

# Palliser Regional Schools

## Highlights of our Report to the Community:

*Annual Education Results Report 2013-2104  
and Three-Year Education Plan 2014-2017*

**Palliser Regional Schools** welcomes you to learn more about our programs and services. Our division supports all students to achieve success at the highest level possible for the individual through our focus on safe and caring schools, assessment for learning and literacy instruction at all grades in all subjects. Our teachers know and care about our students as individuals with unique learning styles and learning needs.

## By the numbers, 2014-2015

6,800 early learning children and K-12 students  
890 dedicated, caring employees  
15 community schools  
8 faith-based alternative programs  
9 early learning programs in our schools  
4 outreach high schools  
2 alternative programs for Low German-speaking Mennonite (LGM) students  
1 LGM alternative program junior high inside a community school  
1 online school, Palliser Beyond Borders  
1 home school program  
17 Hutterite colony schools

## Student success

Palliser students continue to achieve success on provincial tests, with 85.3% passing their Provincial Achievement Tests and 89.7% passing their Diploma Exams.

More than one-in-four students, or 27.5%, achieved the standard of excellence on their Provincial Achievement Tests; and nearly one-in-five student achieved excellence on their Diploma Exams.

We've seen an increase in high school completion rates, at 87.5%, an increase from our three-year average of 83.9%.

## What our stakeholders tell us

Surveys of students, staff and parents conducted by Alberta Education in February 2014 found increases to already very high levels of satisfaction with Palliser's provision of safe and caring schools, student learning opportunities, parental involvement and other measures. Highlights include:

- 93.5% of stakeholders agree students are safe and treated fairly at school, are learning the importance of caring for others and are learning respect for others;
- 93.7% of teachers, parents and students are satisfied with the quality of basic education provided by Palliser;
- 85.9% of teachers, parents and students say Palliser's schools have improved or stayed the same in the last three years;
- 88.9% of teachers, parents and students are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship;
- 90.8% of teachers and parents agree students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school;
- 83.3% of stakeholders are satisfied with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies, including fine arts, career, technology, and health and physical education.



#101 3305 18 Avenue North  
Lethbridge, AB T1H 5S1



403-328-4111  
Toll-free 1-887-667-1234



[www.pallisersd.ab.ca](http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca)

# Our mission:

*Together we will ensure learning success for all students  
to develop their unique potential as caring citizens in a changing world*

## Leadership in literacy

Palliser's theme for 2014-2015 is "Leadership in Literacy." Through literacy, our students will have the reading, writing and critical thinking skills they'll need for success in school and in life.

In 2013-2014, for the first time, every Grade 1-6 student in Palliser was assessed in early fall and early spring using the Fountas and Pinnell benchmark assessment tool. Reading one-on-one with each student, teachers assessed the student's reading level in order to determine what instruction was needed and what books would be appropriate for each student. Literacy supports, including materials, professional development opportunities and help from a literacy coach, are changing the way we teach reading and writing in our division.

Early indications are the program is working. In 2013-2014, the number of elementary students most at risk in literacy fell from one-in-four students in October to

one-in-five by March.

Palliser's innovative Academic Wrap Around team, which brings together experts in inclusive education, technology and literacy to work with a classroom teacher to better meet the needs of one particular student, has proven to have a positive domino effect, not only for the student at the centre of the wraparound, but for others in the classroom.

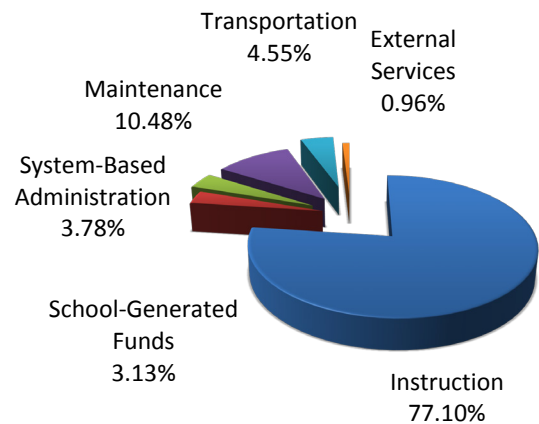
Palliser will continue this work in 2014-2015 with a literacy and assessment emphasis on all four of our division-wide collaboration days during which teachers from across Palliser work together in small professional learning teams.

In 2014-2015, our school leaders are developing three-year literacy action plans for their schools. At least one of their annual school goals has a literacy or assessment focus.

**In 2013-2014**, it cost \$84 million to serve about 7,200 students. Our biggest expense — and greatest resource — is people, with 79% of spending allocated to salaries and benefits. Their commitment shows in our outstanding results and student achievement.

Expenditures by Object 2013-2014	\$84,050,569	
Salaries & Benefits	\$66,507,158	79.13%
Services & Supplies	\$12,396,851	14.75%
School-Generated Funds	\$2,630,893	3.13%
All Depreciation & Interest	\$2,515,667	2.99%

## Expenditures by Department, 2013-2014



## We're listening

In 2013-2014, 90 parents/guardians participated in focus group discussions, talking face-to-face with the superintendent or designate, as part of five school reviews conducted across Palliser; another 300 provided input through surveys during these reviews.

Palliser's Board of Trustees participate in school council meetings and consider these councils a vital mechanism for meaningful parental input on school matters. We encourage all parents to participate in school council and school reviews.

For more information about Palliser and its programs, please see the complete Report to the Community online at <http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/board-of-trustees/planning-and-reporting>.