresh process—ChromeBooks will be included in purchases.
- Teachers and students are using GAFE. Since fall 2014, more than 900 teachers have participated in voluntary training to build their comfort level and knowledge of how to use these tools for learning.
- There are more than 4,500 iPads in use in the system. This includes 1,315 iPads that were distributed to schools in fall 2014 and are maintained through a tool called *AirWatch* that allows staff to centrally support the devices.

SCDSB joins international education program

Thirteen schools are involved in an international partnership called *New Pedagogies for Deeper Learning (NPDL)*. Our schools are among 100 schools from 10 countries around the world experimenting with classroom strategies, reporting findings and sharing successes. NPDL focuses on:

- the deep learning goals (Six Cs) of creativity, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, citizenship and character
- partnerships between students, parents, teachers and the community
- using digital tools and resources to accelerate learning

Pedagogy (noun):

the method and practice of teaching, especially as an academic subject or theoretical concept.

Classroom innovation powered by the sun

The SCDSB partnered with AMP Solar Group and Potentia Solar to install solar panels on the rooftops of 27 schools across Simcoe County. The solar panels will generate a total of 2.5 MW of renewable electricity to feed the provincial energy grid.

As part of this partnership, students can monitor energy produced at their school and compare it to other schools in the county and Ontario. Students will also participate in solar and renewable energy workshops and presentations.

FNMI project blends math and culture

Two teachers from 24 schools are learning from a First Nations community member how to bead on a loom. Teachers and students are pulling mathematical concepts from their beading patterns. Grade-level numeracy, geometry, patterning and measurement skills are reinforced. The initiative is part of a research project with Lakehead University and the Ministry of Education, and is included in our *Math Action Plan*. For more information about the plan, visit www.scdsb.on.ca, then click on **Programs > Assessment and Curriculum > Math Action Plan**.



Strengthening the brain: mindset project aims to boost effort

Groups of students and teachers are working with researchers from Stanford University's *Project for Education Research That Scales (PERTS) Lab* to build positive mindsets about math and school in general. In spring 2015, all students in Grade 9 math courses participated in a High School Transition Program that shows students how their mind is like a muscle and can become stronger through challenges and effort.

INSPIRE + EMPOWER CONFIDENCE

Targeted special education support in math multiplies rewards

During the second semester of the 2014-15 school year, all secondary schools took part in a unique project to test the impact of having two teachers in Grade 9 and 10 applied math classrooms. The second teacher assigned to classrooms was a Special Education Resource Teacher. The teaching team completed professional learning together to build their skills in co-teaching, math instruction and in using different teaching methods with students who have various strengths and needs. The project increased the teacher-to-student ratio, which boosts one-on-one support. It also prevented the need for students to be removed from the classroom for special education support. Finally, it resulted in significant learning for the teachers involved. Initial feedback gathered through surveys of students and teachers shows strong support for the co-teaching model to continue. The project was a collaboration between the Special Education, Program and Student Success departments, with support from the Ministry of Education. More information about special education is available at www.scdsb.on.ca > **Programs > Special Education.**

New Precision Metal Cutting Program designed to address local labour shortage

Students now have access to a Precision Metal Cutting (PMC) Program through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP). The PMC Program was developed with local employers to help address the shortage of skilled labourers in the PMC trades: tool and die maker, general machinist and mould maker.

In May 2015, the first group of students completed the program, with 11 successful apprentices, and another 14 students registered in the program in June 2015. For more information about the PMC Program or OYAP, contact the OYAP Coordinator at 705-734-6363 ext. 11342.

OYAP is one of the ways students can personalize their learning in secondary school to prepare for a career. For more information about secondary school program options, visit www.scdsb.on.ca > **Students > Secondary Program Info.**

Guidebook helps staff support trans* students

Research has found that students who identify as trans* are more likely to drop out of school and experience mental health issues. Schools must be safe spaces for all students. The equity team worked with students and teachers to develop a guidebook to help school staff, support workers and parents build their own knowledge of the challenges students face, learn what they can do to create an equitable and welcoming school, and ensure they are following the Ontario Human Rights Code. The guidebook was developed in consultation with various community organizations throughout Simcoe County. A copy of the guidebook and more information about equity initiatives are available at www.scdsb.on.ca > **About Us > Equity and Inclusive Education.**





Students and staff trained to support suicide prevention using safeTALK

In an effort to support positive mental health and suicide prevention, we have begun implementation of safeTALK. safeTALK is a training program that prepares individuals to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and connect them to suicide first aid resources. In 2014-15 all staff at Bradford District High School, Collingwood Collegiate Institute and Barrie Central Collegiate participated in the training. Other staff including secondary school teachers, educational assistants, child and youth workers and principals were also trained. At Eastview Secondary School many Grade 12 students were trained in safeTALK in an effort to further promote positive mental health.

Pilot project tests online incident reporting for students

Four schools piloted an online reporting tool that allows students to report bullying or other incidents. While we want students to talk to a family member, teacher or other staff member about a situation, we know not all students are comfortable having these conversations. The Safe Schools Reporting Tool will be available at all schools during the 2015-16 school year. Students will find it on their school website.

Students, parents recognize outstanding staff through STAR program

During the 2014-15 school year, 240 employees received a special recognition—a thank you from a parent, student or colleague who they've impacted in a positive way. The new STAR program provides a way for our community members to highlight employees who have exceeded expectations. Recipients receive a pin and a note from the Director of Education. To nominate a staff member who deserves to be recognized, visit www.scdsb.on.ca > Staff > SCDSB Stars.

INSPIRE + EMPOWER PROGRESS

Full-day Kindergarten now at all schools

The full-day Kindergarten program is now at all SCDSB schools. The program was implemented over five years. The final phase of implementation was completed in September 2014. The multi-year implementation included renovations to 72 schools and an investment of \$25,528,486.

The final phase included the following schools:

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Alcona Glen ES | Ernest Cumberland ES | Nottawa ES |
| Algonquin Ridge ES | Fieldcrest ES | Nottawasaga/Creemore PS |
| Alliston Union PS | Goodfellow PS | Trillium Woods ES |
| Birchview Dunes ES | Holly Meadows ES | Victoria Harbour ES |
| Byng PS | Innisfil Central PS | WC Little ES |
| Chris Hadfield PS | Moonstone ES | West Bayfield ES |
| Couchiching Heights PS | Mountain View ES | |

Before- and after-school program provides seamless day for students

Along with the implementation of full-day kindergarten, we have introduced before- and after-school child care programs run by third-party child care providers. Programs are now available at 94 per cent of schools. When possible, child care staff match activities to the themes students are learning about during the school day to help extend learning. A full list of programs and providers and fee information is available at www.scdsb.on.ca > Schools > Before & After School Care.



SCDSB continues to receive funding for new schools and renovations

In winter 2015, the Ministry of Education announced funding for the construction of a new secondary school in Midland that is the result of the consolidation of Midland and Penetanguishene secondary schools. The Ministry also announced funding for a major addition at Barrie North Collegiate Institute, which will help accommodate students from Barrie Central Collegiate Institute after it closes in June 2016. Both projects were School Capital Consolidation business cases submitted to the Ministry of Education in October 2014.

In the last five years, we have received funding for 10 new schools and 2 major additions/renovations.

New schools that opened during the 2014-15 school year

- Alliston Union Public School

New schools opening during the 2015-16 school year

- Chris Hadfield Public School
- Orillia Secondary School

Schools/projects in design and construction phases

- Alcona South Public School
- Ardtrea-Cumberland Beach Public School
- North Simcoe Secondary School
- South Barrie Secondary School

Find out more about the capital planning process at www.scdsb.on.ca > Board > Capital Planning.

Program implementation, renewals provide more opportunities for students

The French Immersion Program is entering its third year. The program starts in Grade 1 and is currently available at 12 elementary schools throughout Simcoe County. Registration for the program takes place during the winter of the student's Senior Kindergarten year. More information about French Immersion is available at www.scdsb.on.ca/French.

The Technological Education Program Renewal is ongoing, with classroom and program upgrades taking place at every secondary school. The Board of Trustees committed \$7.5 million over five years (2012-17) to support the renovation and renewal of facilities and programs.

In addition to the \$7.5 million, the projects are partially funded through Ministry of Education grants intended for upgrades to facilities.

Upgrades include:

- 21st century curriculum and teaching/learning methods
- aesthetic upgrades like new floors, fresh paint, brighter lighting
- enhanced health and safety standards
- introduction of industry-standard software in all programs
- new, state-of-the-art equipment to replace old equipment and teaching resources

Elementary schools have front doors locked during school day

We received funding to install technology that allows front doors at all elementary schools to remain locked during the school day. The Safe Welcome program was fully implemented as of September 2014. Visitors use an intercom system to contact staff in the office. This security enhancement helps schools better track who is visiting.

Award-winning websites boost school-to-home communication

All schools are receiving a virtual makeover. The new websites are designed to enable central staff to support schools by loading common content, maintaining contact information and troubleshooting issues. Parents can subscribe to the sites to receive email updates, including alerts if there is ever an urgent situation involving the school. The sites recently received an award from the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA).

RENEWAL

projects completed in 2014-15 include:

- Stayner CI
 - Green Industries
- Bear Creek SS
 - Hairstyling & Aesthetics Lab
- Banting MHS
 - Communications Lab
- Bradford DHS
 - Hospitality & Tourism
- Collingwood CI
 - Hospitality & Tourism
 - Transportation Technology
- Eastview SS
 - Health Care Technology
 - Transportation (Small Engines)
- Innisdale SS
 - Hospitality & Tourism
- Elmvale DHS
 - Environmental Studies Lab
- Nantyr Shores SS
 - Hospitality & Tourism

EQAO FIVE-YEAR TREND

Standardized testing in Ontario is administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). The results of standardized tests are analyzed and used to improve student learning.

This data helps to inform the development of the *Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being*. Board and provincial reports are available at www.eqao.com.

			2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Primary	Reading	SCDSB	65%	68%	67%	70%	69%
		Province	62%	65%	66%	68%	70%
	Writing	SCDSB	67%	73%	74%	74%	76%
		Province	70%	73%	76%	77%	78%
	Math	SCDSB	69%	69%	67%	69%	68%
		Province	71%	69%	68%	67%	67%
Junior	Reading	SCDSB	73%	72%	73%	76%	80%
		Province	72%	74%	75%	77%	79%
	Writing	SCDSB	63%	65%	68%	70%	74%
		Province	70%	73%	74%	76%	78%
	Math	SCDSB	55%	49%	50%	52%	49%
		Province	61%	58%	58%	57%	54%
Grade 9	Applied	SCDSB	44%	44%	46%	45%	47%
		Province	40%	42%	44%	44%	47%
	Academic	SCDSB	80%	81%	81%	82%	83%
		Province	82%	83%	84%	84%	85%
OSSLT	-	SCDSB	83%	80%	78%	78%	79%
		Province	84%	83%	82%	82%	83%

Closing the gender gap: spotlight on our boys

An analysis of EQAO data shows an achievement gap between boys and girls in elementary school.

In 2013-14, **76%**
of junior boys were
at or above the
provincial average for
reading, compared to
85% of girls.

While the boys' results have been improving over time and the gap is closing, more can be done to engage boys in learning. Our schools were offered grants to help with their efforts to close the gap. Twenty-five schools have accessed the funding to support a range of projects—from professional learning for staff to the purchase of learning tools and technology that appeal to boys.



Parent Portal provides quick access to grades, attendance

The Parent Portal provides parents (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children’s attendance and, in secondary school, grades. Elementary school grades will be added to the tool in the near future. Parents can set up email alerts for attendance information. For information on how to create an account, visit www.scdsb.on.ca > Parents > Parent Portal.

New mission, vision set direction

Our mission and vision statements were updated in March 2015 after extensive consultation with trustees, students, staff, parents and community members. The mission and vision outline what we do and what we want to achieve, and provide direction for the board’s strategic plan.

Mission: *We inspire and empower learning for life*
Vision: *A community of learners achieving full potential*

Pay online tool now accepts credit card

Parents can pay online for school activities through the School Cash Online program. Credit card payment is now available. To create

an account, go to <https://simcoecounty.school-cashonline.com>.

Multi-year plan sets priorities, guides direction

Our strategic plan, *The Simcoe Path* guides everything we do. *The Simcoe Path* sets the priorities for the system. It includes four goals:

- confidence in public education
- inclusive, equitable and safe learning and working environments
- relevant, purposeful learning supporting high achievement, well-being and learning for life
- responsible stewardship of resources

The current multi-year plan was developed in 2010. We will now begin a review process - watch for opportunities to provide input on updates to the plan.

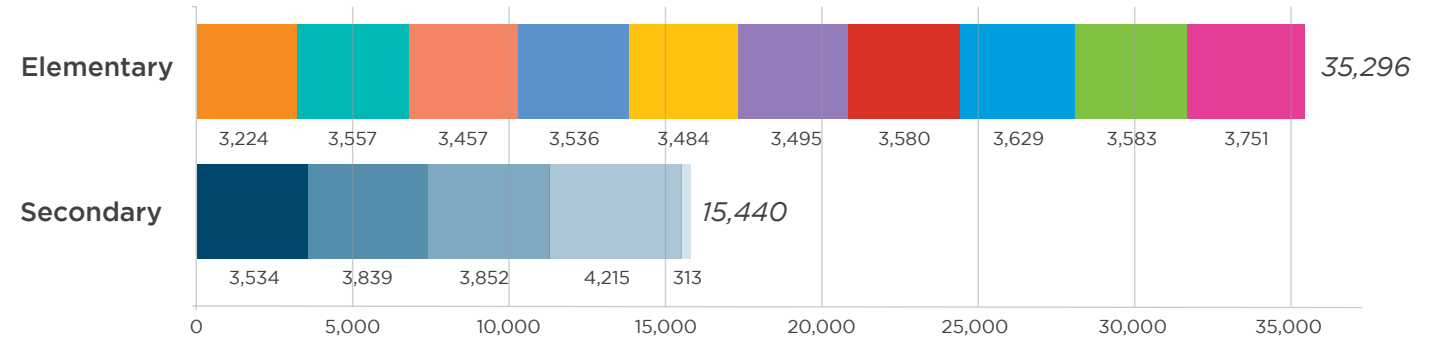
An important component of *The Simcoe Path* is our *Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being (BIPSA/WB)*. It’s updated annually to align with current needs and priorities.

The Simcoe Path, action plans and *BIPSA/WB* are available at www.scdsb.on.ca > About Us > Multi-Year Plan.

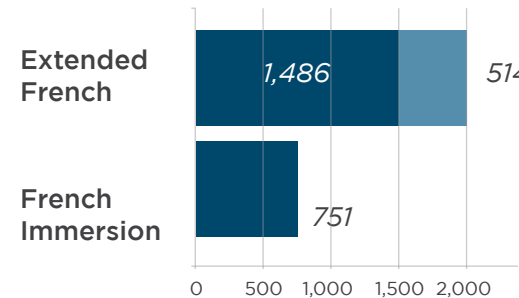


ENROLMENT DATA

Enrolment By Grade



Enrolment



By Grade Legend

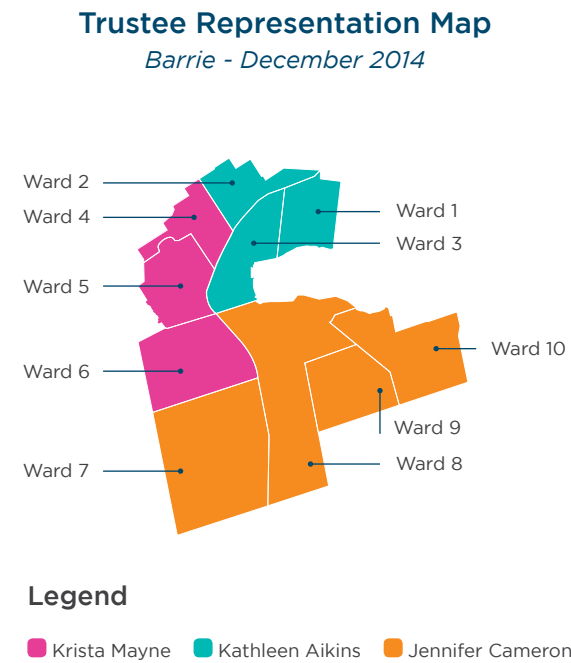
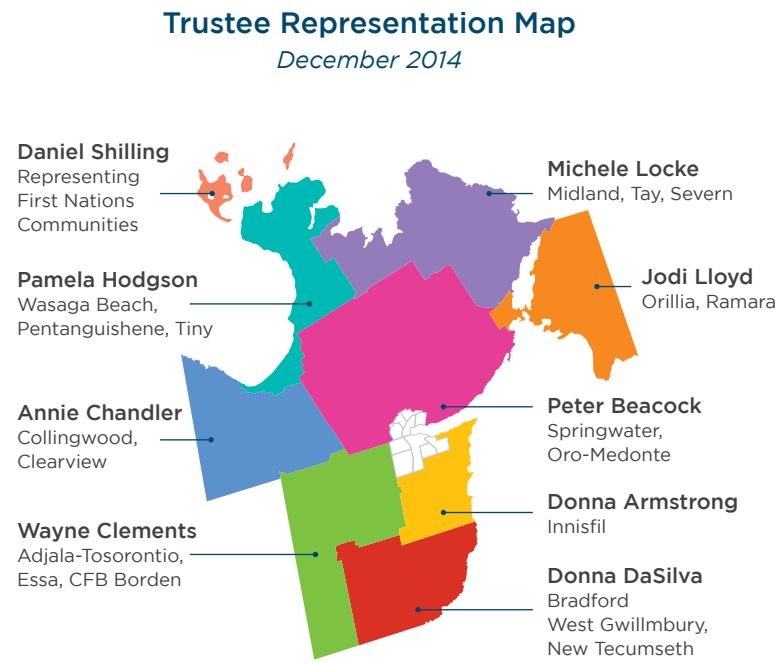
- JK
- SK
- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5
- Grade 6
- Grade 7
- Grade 8
- Grade 9
- Grade 10
- Grade 11
- Grade 12
- Learning Centres

Enrolment Legend

- Elementary
- Secondary

All statistics are as of March 31, 2015

Trustees: elected to represent the community and support student success



As in every school board in Ontario, the SCDSB is governed by a Board of Trustees. Trustees are elected during municipal elections every four years and are directly accountable to the community. We have 11 elected trustees and one First Nations Trustee who was appointed by the Chippewas of Rama.

The last municipal election took place in October 2014. The newly elected trustees were sworn in on December 1, 2014. Prior to the election the Board approved changes to the trustee distribution. This means the geographic areas represented by trustees changed slightly. The distribution is based on population in the area.

Board of Trustees 2010-14
 Robert North: Adjala-Tosorontio & Essa
 Suzanne Ley: Barrie, Wards 1, 2, 3
 Krista Mayne: Barrie, Wards 4, 5, 6
 Christine Williams: Barrie, Wards 7, 8, 9, 10
 Caroline Smith: Collingwood & Clearview
 Amanda Monague: First Nations Representation
 Donna Armstrong: Innisfil
 Michele Locke: Midland, Penetanguishene, Wasaga Beach & Tiny
 Nicole Black: New Tecumseth & Bradford West Gwillimbury
 Debra Edwards: Orillia
 Peter Beacock: Oro-Medonte & Springwater
 Jodi Lloyd: Severn, Ramara and Tay

Board of Trustees 2014-18
 Wayne Clements: Adjala-Tosorontio, Essa & CFB Borden
 Kathleen Aikins: Barrie, Wards 1, 2, 3
 Krista Mayne: Barrie, Wards 4, 5, 6
 Jennifer Cameron: Barrie, Wards 7, 8, 9, 10
 Annie Chandler: Collingwood & Clearview
 Daniel Shilling: First Nations Representation
 Donna Armstrong: Innisfil
 Michele Locke: Midland, Tay & Severn
 Donna DaSilva: New Tecumseth & Bradford West Gwillimbury
 Jodi Lloyd: Orillia & Ramara
 Peter Beacock: Oro-Medonte & Springwater
 Pamela Hodgson: Wasaga Beach, Penetanguishene & Tiny

2014-15 Student Trustees

Student Trustees are elected annually by their peers to represent the interests of students at the board table.

Carly Gardiner: Midland Secondary School
Maya Burhanpurkar: Barrie North Collegiate
Twesh Upadhyaya: Bear Creek Secondary School

More information about trustees and student trustees is available at www.scdsb.on.ca > **Board** > **Trustees**.

2014-15 Senior Administrative Team

Director of Education: Kathryn Wallace
Associate Director/Superintendent of Human Resource Services:
Janis Medysky
Superintendent of Business Services: Brian Jeffs
Superintendent of Facility Services: John Dance
Superintendents of Education
Area 1: Stuart Finlayson *Area 2:* Paul Sloan
Area 3A: Paula Murphy *Area 3B:* Anita Simpson
Area 3C: Chris Samis *Area 4:* John Legere
Area 5: Jackie Kavanagh

More about our Senior Administrative Team, including a list of the current members, is at www.scdsb.on.ca > **Board** > **Board Administration**.



THE ROLE OF TRUSTEES

Trustees:

- are accountable to the province and the electorate
- establish policies and approve the budget to ensure that financial resources are allocated to achieve the desired results
- maintain a focus on student achievement and well-being, and participate in making decisions that benefit the entire board
- prepare for and participate in all committee and board meetings
- respond to the concerns of parents and others

OPERATING EXPENSES \$000's

In spring 2015, the Board of Trustees approved a balanced budget for the 2015-16 school year.

	2015-16		2014-15	
Elementary Schools	227,906	42%	224,672	42%
Secondary Schools	119,427	22%	121,099	23%
School Support	10,793	2%	11,851	2%
Adult & Continuing Education	11,059	2%	11,368	2%
Targeted Programs	3,978	1%	4,269	1%
Special Education	77,074	14%	77,853	15%
Supplementary Grant Programs	3,068	1%	2,063	0%
Other System Services	3,264	1%	3,406	1%
Board Administration	12,227	2%	12,455	2%
School Operations	46,061	9%	45,220	8%
Transportation	19,165	4%	18,908	4%
Total	534,022	100%	533,164	100%

Balanced budget aligns resources with system needs to support learning for life

Funding is allocated to school boards from the Ministry of Education on a per-pupil basis, as well as through grants for specific program areas such as the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Supplement, the Learning Opportunities Grant and Special Education. Boards also receive funding for capital priorities. Detailed financial information is available at www.scdsb.on.ca > **Board** > **Financial Information**.



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