



2017
2018
**Annual
Report
to the
Community**



Annapolis Valley
Regional Centre for Education

Working Together for Students

2017-2018: A Year of Transformation

Welcome to the Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education's Annual Report to the Community, looking back on the 2017-2018 school year; a transformative year in education across our province.

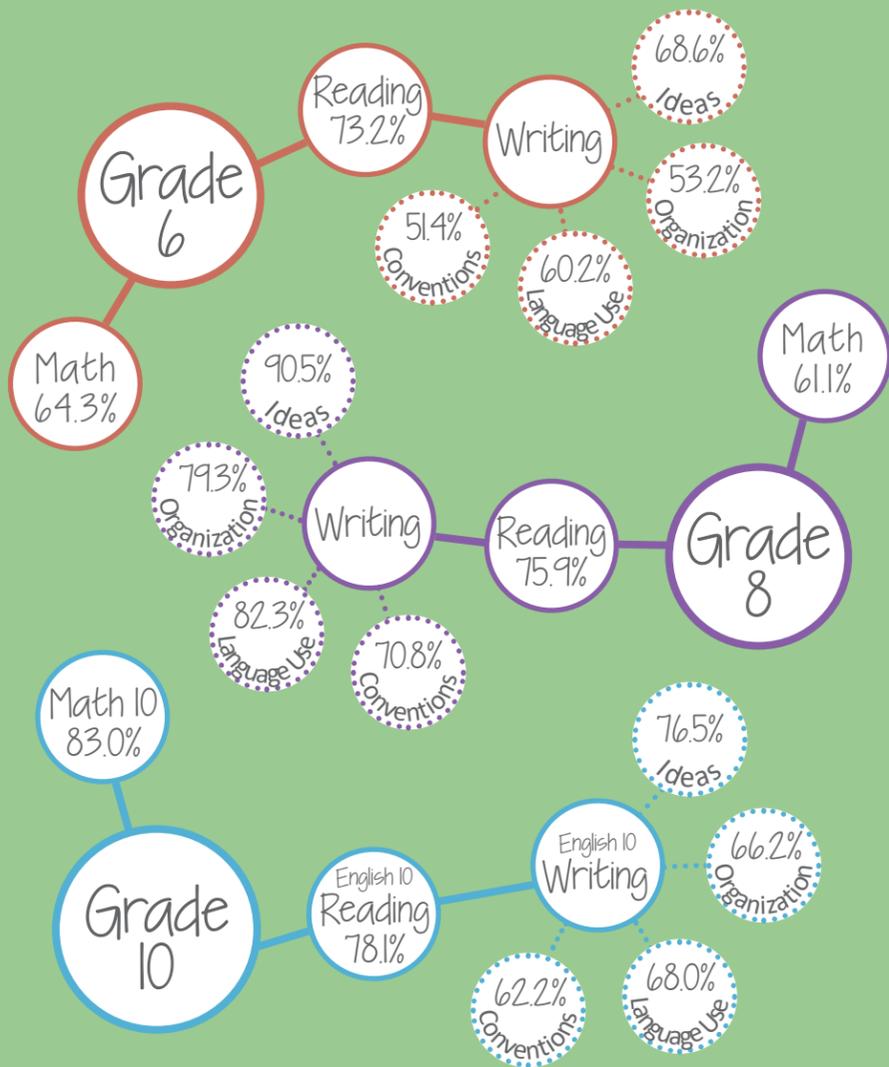
Our name changed on April 1, 2018, following the dissolution of the governing Board. As the Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education, we are part of a unified provincial education system. A Regional Executive Director of Education, formerly Superintendent of Schools, leads each regional centre for education and reports directly to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

While the education system is evolving, our goals remain constant. **Supporting student success and achievement, advancing race relations, cross cultural understanding and human rights, and providing safe, inclusive school environments** are at the core of everything we do. Although the environment we are in and the tools we use may change, we will always aim to do more, and to do better in these areas.

Similarly, we remain dedicated to **working together for students** and to our relationships with staff, volunteers, parents/guardians, partner organizations and school communities. Their contributions have made the successes highlighted in this report possible, and our gratitude goes out to our many partners in education for helping us to always put students first.

Student Achievement

Last year, students in grades 6, 8 and 10 took part in provincial assessments. These "snapshots" of student learning help teachers and administrators measure the effectiveness of curriculum delivery, and determine how best to help students achieve learning outcomes. At a regional and provincial level, assessments provide data that guides education decision making. The numbers below show the percentage of AVRCE students **meeting provincial expectations in math, reading and writing.**



Pre-Primary

The Provincial Pre-Primary Program was successfully introduced at four AVRCE schools in September 2017: Dr. Arthur Hines School, Three Mile Plains District School, St. Mary's Elementary School and Clark Rutherford Memorial School. A total of 54 children were enrolled across these sites. In March 2017, government announced this play-based learning program for four-year-old children would expand to nine more AVRCE schools in September 2018, including a pilot program in partnership with a community-based service provider for the Kings County Academy catchment area.



SchoolsPlus

A SchoolsPlus site for Kings East was established in 2017-2018. With the addition of this fourth site, students and families at all AVRCE schools now have access to SchoolsPlus services. SchoolsPlus provides "wrap-around" support, bringing together health, mental health, social work, justice and community services. Some of the programming offered through SchoolsPlus last year included mental wellness programs, cooking classes, and support groups for parents/guardians and grandparents.

Regional Fairs Spark Discovery Beyond the Classroom

Two regional "Fairs" happen annually in the spring, giving students a chance to explore topics of interest in-depth and extend learning beyond the classroom. Heritage Fair 2018 welcomed 74 projects on culture and history from grade 4 to 9 students. The 2018 Regional Science Fair featured 76 science and technology projects by grade Primary to 12 students.



Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights

Our goal of enhancing race relations, cross cultural understanding and respect for human rights touches our work at all levels, from daily support to students and classrooms through the Student Support Worker (SSW) and Native Student Advisor (NSA) Programs, to creating safe and inclusive spaces for all students through GSAs (Gay-Straight/Gender-Sexuality Alliances) and Diversity Clubs in every school, to employment equity in all Human Resources practices.



Collaboration=Improving Math Success

Three collaborative learning teams were established for grade 8 math teachers, focusing on improving instruction through common assessments. The work of these teams is ongoing as part of our Middle Level Math Strategy.

School Openings

Wolfville School was officially re-opened in November 2017 by Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Zach Churchill, following two years of extensive renovations. Bridgetown's P-5 and 6-12 schools merged to become Bridgetown Regional Community School, with a new school building officially opened in September 2017 by Premier Stephen McNeil.



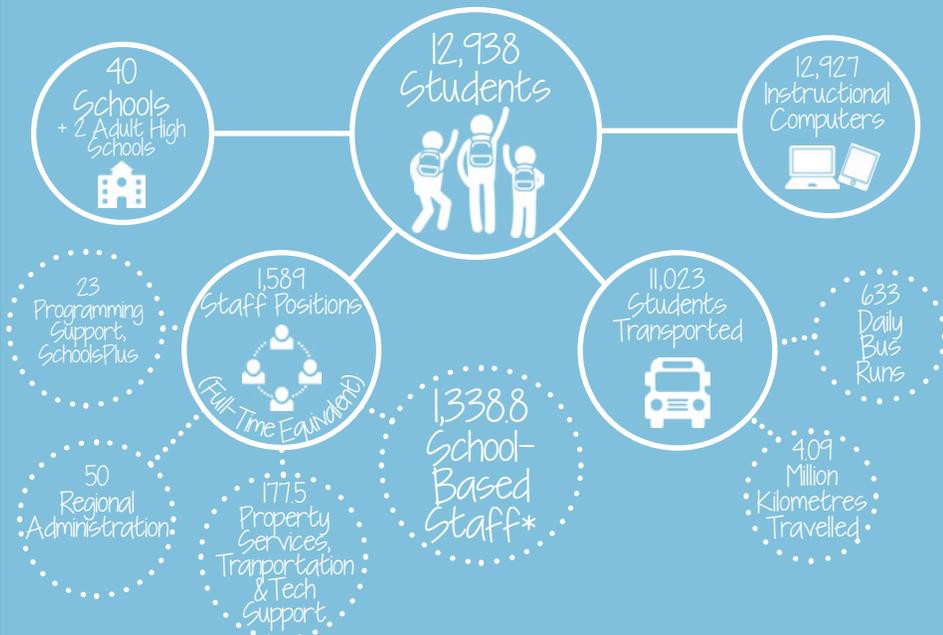
High School Showcase

In November 2017, 432 staff who support grade 9-12 students took part in the High School Showcase, a professional development day focused on communication, critical thinking, collaboration and creativity. Participants shared best practices and knowledge through 39 workshops in order to enrich learning and support student achievement. This event followed a successful Middle Level Showcase in May 2017. An Elementary Showcase is in the works for May 2019.



*as of November 2017

2017-2018 By the Numbers



*School-based staff includes classroom teachers, resource teachers, school administrators, guidance counsellors, school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, educational assistants, school secretaries, library technicians, student support workers, native student advisors, early childhood educators, student supervisors, student outreach workers and literacy support workers.

Class Caps

Starting in September 2017, provincial class size guidelines were established for all grades.



FEDS Partnership Enhances EA Skills, Support for Students

In June 2018, 23 Educational Assistants (EAs) received a certificate of accomplishment for completing a two-year Foundations in Educational Support Program at NSCC. Developed through a collaboration between AVRCE and NSCC, this part-time program provides focused, job-specific training to enhance the skills of EAs in our region, which translates to enhanced support for students.



Operating Budget

In 2017-2018, nearly 80 per cent of our annual operating budget was focused directly on students and schools.

Revenue

Province of Nova Scotia	\$123,031,053
Government of Canada	\$1,223,987
Municipal Contributions	\$22,228,644
School Generated Funds	\$4,367,337
Regional Operations	\$5,023,458
Total Revenue	\$155,874,479

Expenditures

Board Governance	\$587,272
Regional Executive Director of Education's Office	\$362,744
Financial Services	\$1,285,733
Human Resource Services	\$1,093,951
School Services	\$119,962,179
Operational Services	\$24,863,344
Other Programs	\$3,486,004
School Based Funds	\$4,040,773
Total Expenditures	\$155,682,000

Annual Operating Surplus

\$192,479