

THE **SCDSB** DIFFERENCE

#SCDSBDIFFERENCE REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2015-2016



What's the **SCDSB difference**?

Every day, we witness amazing moments of student learning, and we challenge ourselves to keep learning alongside our students.

Our vision is a community of learners achieving full potential—learning doesn't stop when we graduate school!

So what's the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) difference? In this year's *Report to the Community*, we share stories and data that highlight the difference we're making—together. We've included highlights of how we inspire and empower learning for life through student learning and achievement, equity, well-being, character and more.

Our students, parents, staff and community partners experience the SCDSB difference every day.

➔ We invite you to share with us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram with **#SCDSBdifference**.

Total number of schools, September 2016



GOAL

Relevant, purposeful learning
supporting high achievement,
well-being and learning for life





French as a Second Language provides choice for students, families

Parents can apply for their children to attend French Immersion (FI) starting in Grade 1. The FI program started in 2013 and will replace the Extended French as a Second Language (EFSL) program. The 2016-17 school year is the last year students will begin EFSL in Grade 5.

French as a second language enrolment

	French Immersion	Extended French
Elementary	1,199	1,717
Secondary		470

**Enrolment as of March 31, 2016*

In 2015-16 the SCDSB opened its first full-French elementary school. Warnica Public School in Barrie offers only FI and EFSL classes.

➔ To learn more about French as a Second Language in the SCDSB, visit www.scdsb.on.ca > Programs > French as a Second Language.

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 Learning Plan.

➔ Board and provincial reports are available at www.eqao.com.

			2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Primary	Reading	SCDSB	67%	70%	69%	N/A*	71%
		Province	66%	68%	70%	N/A*	72%
	Writing	SCDSB	74%	74%	76%	N/A*	71%
		Province	76%	77%	78%	N/A*	74%
	Math	SCDSB	67%	69%	68%	N/A*	61%
		Province	68%	67%	67%	N/A*	63%
Junior	Reading	SCDSB	73%	76%	80%	N/A*	78%
		Province	75%	77%	79%	N/A*	81%
	Writing	SCDSB	68%	70%	74%	N/A*	74%
		Province	74%	76%	78%	N/A*	80%
	Math	SCDSB	50%	52%	49%	N/A*	41%
		Province	58%	57%	54%	N/A*	50%
Grade 9	Applied	SCDSB	46%	45%	47%	46%	41%
		Province	44%	44%	47%	N/A**	45%
	Academic	SCDSB	81%	82%	83%	78%	78%
		Province	84%	84%	85%	N/A**	83%
OSSLT	-	SCDSB	78%	78%	79%	79%	74%
		Province	82%	82%	83%	82%	81%

*EQAO assessments in the Primary and Junior divisions were not completed in the SCDSB in 2014-15. Students did not participate in the assessments due to the labour situation.

**Provincial results for EQAO's 2014-2015 Grade 9 math assessment for the English-language school system are not available. Due to labour disruptions, not all schools in that system participated.



Graduation rates remain steady

Each year the Ministry of Education reports provincial and school board graduation rates. The Ministry defines graduation rate as the percentage of students that graduate within five years of starting Grade 9. Only students that complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) are included. Students leaving with a Certificate of Accomplishment or an Ontario Secondary School Certificate are not considered by the Ministry to be graduates for the purposes of calculating graduation rates.

2014-15 graduation rates

	SCDSB	Province
2011	77	82
2012	77	83
2013	79	83
2014	80	84.3
2015	80.5	85.5

SCDSBlive:

A place to share, collaborate, learn

SCDSBlive (www.scdsblive.ca) takes learning global by providing a place for classes and educators to live-stream video and radio programs produced by or for students. Students take part in language learning/active listening and social media interaction. It's a place to share learning and ideas within a school, around Simcoe County and worldwide.

- ➔ Viewers and listeners—students, educators, parents and community members—can join the real-time discussion via Twitter with [@scdsblive](https://twitter.com/scdsblive) or [#scdsblive](https://twitter.com/scdsblive).

Secondary school students prepare for the workforce

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) is a School to Work program that opens the door for students to explore and work in apprenticeship occupations.

In 2015-16 103 SCDSB students began working toward becoming registered apprentices while completing their secondary school diplomas. One hundred per cent of all Grade 12 students registered as apprentices graduated from high school this school year.

Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) provide students with an opportunity to focus their learning and gain valuable experience for all post-secondary opportunities. In 2015-16, 743 secondary students in 15 secondary schools across the SCDSB participated in 34 SHSM programs in a variety of high-demand and exciting professions. Over 90 per cent of students enrolled in a SHSM are successful in all of their courses.

Beginning in September 2016, the **SCDSB will offer three new SHSM programs** in the following sectors:

Arts & Culture – Bear Creek Secondary School

Environment – Elmvale District High School

Non-Profit – Simcoe Alternative Secondary School

➔ To learn more about SHSMs, visit www.myshsm.ca.

Full STEAM ahead as students learn to solve real-life challenges

Across the SCDSB, students are participating in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) education. With STEAM, students actively create as they solve design challenges. This approach gives students opportunities to build knowledge and skills across subject areas while applying those conceptual understandings and skills to real tasks.



The library is often the centre of our makerspace and STEAM work, but STEAM and makerspaces can be found in many of our classrooms.

In the spring we hosted our **first SCDSB Maker Faire**.

This public event provided a venue for makers to show their creations and share their learning. Students, educators and members of the community participated in a variety of hands-on STEAM learning activities.



Personal support worker program **prepares adult students for a career in healthcare**

Since 1999 our Learning Centres have offered a Personal Support Worker (PSW) program to adults at four locations across

Simcoe County. Graduates are fully accredited to work as PSWs in as little as six months.

In 2015-16, 130 students are expected to complete their PSW certificate through the Learning Centres. Of these, 12 also earned their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. One hundred per cent of the students have received job offers and are expected to be employed as PSWs.



To learn more, visit
www.thelearningcentres.com.

Special needs strategy will improve support for students, families

The Ministries of Education, Health and Long-Term Care, Children and Youth Services and Community and Social Services have set out expectations for the creation of a Special Needs Strategy (SNS) for speech-language support, physical therapy and occupational therapy. Since 2014, we've worked with organizations across Simcoe County to create plans for coordinated service planning and integrated rehabilitation, which will gradually take effect this upcoming school year.

The goal of the SNS is to ensure children and youth with special needs have timely and effective service. One of the ways we believe this may be achieved in Simcoe County is by providing more support through schools, including: united speech and language services, reduced duplication of assessments, easier transition from pre-school to school, equity of access through direct referrals, as well as opportunities to share information electronically between relevant providers.

GOAL

Inclusive, equitable and safe learning and working environments



Recognizing faith, culture, heritage across Simcoe County

In 2015-16, with the support of the Peel District School Board, we created and distributed a Holy Days and Holidays Calendar. The calendar is intended to help schools and departments identify the major days members of our school communities may recognize so we can avoid scheduling significant staff, student or community events on those days. Information on significant days from 10 different faiths is shared on the SCDSB website, school websites and social media.

School Climate Survey results highlight opportunities for improvement

In 2016, secondary school students, parents and staff answered questions about the tone of their school, safety, inclusion and more through the School Climate Survey. Twenty-one percent of responding students reported belonging to a visible minority. Of those students, 58 per cent see themselves, their culture and background in materials used in class, 52 per cent in special events and celebrations at school, and 59 per cent in class discussions and presentations. Recognizing and sharing faith traditions and observances is one way we continue to try to improve.

➔ The Holy Days and Holidays Calendar is available at www.scdsb.on.ca > **About Us > Equity & Inclusive Education > Holy Days and Holidays Calendar.**



Winter ball fosters independence, teaches inclusion

Students in the Life Skills classes from 12 schools across Simcoe County attended a Winter Ball in winter 2016. The prom-style event was organized and hosted by Bear Creek Secondary School. Students in Life Skills helped with event planning and preparations. Guests got ready for the event at Bear Creek's student-run Beauty Boutique. The school's dance team performed as part of the event.

Life Skills classes are a special education placement in secondary school. The classes have a maximum of 10 students and provide intensive programming and support in basic literacy and numeracy, technology integration, communication, self-advocacy, social skills, vocational training and community awareness.

➔ For more information about special education, visit www.scdsb.on.ca > **Programs > Special Education.**



Staff wellness pilot program has positive results at Ernest Cumberland ES

SCDSB's mental health team and school administration implemented a staff wellness strategy at Ernest Cumberland Elementary School this year. Staff learned how to address their own mental health needs, which supports the mental wellness of students. *MindUP* resources, classroom calming kits and self-regulation stations addressed student needs. Training, mindfulness activities and employee well-being sessions supported staff to reduce compassion fatigue. Staff had positive feedback on the training and reported improvement in student self-regulation.



It's just a place to go —gender-neutral washrooms available at all schools

As part of our commitment to equity and inclusivity, all schools will soon have an accessible, gender-neutral washroom space on each floor. All new schools are designed with these spaces. Although existing schools will not be retrofitted, washrooms will be designated as gender neutral.



New policy highlights importance of staff and student wellness

Our new Student and Staff Well-Being Policy recognizes that a healthy learning and working environment has a positive effect on student and staff achievement, contributes to well-being and is essential for everyone to reach their full potential.

The policy states:

The SCDSB will **inspire and empower** staff and students to **support wellness initiatives** that acknowledge the mental, social, emotional, spiritual and physical well-being of all.

This will be accomplished through programs that create an environment and culture that encourage wellness.

The Staff Health and Wellness Committee planned three major events for all SCDSB employees and families this year, encouraging active living and offering an opportunity for staff to socialize. Seventy-five Wellness Champions from our schools led healthy living initiatives at their locations.



No-cut sports make athletics accessible for everyone

All students should have the opportunity to play sports, but there isn't always space on teams for every student who may be interested. Through no-cut sports opportunities, schools make sure every student who wants to play, can. In 2015-16, nearly 300 students participated in ultimate Frisbee and badminton tournaments. These events support the development of healthy schools and provide participants with a positive, fun experience.

Craft Reconciliation helps students break down stereotypes, learn about indigenous culture

Our students and staff took Wab Kinew's challenge to Canadian students to work together to learn about each other's communities and cultures, and build a representation of their vision of reconciliation. Students and staff collaborated with schools across Ontario to learn about each other, break down stereotypes and recommend the most important calls to action in the Truth & Reconciliation Report (www.trc.ca). The result:

15 schools in Ontario taking part in Google Hangouts on Air, sharing ideas through over **700** online posts, and creating interactive pieces reflecting their visions of reconciliation.

➔ The project can be viewed at:
craftreconciliation.blogspot.ca.

Online safe schools reporting tool now available at all schools

An online reporting tool is now available on all school websites. The tool allows students to report bullying, vandalism or other incidents. While we always encourage students to talk to a parent, teacher or other staff member, we know not all students are comfortable having these conversations. The online tool provides another option.



#CommitToCharacter



Kindergarten students and elders make magic with intergenerational pilot program

This year Hewitt's Creek Public School Kindergarten classes and the Barrington Retirement Residence participated in an intergenerational pilot project. Kindergarten students and their teachers visited the residence weekly, interacting with the residents and developing meaningful relationships.

Bringing our youngest students together with elders in our communities benefits everyone. Our staff see a change in student behaviour and confidence. Bonnie Forgrave is the daughter of one of the residents who participated in the program. She's seen the positive effect it's had.

"The children are like little sponges and are learning so much. The children are not just socializing; they are using their math skills, spelling, reading and creativity while having fun and bringing life into the seniors' lives. Interacting with older adults enables the students to develop communication skills, problem-solving abilities, positive attitudes towards ageing, a sense of purpose and community service."

Forgrave sums up her thoughts with the following: "I have seen residents who normally barely speak smiling and interacting with the students. The bonds being formed are amazing. The intergenerational connection is magical."



We're better together: Orillia and Twin Lakes secondary schools join forces in Relay for Life

Our schools raise thousands of dollars each year for various charities and causes. Many of our high schools participate in the Relay for Life, an event to raise funds to fight cancer, while celebrating survivors and remembering those who have lost the battle.

This year Orillia and Twin Lakes secondary schools united to focus their collective energy, increasing student and community participation.

More than **450 students** participated. They **raised over \$38,000**, and increased community spirit and engagement.

Stories of Simcoe – Darcy and Frasier

Meet Darcy and Frasier.



They are Grade 4 students at Mountain View Elementary School in Collingwood and are best friends. Darcy has Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy and is looking forward to getting a new wheelchair. Frasier wanted to help. He decided to raise funds for a camera mount for Darcy's new wheelchair. He set a goal of \$150, and did 15 hours of pogo stick and skateboard tricks in his neighbourhood. After his mom posted his goal on Facebook, Frasier raised \$1,500!

"He didn't know about it," Frasier said. "It was a big surprise. I went to his house and gave it to him. It felt pretty good."

"He is kinda my best friend," says Darcy. "I actually felt pretty good. If your friend needs help, then definitely help them."

Students want to be like Mr. McQueen, Star custodian at Admiral Collingwood

Kevin McQueen, a custodian at Admiral Collingwood Elementary School, has received five SCDSB Star nominations in the last year. Stars are given to staff who are nominated by members of the school community because they go above and beyond and have a positive impact on their school, colleagues and students.



"Mr. McQueen truly cares about all the people in the community. The kids know him, he has a smile for everyone and he models respectful and kind treatment of others to our kids... He's such a great role

model that sometimes my kids will pretend to be Mr. McQueen at home and help me clean up!" said one parent.

"Mr. McQueen is the walking definition of someone who truly cares in every aspect of the word. He spends his days working tirelessly to ensure the school is clean and all jobs are done... All of the students light up and want to take time to speak with him, and he takes that time!" said another nominator.

➔ Nominate a SCDSB Star by visiting www.scdsb.on.ca > Staff > SCDSB Stars.



EDHS Day gives back to the community

Elmvale District High School holds EDHS Day each spring. It stands for 'Elmvale Deserves Help from Students.' Students and staff give back to their community by completing tasks like raking, painting and moving lawn furniture. They usually fulfill about 90 job requests, and host a free car wash run by Grade 12 students.

The student attendance rate on EDHS Day is always **above 90 per cent**. The event has run for **more than 35 years**.



Tottenham Public School Council an example of school teamwork and community

In 2014, the school council at Tottenham Public School set an ambitious goal to raise \$50,000 for playground equipment. Led by Chair Tracy Ross, the council ran a number of fundraising projects as well as a hot lunch and milk program. The council also applied for grants from the community recreation and improvement committee of Tottenham.

The council **met the fundraising goal within one year** thanks to amazing support from school council, principal Susan Nixon, students, parents and the entire community of Tottenham.

The new playground was installed in October 2015.

Every school has a school council - a committee of elected parents, community representatives and staff. They provide the community voice and parent perspective on important school topics. Research shows that when parents are involved in their child's education, the level of student achievement increases.

➤ For more information about joining school council, speak to your principal or a current school council member or visit **www.scdsb.on.ca > Parents > School Councils**.





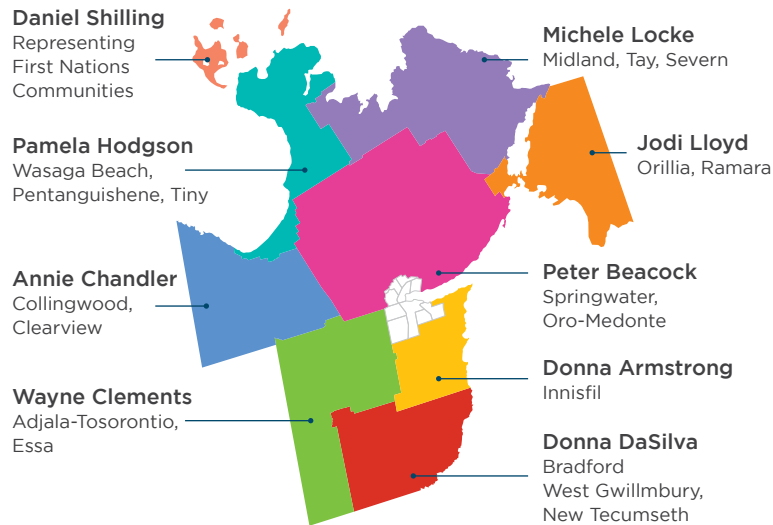
Photo provided by Jennifer Gilbert

GOAL

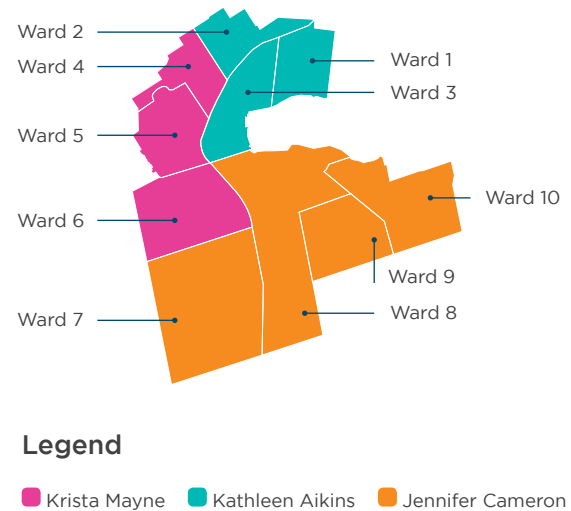
Confidence in
public education



Board of Trustees 2014-18 Representation Map



Trustee Representation Map (Barrie)



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

Trustees: elected to represent the community and support student success

School boards in Ontario are 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. Three student trustees are elected annually by their peers to represent the interests of students at the board table.

Student Trustees 2015-16

Drew Campbell: Midland Secondary School
Nicholas Gulley: Stayner Collegiate Institute
Haley Tyrell: Innisdale Secondary School

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

2015-16 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: Daryl Halliday

Area 5: Jackie Kavanagh

➔ More about our Senior Administrative
Team: www.scdsb.on.ca > Board > Board
Administration.

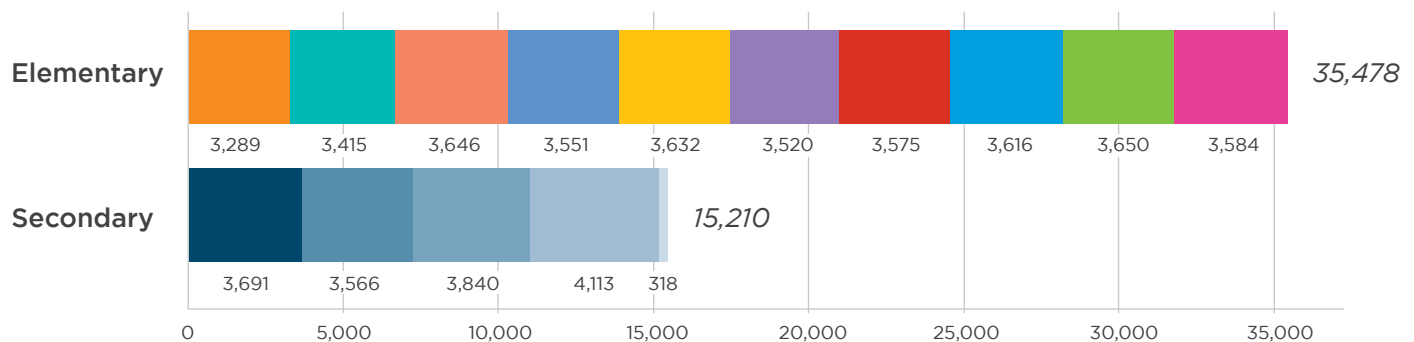
Strategic plan sets priorities, guides direction

Our current multi-year strategic plan, *The Simcoe Path*, has been in place since 2010. The purpose of a strategic plan is to set goals and directions that will guide the work happening within our organization. These goals help us reach our vision of *a community of learners achieving full potential*. The directions under each goal highlight how we *inspire and empower learning for life*—our mission. *The Simcoe Path* 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

➔ An important component of *The Simcoe Path* is our *Board Learning Plan*, which is updated annually. Find out more at www.scdsb.on.ca > About Us > Goals and Reporting.

2015-16 Enrolment data



By Grade Legend



Consultation for our new strategic plan starts fall 2016

From mid-September to mid-October 2016, we've run consultation activities to gather input from our internal and external stakeholders. This input will help the Board of Trustees update our strategic goals and directions.

New partnership with Georgian, Lakehead supports international students

In April 2016, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Georgian College and Lakehead University, committing to work together to support international students in Simcoe County. This partnership will continue for a minimum of three years and will enhance and streamline the experience for international students studying in the county. It will also strengthen our relationships with Georgian College and Lakehead University as we work together to provide quality programs and opportunities for all of our students.

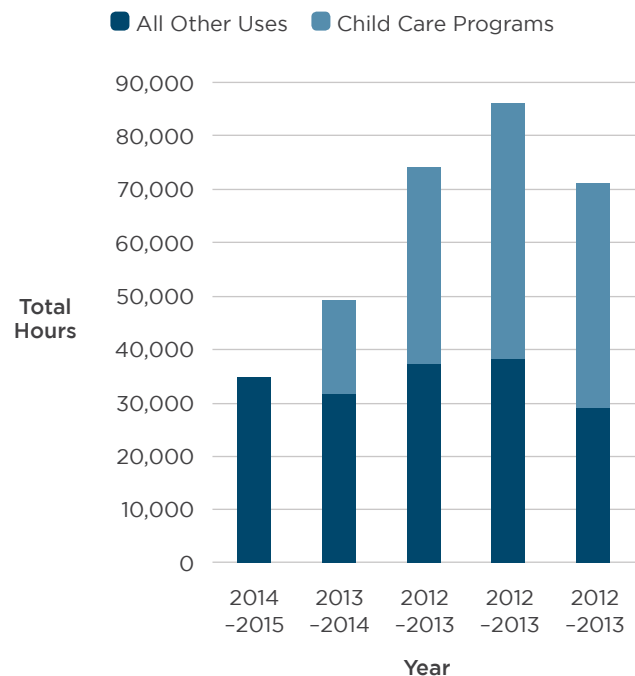


After-hours use of schools provides options for community groups, clubs

Our *Community Use of Schools* program allows non-profit organizations in the community to book classrooms, gyms, auditoriums and fields for events, including sports, recitals, concerts and more. We've launched an online permit application system to make it easier for groups to book space.

➔ Find more information about *Community Use of Schools* at www.scdsb.on.ca > **Schools.**

SCDSB School Facility Permitted Hours

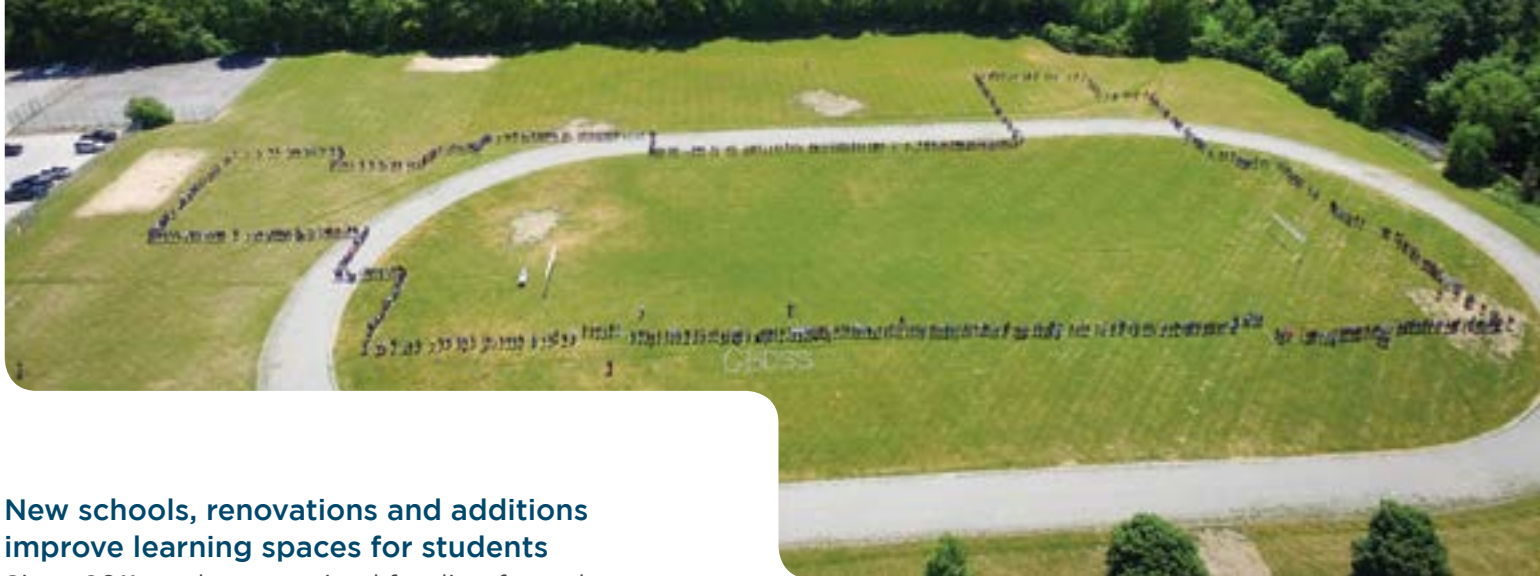


*Child care space was no longer reserved through the Community Use of Schools program in 2014-15.

GOAL

Responsible
stewardship of resources





New schools, renovations and additions improve learning spaces for students

Since 2011, we have received funding from the Ministry of Education for 10 new schools and four major additions and renovations totaling just under \$200 million. In 2016 we celebrated the opening of Chris Hadfield Public School and Orillia Secondary School.

New schools and major additions/renovations opening during the 2016-17 school year

- Lake Simcoe Public School
- Severn Shores Public School
- Tay Shores Public School

Schools/projects in design and construction phases

- Barrie North Collegiate Institute addition and renovation
- east Alliston elementary school
- Elmvale District High School addition and renovation
- Georgian Bay District Secondary School
- south Barrie secondary school

In 2016 the SCDSB consolidated and closed the following schools:

- Ardtrea-Cumberland Beach Public School
- Barrie Central Collegiate Institute
- Midland Secondary School
- Penetanguishene Secondary School

➔ Hundreds of renovation and construction projects take place at our schools throughout the year. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca > Schools > New Schools & Major Renos to learn more about major projects.



Operating expenses (\$000's)

In spring 2016, the Board of Trustees approved a balanced budget for the 2016-17 school year. The Board of Trustees also approved \$3.5 million in additional investments for board priorities, including:

- three-year, \$350,000 investment in well-being
- one-year, \$250,000 investment in support for English Language Learners
- four-year, \$500,000 investment in arts education
- four-year, \$2 million investment in teacher technology
- three-year, \$225,000 investment in international students
- two-year, \$200,000 investment in student leadership

Funding for these investments is from accumulated surplus funds set aside for future board priorities.

	2016-17		2015-16	
Elementary Schools	237,856	44%	227,906	43%
Secondary Schools	115,662	21%	119,427	22%
School Support	10,782	2%	10,793	2%
Adult & Con Ed	11,689	2%	11,059	2%
Targeted Programs	4,472	1%	3,978	1%
Special Education	77,456	14%	77,074	14%
Supplementary Grant Programs	1,794	0%	3,068	1%
Other System Services	3,081	1%	3,264	1%
Board Administration	12,473	2%	12,227	2%
School Operations	45,784	9%	46,061	9%
Transportation	19,279	4%	19,165	4%
Total	540,328	100%	534,022	100%

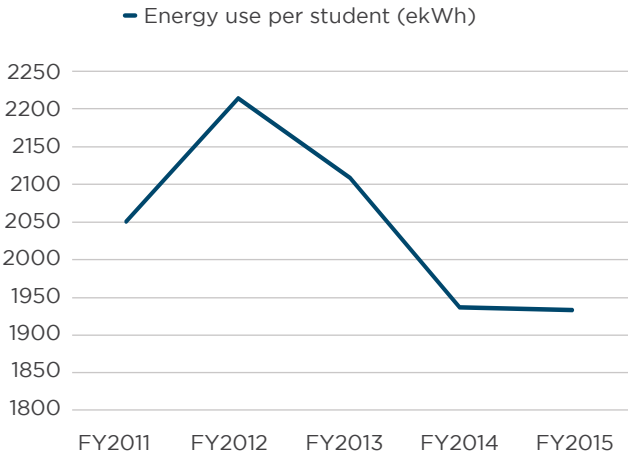
Funding is allocated to school boards from the Ministry of Education on a per-pupil basis, as well as through grants for specific program areas such as the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Supplement, the Learning Opportunities Grant and Special Education. Boards also receive funding for capital priorities.

➤ Detailed financial information is available at www.scdsb.on.ca > Board > Financial Information.

Energy use per student continues to decrease thanks to retrofits, education

The efficient use of building space, investments in upgraded lighting, upgrades and optimization of Building Automation Systems (BAS) and HVAC, plus the commitment of our staff to help students learn environmentally sustainable habits has led to a decrease in per student energy use.

Fiscal Year	EI Per Student (ekWh)
2015	1,935.51
2014	1,939.63
2013	2,108.48
2012	2,213.33
2011	2,053.16



➔ Visit www.scdsb.on.ca > **Programs > Environmental Initiatives** for more about our environmental initiatives.

Schools recognized for environmental leadership

Twenty-one of our schools received Ontario EcoSchools certification in 2016, an increase from 18 the year before.



www.scdsb.on.ca



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SCDSB



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For an accessible version
of this information, email
info@scdsb.on.ca.



Simcoe County
District School Board