

Renfrew County Catholic District School Board Director's Annual Report 2013–2014



Message from the Director of Education

It is my great pleasure to present this Annual Report outlining the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board's activities and accomplishments for the 2013–2014 school year.

Our theme for the past year, taken from our Vision Statement, focused on our role as global stewards of our environment and all living things in it. Many projects during the year reflected our theme, ranging from student fundraising for worthwhile causes to a new partnership with Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre.

Our priorities for the year, in keeping with our multi-year Strategic Plan and the Ministry of Education's goals, were to increase student engagement and achievement, close the gaps in student learning and enhance public confidence in our schools.

We continued to strive for academic excellence, while ensuring that all students were provided with the tools and resources to achieve their personal best. The work of our students and teachers was very positively reflected with our Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results.

We also expanded our digital learning focus with the establishment of a fibre optic internet infrastructure project, as well as a Special

Assignment Teacher for digital learning and technologies, and a leadership project to introduce more e-learning and technologies into the classroom.

Capital projects were carried out at a number of schools across our Board. Some schools undertook renovations to improve safety and efficiency and modernize learning environments while others added new classrooms to accommodate the Full Day Kindergarten program and before-and-after school/daycare programs.

None of this work would have been possible without the excellent collaboration of everyone in our Board—from trustees to administration, teachers and staff—as well as our parents, families, parishes, religious and clergy, and our partners in the broader community.

I want to sincerely thank all of you who have contributed to our success at the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board. We continue to be 'schools to believe in'.

Michele Arbour
Director of Education



Our Mission Statement: *Inspired by our rich heritage and challenged by the struggles of our past, we are an inclusive Catholic educational community called to express our mission as Church to pass on the Good News of Jesus Christ, to make it relevant in the world today, and to be the hope for the future.*

JOURNEY TO CHRISTIAN MATURITY

Celebrating people and places along our active faith journey

Who I AM Makes A Difference Because Jesus Loves Me

Unique to the RCCDSB, Who I AM Makes A Difference is an affirmation project based on the pay-it-forward concept. As a Teacher Learning Leadership Program, phase 2 of the program had an outreach to 4,000 students across our Board.

Teachers presented each of their students with a blue ribbon and the 'gift of words' that said, "Who you are makes a difference because..." Each student, in turn, received two gold ribbons to present to two individuals who made a difference in who they are. Students reached out into the community to acknowledge parents, grandparents, coaches, and ministers, and to express their gratitude, eventually turning a ripple of awareness, inclusivity and thanksgiving into a tidal wave!



39 years of quality education

Principals current and past, teachers, students and trustees gathered in Round Lake to mark the 39th anniversary of St. Casimir's Catholic School in June. Along with the warm memories that were shared, a regular mass, reception, and group photo were part of the day's events. The pride was evident in comments about the high quality Catholic education, the strong work ethic, parent support, and community and parish involvement that the school enjoyed throughout its history. Though sad that the school would be closing in September, those who attended were positive about the future for both students and the community.



Photo courtesy of Kevin Holst, www.holstphotography.ca

Meet the RCCDSB leadership team



Administrative team: **Marian Neeson**, Manager of Human Resources Services; **Peter Adam**, Superintendent of Educational Services; **Mark Searson**, (Acting) Superintendent of Educational Services; **Michele Arbour**, Director of Education; **Darryl Denyes**, Manager of IT Services; **Jaimie Perry**, Superintendent of Educational Services; **Ivan Johnson**, Manager of Plant Services; **Mary Lynn Schauer**, Superintendent of Business Services.



Trustees: Standing: **Marlene Borutski**, Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards Township, **Brudenell**, Lyndoch & Raglan Township, **Madawaska Valley Township**, **David Howard**, Deep River, Laurentian Hills, Head, Clara & Maria Township, Petawawa, **Judy Ellis**, First Nations Trustee, and **Andy Bray**, Arnprior, McNab/Braeside Township, Greater Madawaska Township. Seated: **Bob Schreder**, Pembroke, and **Bob Michaud**, Chair, Laurentian Valley Township, North Algona Wilberforce Township, Admaston/Bromley Township, Bonnechere Valley Township. Missing: **Anne Haley**, Renfrew, Horton Township, Whitewater Region Township.



Stephanie Rea, Student Representative from Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Pembroke, and **Evan Naismith**, Student Representative from St. Joseph's Catholic High School in Renfrew.

Strategic multi-year plan

The plan can be found at: <http://rccdsb.edu.on.ca/files/2013/01/Strategic-Plan-2012-2017-FINAL-DRAFT-January-9-2013.pdf>

ABOUT US

RCCDSB's vital statistics

Number of students: Approximately 4,600

Schools and facilities:

- 19 Elementary Schools
- 2 Secondary Schools
- 2 Alternative Secondary Sites
- 1 Young Parent Support Program
- 3 Section 23 Valleycrest/New Horizons Classrooms

Communities

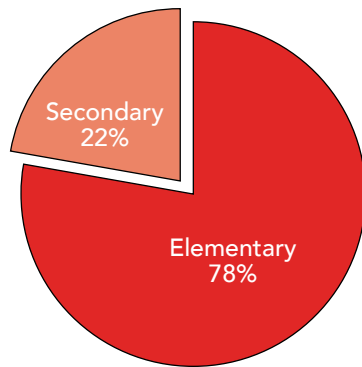
Our district covers a wide, mostly rural geographical area of more than 7,851 square kilometres from Deep River in the north to Arnprior in the south to Pembroke in the east and Barry's Bay in the west.

Employees

- Approximately 594 permanent staff
- Approximately 585 occasional staff

Annual expenditures: \$62.5 Million

Our student population



Our enrolment as of October 31, 2014, totals 4,610 students:

	Students	%	FTE
Elementary	3,597	78%	3597.00
Secondary	1,013	22%	991.25
Total	4,610	100%	4588.25

By the numbers

The proportion of English as a second language learners in our diverse population is not large enough to report their achievements separately.

The number of self-identified First Nation, Aboriginal, Métis and Inuit students accounts for 4.9% of our board's population and includes students in all three Aboriginal groups: First Nation, Métis, and Inuit.

Full Day Kindergarten

As of the 2014- 2015 school year, we have achieved full implementation of the Full Day Kindergarten program across our board.

Kindergarten report card

- 350 Junior Kindergarten students
- 386 Senior Kindergarten students
- 26 Early Childhood Educators who work alongside a Kindergarten teacher
- 35 Kindergarten teachers across our system

Extended French as a second language

Three schools in our system offered extended French learning for students:

- St. Joseph's, Arnprior
- Our Lady of Lourdes, Pembroke
- St. Francis of Assisi, Petawawa



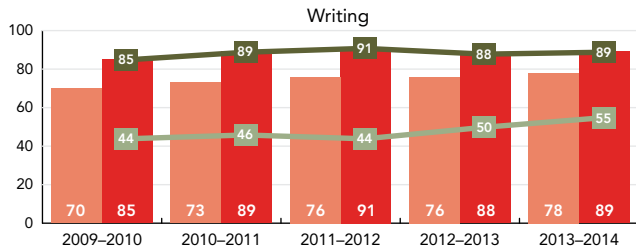
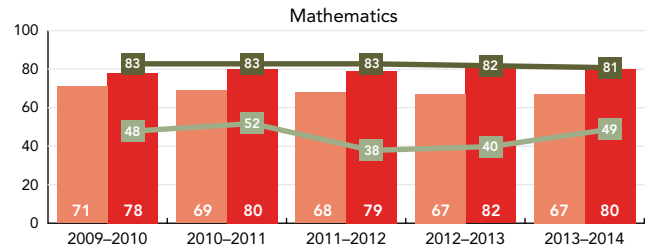
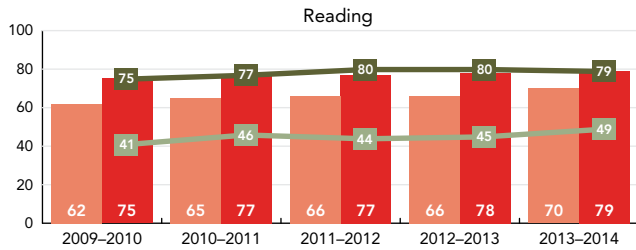
Primary class size report

All Ministry of Education targets have been achieved.

100% Primary Classes 23 and under	100.0%	Achieved
100% of Grade 3/4 Combined Classes 23 and under	100.0%	Achieved
Average Junior/Intermediate (grades 4-8) Class Size	22.72	Achieved
90% Primary Classes 20 and under	96.5%	Achieved

EQAO STANDARDIZED TEST RESULTS

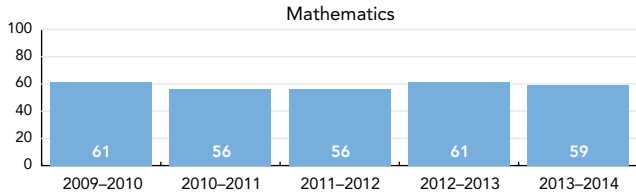
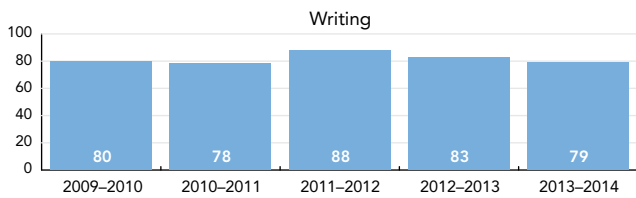
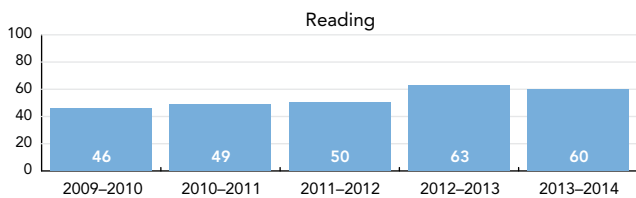
Grade 3



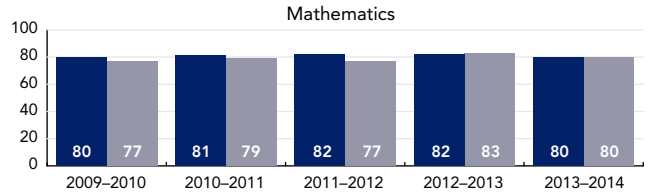
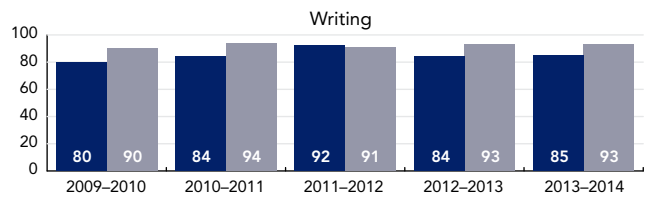
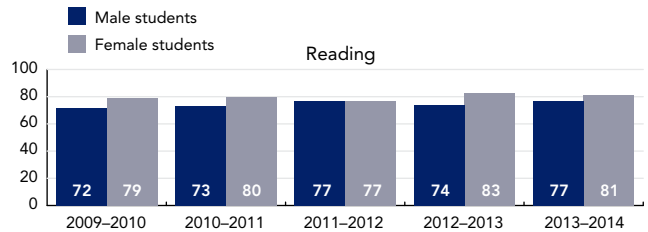
■ Highest English-Language Board Level results
■ Lowest English-Language Board Level results
■ Province
■ RCCDSB

* Numbers indicate the percentage of pupils who achieved the provincial standard of level 3 or higher on the assessment

Special Education results



Results by Gender



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR

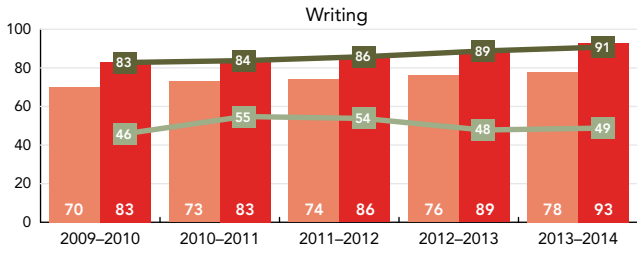
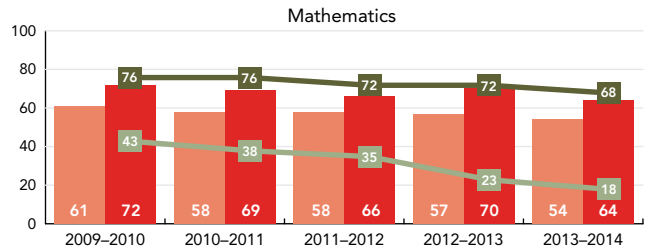
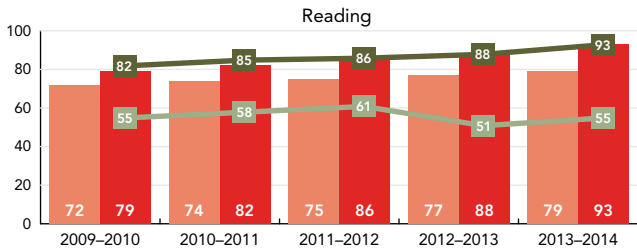


Left: Students across our Board supported the Terry Fox Run to raise money for cancer research.

Right: The Destination Imagination team, Koolaid Jammers from Our Lady of Grace Catholic School in Westmeath went all the way to the global finals in Knoxville, TN.

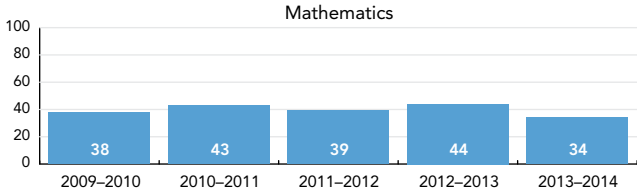
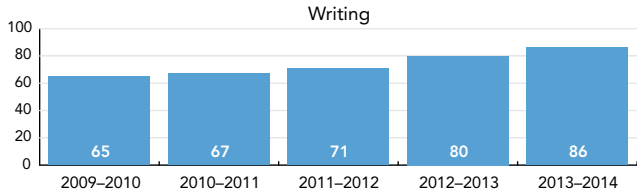
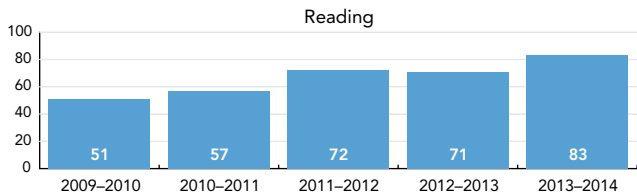


Grade 6



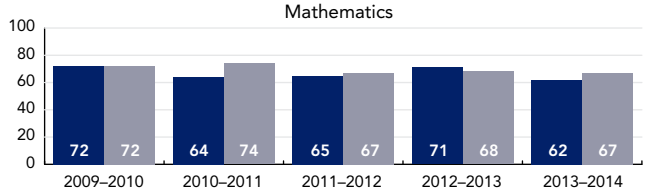
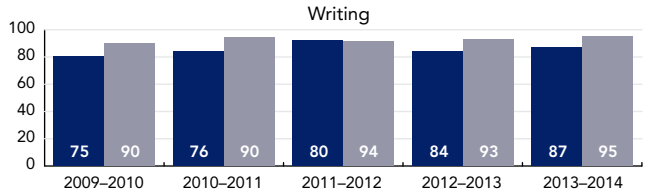
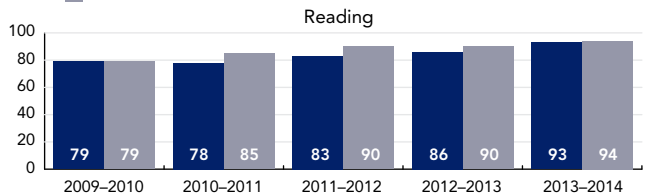
- Highest English-Language Board Level results
- Lowest English-Language Board Level results
- Province
- RCCDSB

Special Education results



Results by Gender

- Male students
- Female students

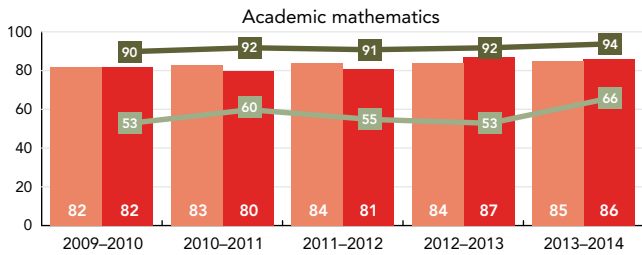
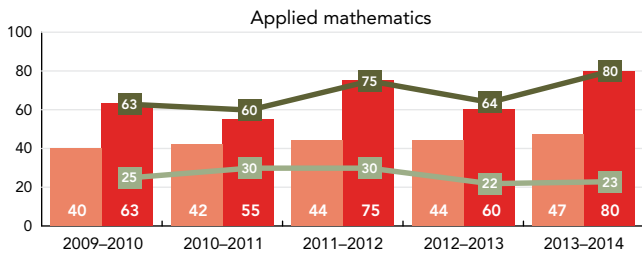


Above left: St. Joseph's High school hosted the Board-wide grade five French day or "jour en francais".

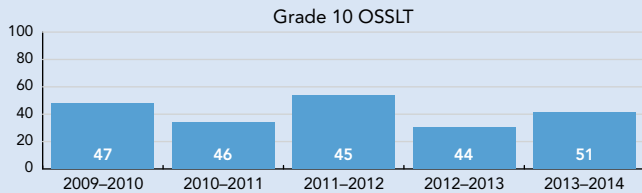
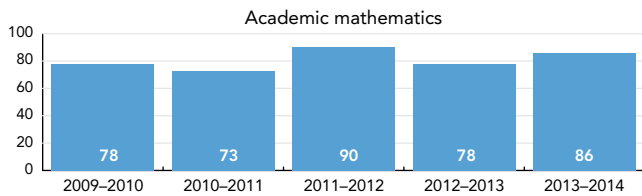
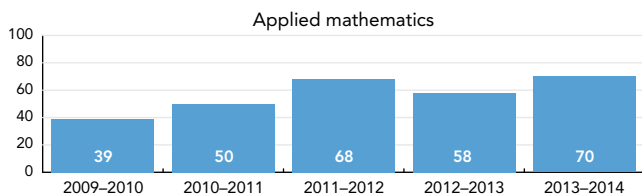
Above right: Summer school water fun.

Right: Students celebrated retirement for Father Neville, Round Lake (top), and Father Blake, Calabogie (bottom).

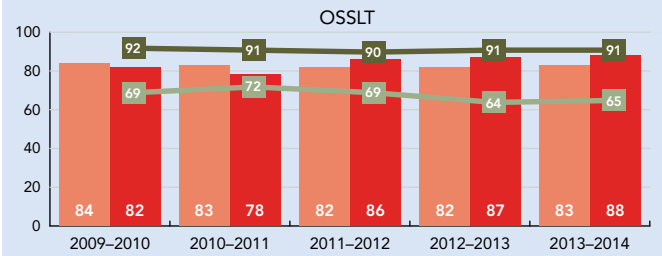
Grade 9



Special Education results



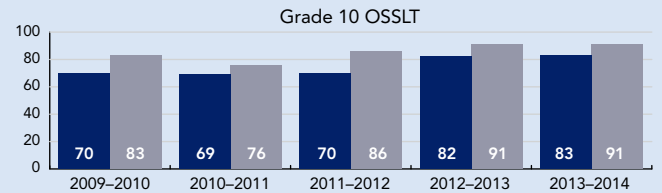
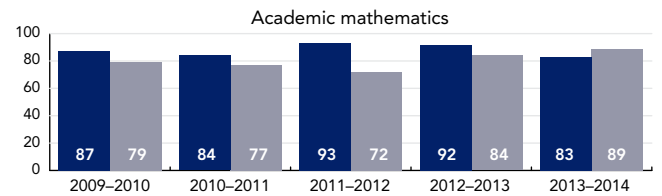
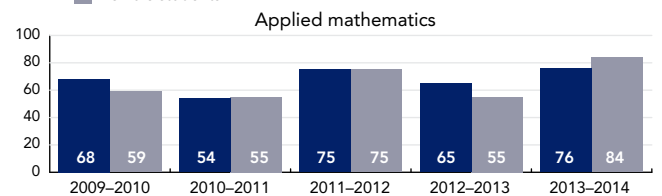
Grade 10



- Highest English-Language Board Level results
- Lowest English-Language Board Level results
- Province
- RCCDSB

Results by Gender

- Male students
- Female students



Our high schools produced spectacular musicals – Grease by Bishop Smith Catholic High School in Pembroke (left), and Beauty and the Beast by St. Joseph's High School in Renfrew (above).

JOURNEY TO LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Throughout the 2013–2014 school year, our Board continued to support quality academic and faith-based education. Priorities were aligned with the goals of the Ministry of Education for increased student engagement and achievement, closing the gaps for student achievement and enhancing public confidence in alignment, and with our strategic multi-year plan. Initiatives included:

- Student Work Study Teacher (SWST) collaborative inquiry learning projects
- Math Collaborative Inquiry for Learning
- Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLP) introducing technology to the classroom to improve student engagement

Academic achievements

The priorities and goals our Board set, along with the outstanding commitment of our teachers, and high level of engagement of our pupils resulted in successful 2013–2014 EQAO assessment results. RCCDSB students attained the Ministry target of 75% or higher in five of six elementary level assessments, and all three secondary assessments. All nine categories were above provincial averages.

Congratulations to our dedicated students, parents and staff—we are proud of these achievements.



Elementary quick facts:

		Reading	Writing	Math
Grade 3	RCCDSB	79%	89%	80%
	Province	70%	78%	67%
Grade 6	RCCDSB	93%	91%	64%
	Province	79%	78%	54%

Secondary quick facts:

By the end of their second year of high school, 82% of secondary students had completed 16 credits.

	Applied math	Academic math	OSSLT (reading and writing)
RCCDSB	80%	86%	88%
Province	47%	85%	83%

We will continue our efforts to reach and maintain the target with programs such as Collaborative Inquiry and Learning in Mathematics and Early Primary Collaborative Inquiry, which help to increase student engagement and improve learning outcomes.

Aboriginal Education 2013/14

Renfrew County Catholic District School Board implemented three major projects involving Aboriginal Education.

Literacy

- A continuation of the project started the year before—all teachers in schools with a high FNMI population were in-serviced once or more on lessons developed for a poetry book called “Joyful Noise.”
- Teachers incorporated in their lessons an aboriginal component using “abstracts” that dealt with teaching aboriginal students and including an aboriginal presence as part of lessons and school.

Numeracy

- All primary teachers Grades 1–3 were involved in PLC in Early Math specifically dealing with Number Sense and Geometry and Spatial Sense. Several abstracts on how FNMI students learn Mathematics were used as a lens for teachers who have FNMI students in their classroom.

Closing the gaps

- Data for all FNMI student writing grade 3,6, 9 (math) and grade 10 literacy were analyzed. Results showed that FNMI students in our Board did as well as the rest of the school population being

below the Board in only one area, but above the province in all areas. All grade 3 and six teachers were in-serviced with regards to the data and areas of improvement were discussed and best practices were brought back to the schools.

- Students in Native Language class again visited several schools in the county to share their culture through song, dance and drumming. This activity proved to be very positive for the students and the school, increased student pride in their culture, and provided an opportunity for students to demonstrate their leadership.



IMPROVING OUR OUTCOMES

Specific measures to improve outcomes for students/schools

Targeted professional development and supports from our program team and external resources include:

- EQAO sessions related to specific needs
- Collaboration with the Ministry on our annual Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement
- Enhanced e-learning opportunities
- Robust summer school program.



Improving outcomes for students unable to attend regular school programs:

- St. Joseph's High School – "Room 307", where students can come out of regular class to work on specific tasks supported by a teacher in a less-structured setting
- Alternate school sites for both our high schools, including partnership in the Renfrew County Youth Services Hub, which fills a gap in the system for youth who are at risk and need an alternative to regular classroom learning
- Columbus House Young Parent Support Program
- We continue to partner with Addiction Treatment Services (ATS) to provide on-site counselling availability at each of our high schools to keep students in school
- Our Safe Schools Co-coordinator is actively involved and liaises with the school and student in cases of suspension, especially long-term suspension.



Accomplishments in improving student learning and achievement through special education programs:

- Continuing our "Road to Independence" training for Educational Assistants to enhance student independence and success.

Notable accomplishments

Student, parent, and community engagement

- **Digital learning focus.** RCCDSB engaged a Special Assignment Teacher (SPAT) for information and learning technologies. A Teacher Learning Leadership Program (TLLP) project introduced iPads, flat-screen televisions and other hi-tech learning tools to the classroom as innovative methods of delivering the curriculum, engage students, and help them to become digital learners in 21st century classrooms. A CODE project created a Professional Learning Community to optimize student learning and engagement through the use of effective teaching and improved technology-enabled practices.
- **Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre** partnership provided opportunities to engage students with nature, encouraging creative use of technology and delivering curriculum-driven activities.



Parent Involvement Committee

- Joint symposium for parents, Head, Hearts and Hands: Our Kids, Their Future, with keynote speaker Craig Kielburger and workshops focused on character education, citizenship, communication, critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, creativity and imagination.
- School council evenings with a focus on faith, student and parent engagement and achievement
- **Destination Imagination** inspired creative and critical thinking to come up with solutions to challenges as a team in regional, provincial and global competitions.

Student safety and health

- To support the mental health and well-being of RCCDSB students, a Mental Health Leader was appointed to develop and implement a mental health strategy, services and support across the board
- CODE was used to enhance equipment in secondary school shops to improve student safety.



Highlights from the past school year include:

- development and implementation of the board-wide Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan
- delivery of girls' and boys' retreat days to help students identify their talents, abilities and beliefs and to build stronger relationships with their peers
- ongoing work in classrooms and schools using restorative practices to help build and repair relationships
- ongoing partnerships with community agencies to provide support for students who might be experiencing difficulty with peers.



Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy:

- Pink Days at schools to mark Bullying Awareness Week November 17-23, 2013, organized by our Safe Schools Coordinator Julie Huckabone, and Tony Cosantino, Family Life Education Resource Teacher. Special prayers, reflections, and activities for each day of the week reflecting the PINK theme (Be Peaceful, Inclusive, Noble, Kind).



Pledge:

Be peaceful, inclusive, noble and kind.

Be of one heart, be of one mind.

All of God's children are born to live free.

Stand up together for you and for me!

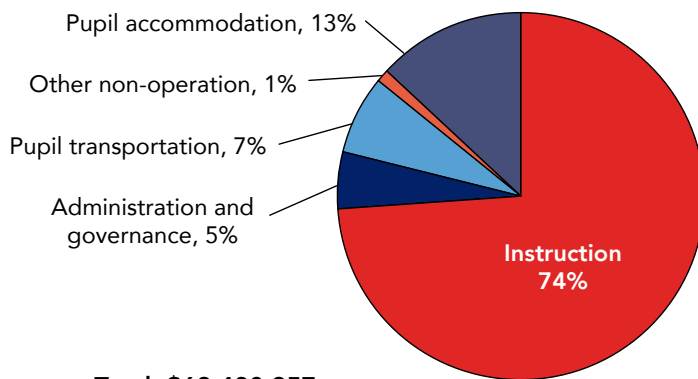
- RCCDSB team attended a workshop with Jeff Kugler in Ottawa on "Culturally Responsive Pedagogy".



STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

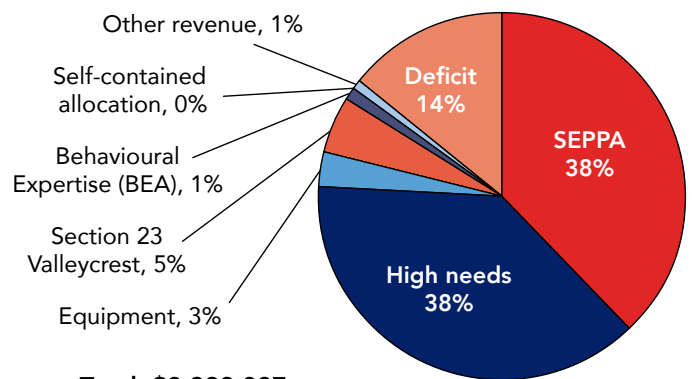
2014–2015 budget

Expenditure by category



Total: \$62,480,957

Special Education Revenues



Total: \$8,922,087

2013–2014 highlights

Programs:

- \$145,000 Mental Health and Addictions Strategy
- \$2.2 million Early Learning Program.

Physical resources:

- \$1.8 million for school renewal and upgrades
- St. Michael's Catholic School, Douglas: addition of a new entrance, library, kindergarten classroom and administrative offices
- Our Lady of Sorrows, Petawawa: two-storey addition for one kindergarten and one regular classroom, and offices for support staff
- Bishop Smith Catholic High School, library transformation and expansion of the food and hospitality program facility.

Technology:

- iPad project at Bishop Smith Catholic High School
- Teacher Learning Leadership Program (TLLP) innovative technology projects—iPads, white boards, Chromebooks, Apple TVs.



Shared resources:

- A fibre optic internet connection to Eastern Ontario schools was established throughout the course of the 2013–2014 school year. This was a major project that provides a stable and robust internet infrastructure across our entire system.

Operational efficiency:

- Implementation of an electronic Human Resources Information System linking HR and payroll
- An accommodation review process concluded with the decision to close St. Casimir's Catholic School, Round Lake, as of September 2014, and St. Mary's Catholic School, Wilno, as of September 2015. Students will transfer to St. Andrew's Catholic School in Killaloe (or may request to attend St. John Bosco in Barry's Bay).