



Western Canada High School

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highlights | 2015-16 school results report

CBE and Provincial Goals

See Board of Trustees' [Results Policies](#) for full, detailed Results statements.

Provincial Goals**

- Alberta's students are successful
- The achievement gap between First Nations, Métis and Inuit and all other students is eliminated
- Alberta's education system is inclusive
- Alberta has excellent teachers, school and school authority leaders
- The education system is well governed and managed

**Alberta Education Requirements

WCHS Highlights

- Students feel safe within a caring learning environment
- Diploma results far exceed the provincial results
- International Baccalaureate results far exceed the World Average.

For the past seven years our school has focused on improving learning experiences for all students. As such, we are heavily involved in the High School Redesign and High School Success work being undertaken within the Calgary Board of Education and across Alberta. This has allowed us to continue with our tradition of strong academic results at the provincial, national, and international levels.

Some highlights of the work we have done:

We have aligned the work of our Professional Learning Communities, our department meetings, and our professional development days with the objectives of the CBE 3-year plan and the objectives of the CBE High School Success initiative in the following areas:

Personalization

- Each grade 10 student is met by a counsellor to establish a 3-year plan.
- Our IPP Key teachers are assigned to students for their years at Western, and they meet with students and parents.
- Each student with an IPP has an IRIS profile.
- Multiple meetings are held with our Jr H feeder schools to help with transition into High School.
- We hold transition meetings about at risk students.
- We continue to support a strong and vibrant extracurricular and club life in order to establish points of connection for the students. Our clubs and athletic teams also offer activities for our feeder schools in order to ease the transition into High School.
- We have introduced a High School Graduation coach for Indigenous students.
- Counsellors connect with grade 12 students to ensure readiness for graduation and post-secondary planning.
- Learning Strategist connects with students and parents for post-secondary planning.
- Work with external agencies to provide individualized program: Boys and Girls Clubs, Junior Achievements, Healthy Relationships.
- Tutorial programs offered outside the time table; Study Space, Peer tutoring.



Flexible Learning Environments

- Multiple courses are offered outside the timetable: International Politics and Comparative Government, Latin, Yoga, Band, Choir, PD in the Arts, Work Experience.
- Students are informed about and given the choice of taking courses outside the school: E.g., Chinook, CBE Learn, CT Centre. E.g., this semester 21 students are taking courses at the CT Centre for half of the day.

Educator Roles and Professional Development

- For our IB Programme, 18 teachers have completed or are registered for IB workshops/Conferences.
- 10 teachers participated in educational conferences across North America.
- Core Subject teachers participate in a city-wide Professional Learning Community.
- We hosted a Common PD Day with our feeder schools.

Meaningful Relationships

- Certain groups of students are specifically followed by staff members: Immersion, ELL, Indigenous, IB, IPP Students.
- Each semester, there is a Healthy Relationships group for students in vulnerable situations.
- The majority of students are involved in one form or another in extracurricular activities: 10 musical ensembles, 40 clubs & 25 athletic teams

Home and Community Involvement

- Our results regarding parental involvement went up on the Acct Pillar survey: from 71.2% to 77%.
- We are continuing and pursuing new opportunities for community involvement with our local corporate community:
 - BMO is taking students in finance as CSR
 - NNES & Company (Accounting)
 - Useful Software design
 - Hotel Arts Culinary Apprentice
 - Earls Tin Palace
 - Husky
 - U of C Lab Experience
 - JR Achievement program (80 students)
 - CIBC
 - Jim Pattison Broadcast Group
 - Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra
 - KPMG (Through the Martin Family Initiative)

- U of C (NAPI Leadership program)
- Calgary Hitmen
- Drop-In Centre
- Fountains of Mission Retirement Home
- Brenda Strafford Centre
- Interfaith Food Bank
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Canadian Blood Services
- Terry Fox Foundation
- Knox United Church
- Heavens Fitness

Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, and Safe School

In the last two years our school has developed an intentional mental wellness strategy:

Hired a .5 psychologist

Increased counselling time by .25 FTE

Continued work of staff wellness committee

Created a student wellness club

Introduced gender neutral bathrooms

Introduced yoga classes

Introduced Math-15 Class

Introduced Math Camp for IB Students

Introduced yoga sessions prior to exams

Regular PD sessions for faculty with regards to mental health:

Of particular interest was the live performance of the Laramie Project followed by a panel on creating Safe Spaces in a school. The presentation was attended by the Faculty at Western Canada and by teachers from both school boards.

Introduction of depression screening day (Oct 6th 2017)

Interactive activities by different student clubs to raise awareness:

Speak-out on Mental Illness;

Pride Week by Spectrum Club;

Safe Space program introduced by Spectrum Club.

Regular sessions in collaboration with AHS for parents:

-Nov 1st 2016: Coping with Stress

-Feb 9th 2017: Motivating the Unmotivated

-Sept 19th 2017: Nancy Mannix on the work of the Palix Foundation

Fitness center available to students and staff

Study Space available

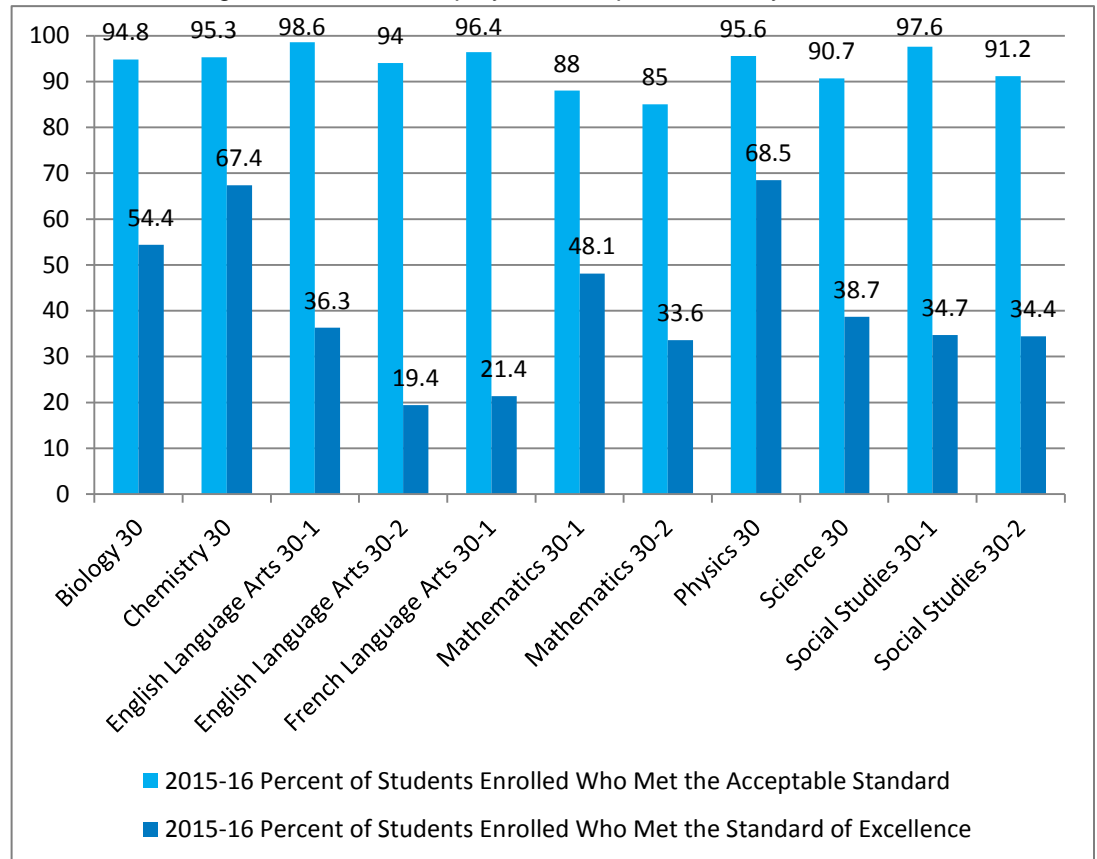
The impact of this strategy is starting to show in our survey results: On the accountability pillar survey, the percentage of students rating the school as safe and caring went from 88% in 2015 to 92% in 2016.

Rigorous and Relevant Curriculum

- Rigour: Students rated rigor 6.5 out of 10 (up from 6.1 last year)
- Relevance: Students rated relevance 6.3 out of 10 (up from 5.9 last year)
- Establishment of sister school relationships with Stovring Gymnasium (Denmark) and Lycée Duhamel (France).
- In addition, the following experiences have been offered to students:
 - Model UN trips to Montreal and New York
 - Band trip to California
 - Spanish Language Students' Trip to Spain
 - International Exchange with Stovring, Denmark
 - International Exchange with Yokohama, Japan
 - Hiking/Hostelling trip In Kananaskis and Banff

Student results

The overall average of the school is up by .5% compared to last year's results.



Acc: % of students reaching Acceptable results on the diploma exam: 50% or more at Western Canada.

Exc: % of students reaching Excellent results on the diploma exam: 80% or more at Western Canada.

For a complete report of CBE and provincial results visit the CBE website at <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/about-us/provincial-tests-and-reports/Pages/default.aspx>

2016 International Baccalaureate Exam Results: (mark is out of 7)

Course	Western Canada High School Average 2013	Western Canada High School Average 2014	Western Canada High School Average 2015	Western Canada High School Average 2016	World Average
English SL			5.05	5.06	4.98
English HL	5.25	5.26	5.41	5.72	4.8
European History HL French	5.18	4.79	4.79		4.80
European History HL	5.38	5.76	5.28	5.40	4.80
Chemistry HL English	5.94	5.33	5.07	5.29	4.47
Biology SL English	5.91	5.38	5.73	6.11	4.24
Biology HL English	5.65	5.46	5.19	5.77	4.32
French AB SL	5.94	5.95	5.61	6.36	4.91
French B HL	5.85	6.04	5.85	5.70	5.27
French B SL	5.67		5.44	5.85	4.92
Spanish AB SL	5.87	5.53	5.85	5.81	5.10
Spanish B SL	6.14	6.10	6.00	6.00	5.07
Spanish B HL	6.00		6.33	7.00	5.40
Mandarin B SL	7.00	5.83	6.50	7.00	6.00
Math HL English	5.43	5.27	4.26	4.88	4.46
Math SL English	6.04	5.67	5.98	6.09	4.38
Math SL French	5.67	5.43	5.10	5.30	4.38
Math Studies SL	5.00		4.86	5.00	4.41
Physics SL English	6.18	5.66	6.13	5.63	4.04
Physics HL			5.86	5.64	4.60
Philosophy SL	5.41		5.47	5.42	4.67
Philosophy HL	6.00		4.88	5.50	4.89
Visual Arts HL	5.75	5.33			4.88
Number of exams written	564	698	702	684	
Average mark received by Diploma students (maximum: 45)	37	36	34	37	
Number of successful IB Diploma Candidates	39	51	45	44	

School Development Plan Highlights

Outcomes from 2015 – 2016 School Development Plan*

From TTFM May 2016

Drivers of student outcomes:

Effective learning time: Students rated effective learning time 6.6 out of 10 (up from 6.1 last year)

Expectations for success: Students rated Teachers' expectations for Academic Success 7.5 out of 10 (same level as last year)

Measures and Results 2015 – 2016*

Alberta Education Accountability Pillar survey** results:

Measure Category	Measure Category Evaluation	Measure	Western Canada High School			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
			Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Safe and Caring Schools	Excellent	Safe and Caring	92.6	88.0	88.0	89.5	89.2	89.1	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
Student Learning Opportunities	Excellent	Program of Studies	85.6	81.0	81.7	81.9	81.3	81.4	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
		Education Quality	92.5	89.8	89.3	90.1	89.5	89.5	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
		Drop Out Rate	1.9	2.6	2.4	3.2	3.5	3.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
		High School Completion Rate (3 yr)	87.7	87.6	86.8	76.5	76.5	75.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Student Learning Achievement (Grades K-9)	n/a	PAT: Acceptable	n/a	n/a	n/a	73.6	72.9	73.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
		PAT: Excellence	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.4	18.8	18.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
Student Learning Achievement (Grades 10-12)	n/a	Diploma: Acceptable	96.0	95.0	94.7	85.0	85.2	85.1	Very High	Improved	Excellent
		Diploma: Excellence	47.6	43.4	42.9	21.0	21.0	20.5	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
		Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams)	80.5	77.5	79.3	54.6	54.4	53.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
		Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	86.0	n/a	n/a	60.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship	Good	Transition Rate (6 yr)	60.6	62.2	64.1	59.4	59.7	59.3	High	Declined	Acceptable
		Work Preparation	84.9	82.7	81.7	82.6	82.0	81.1	High	Maintained	Good
		Citizenship	89.5	86.8	85.4	83.9	83.5	83.4	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
Parental Involvement	Excellent	Parental Involvement	83.3	77.2	74.4	80.9	80.7	80.5	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
Continuous Improvement	Excellent	School Improvement	86.1	72.5	72.2	81.2	79.6	80.0	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent



Targets for 2016-2017*

Based on our results, we have set the following targets for improvement in our School Development Plan 2016 – 2017:

Achievement Goals:

Increase of .5% in Diploma course completion over 2016. (Completion 2016 was at 96%)

Decrease of the number of students getting 50% or under on the report card, from 239 students on the first report card to 160 students on the January report card.

Indigenous students obtaining Acceptable on diploma examinations will be maintained above 91%.

Participation rate of Indigenous students in diploma exams will be 100%, the same as 2015-2016.

Instructional Goals:

On the Gr 10 survey results question: "I am comfortable learning about things that don't have a single right answer":

The percentage of students answering *agree* and *strongly agree* will go up by 1%. (from 86.8% in 2016)

On the Gr 12 survey results question: "When writing is required in everyday life, I have the skills I need": the percentage of students with the *agree* and *strongly agree* answers will go up by .5% (from 94.4% in 2016)

On the Gr 12 survey results question: "When Math is required in everyday life, I have the skills I need", the percentage of students with the *agree* and *strongly agree* answers will go up by .5% (from 89.6 last year)

On the accountability pillar survey, the percentage of teachers, parents, and students satisfied with the overall quality of basic education will go up by .2% (from 90.1% in 2016)

Gr 11 student engagement will be maintained at 61% or above on the 2017 TTFM survey (compared to 61% in 2015 and 54% in 2014, National norm: 42%)

Students who find the classroom instruction rigorous will go from 6.3 (2015) to 6.4

The rate of students who think that important concepts are taught well and class time is used efficiently, will go up or be maintained at 6.6 (2016) Canadian Norm is at 6.2.

Dropout rate for Indigenous students will go from 4.1% in 2016 to 0% in 2017.

100% of coded students will have an IRIS profile. (from 0% in 2016).

The number of IB diploma students will go up from 44 in 2016 to 75 in 2018.

The number of students failing Math 10-C will go down from 95 in 2016 to 50 in 2017.

Our school

Honouring its tradition of excellence, Western Canada High School prepares and empowers students to be knowledgeable, confident, lifelong learners capable of enhancing their lives and the quality of the world.

The original school building was completed in 1903 as a British-style exclusive high school for boys called Western Canada College. It was created by "*The Western Canada College Bill of Incorporating Ordinance*" enacted by the Government of the Northwest Territories, of which Calgary was then a part before the province of Alberta was created in 1905.

A granite shaft bearing a Cross of Sacrifice was dedicated as a list of honour memorial to Western Canada College students who were killed during the First World War and who served during the Second World War, the Korean War and as peacekeepers.

Western was Calgary's first composite high school, providing both technical and academic courses of study. The school has been substantially renovated and additions have been made to the building over the years. The school recently underwent a series of renovations which were completed in Fall 2012.

Western Canada provides French and English language as primary languages of instruction. In addition, it is one of a select number of schools in Calgary to offer French immersion. Western is one of a small number of Calgary high schools to offer an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme each year and one of the very few in Alberta to offer IB in French Immersion. The school also offers an extensive performing and visual arts program, and a certificate to recognize students that have made fine arts a focus of learning at the high school level.

Class Size

For a detailed report on the school and CBE average class sizes go to: <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/FormsManuals/Class-Size-Survey-Jurisdiction-Report.pdf>

School Fees

For a detailed report of school fees and expenditures visit our school website at: <http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b816/> or contact the school directly.





**Western Canada High School
School Council**

www.wchscouncil.ca

2015/2016 Chair's Report

First we would like to thank our remarkable Principal, Mr. Martin Poirier, and his team of leaders, including the administrators and office staff, teachers and coaches for the outstanding job they do to help and inspire our students' day in and day out. They are ever giving of themselves to create an enriched environment for each and every Western Canada High School student.

We would also like to thank all the members and volunteers of our School Council for their efforts and team work over this past year. Together we enhanced student life, kept parents connected to our school and were a bridge between our parent community and administration. We offered updates to parents and opportunities for them to share their thoughts and ideas throughout the school year facilitating insight into student life at Western and providing a platform for parental input. Our goal is to stay connected, to keep our parent community current with school news and activities and to add value to our parent community with regular open school council meetings for our parents. We also included important information in the automated weekly administrative updates and posted updates and CBE information on our School Council page and blog on the WCHS website. Some of the highlights of the 2015 – 2016 year for the School Council were:

- Purchase of additional cafeteria chairs
- Purchase of benches for students located in hallways
- Approval to financially support another water bottle filling station
- Support of Staff Appreciation Days which were additionally enhanced by countless parents who decorated the staff room and provided an abundance of snacks and treats each day
- School Council resources facilitated the purchase of all the student agendas
- School Council resources supported CALM classroom activities and guest speakers
- School Council provided seed money for initial startup of the newly formed and student lead WCHS Student Cultural Club which celebrates, educates and highlights the amazing cultural diversity of our student body
- School Council facilitated calming meditation practices with certified instructors before stressful June exams

School council special presentations included:

- In September we hosted Career Night with Ms. Heidi Lund
- November was our AGM and we had a presentation about post-secondary planning and scholarship
- In January we had a presentation on Teen Sleep by Mary MacLeod
- In March we hosted Dr. Tom Keenan, author and professor at the University of Calgary on internet perils
- In May, the topic was 'All things Grad' with a presentation by our AP Cheryl McKelvie with details about WCHS graduation day ceremonies and a presentation by defence lawyer, Don MacLeod on managing the risk of grad parties.

We look forward to seeing you again in the fall at our first School Council meeting **Tuesday, September 27th, 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the WCHS Library**. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear about **Scholarships and University Applications**. We are hosting this prior to the **Post-Secondary Fair** scheduled for October so both parents and students are informed and able to ask questions in October of the University representatives.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

Arzmond Teja and Mary MacLeod
Co-Chairs WCHS School Council.

Working together, the School and School Council foster an effective, supportive and progressive learning environment in which all students can aspire to achieve their potential.

www.wchscouncil.ca

