



**2022-2023
ANNUAL BUDGET
REPORT**

ANNUAL BUDGET REPORT 2022-23

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Executive Summary

Wild Rose School Division (WRSD) has a total operating budget of approximately \$60 million and provides public education services to the communities of Rocky Mountain House, Drayton Valley, Caroline, the Corridor and Breton.

Wild Rose School Division serves approximately 4,400 students from early education (pre-school) to grade twelve. The Division provides high quality learning experiences for students through a broad range of educational programs in seventeen (17) schools and one (1) institutional program.

Governance

According to Board Policy 2, “the Board of Trustees is responsible for the development of goals and policies to guide the provision of educational services to students resident within the Division, in keeping with the requirements of government legislation and the values of the electorate”. The budget has been prepared to reflect the mission, vision, beliefs, values and goals as set forth by the Board of Trustees in its Divisional Foundational Statements and reflects the priorities laid out in the Division’s Assurance Plan.

Budget Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles of Allocation

1. Our priority is first children, and the funding allocation should provide equity so that each school (and thus each child) is treated fairly relative to all the other schools (and other students).
2. The funding allocation will proportionately distribute funds to schools based on the needs of all of their students and to fund per the Division’s Allocation Guidelines.
3. A fiscally responsible budget will be presented while maximizing the allocation to areas that have the greatest impact on student success.
4. Classroom teachers will be allocated relatively based on class size guidelines from Alberta Education.
5. School based leadership should be provided with flexibility as required to meet the unique needs of their school community.

Division Priorities

Motto

To improve the life chances of ALL students

Mission

To create powerful learning environments that inspire individual growth in learning and support the wellbeing of all students and staff

Vision

All students will have dignity, purpose, and hope throughout and upon completion of their education with Wild Rose School Division.

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Values

- Continuous Improvement: Commitment to growth
- Innovation: Design creative learning environments
- Empathy: Compassionate support regarding individual circumstances
- Integrity: Act with honesty, fairness and respect.

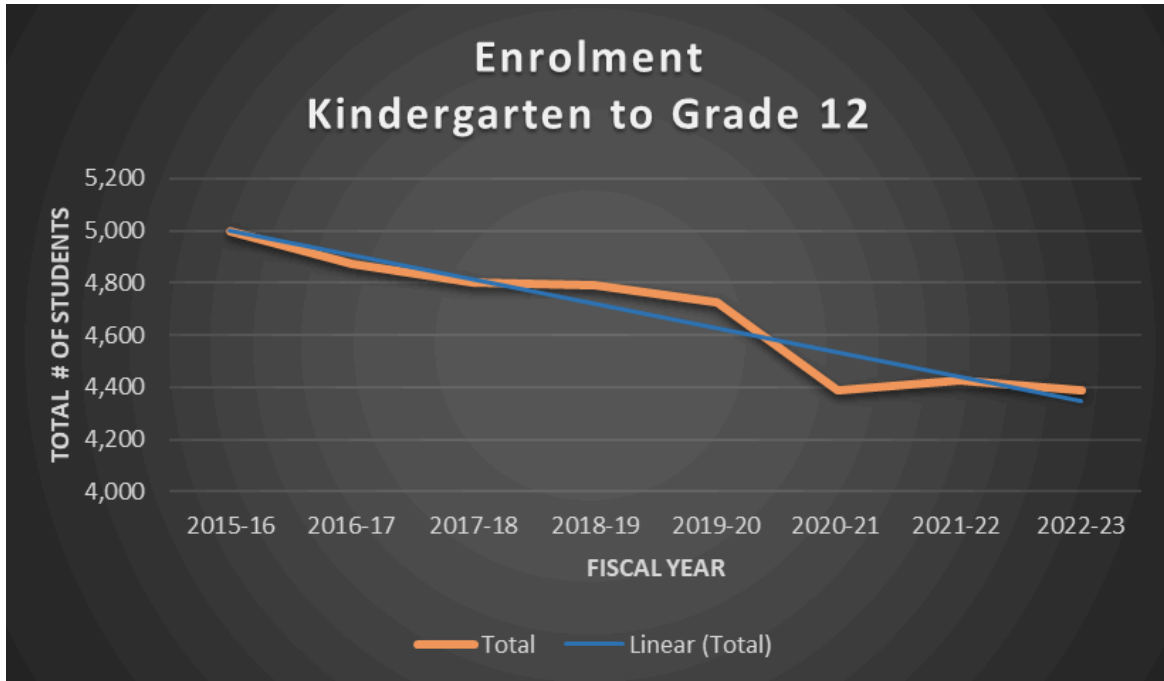
The Board of Trustees use these priorities and belief statements for the development of the 2022-23 budget. The budget allocates resources available to achieve the Division’s vision through priorities which address the learning needs and achievement outcomes for all WRSD students.

Budget Cycle

The division’s annual budget serves as an operational plan, stated in financial terms, for carrying out the goals and priorities of the upcoming fiscal year. The budget process is a collaborative process involving many stakeholders including Alberta Education, the Board, the division Senior Leadership Team, principals and the community. The budget process begins in early January and is finalized when the Board of Trustees approves the budget at its May Board meeting. The Budget is due to Alberta Education annually by May 31.

Enrolment

Wild Rose School Division is projecting a little less than 4,400 students to be enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 12 in the 2022-23 school year as compared to 4,455 in 2021-22. This is an overall decrease of 69 students or 1.5 percent.



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The above chart illustrates the change in enrolment from September 2015 to September 2022 (projection). The division's enrolment has been declining year over year since September 2016.

Enrolment fluctuations have a significant impact on future grant revenues. These fluctuations have been minimized with the introduction of the new Provincial Funding Framework - funding is now based on a Weighted Moving Average (WMA). The WMA is helpful to rural school divisions with declining enrolment as it is a predictable funding model (removing significant fluctuations from year-to-year as experienced previously).

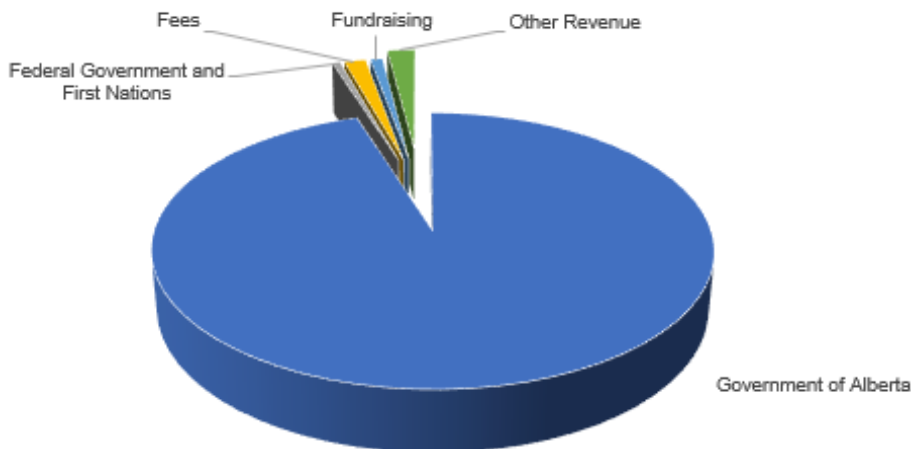
Similar to the 2021-22 school year, Alberta Education will hold school boards harmless for another school year. This means that Wild Rose School Division will receive the same funding as in the 2020-21 school year, even though we have lost over 300 students since 2019-20. As a rural school board, with declining enrollment this decision is invaluable to our students, staff and parents/guardians.

Class Sizes

Wild Rose School Division continues to maximize resources allocated to classroom teaching and support staff to ensure success for all students. The projected 2022-23 class size averages will increase from 2021-22 levels for Kindergarten to Grade 12. However, they will be very similar to 2018-19 class sizes and at that time the division had over 4,700 students.

Funding Sources

Wild Rose School Division receives over 95 percent of its funding from the Provincial Government. The Division has other revenue sources such as school fees, school generated funds and investment income, which comprise the remaining 5 percent of the total revenue.



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In the 2020-21 school year, Alberta Education introduced a new funding model. The new funding model reduced the number of grants from 36 to 15 under the following framework grants:

Base Instruction

Base Instruction funding is based on the Weighted Moving Average (WMA) of funded full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrolment. Under the WMA system, enrolment funding is now based on three years of enrolments:

- previous year's actual enrolment (20%),
- an estimate for the current year (30%)
- a projection for the next year (50%).

The WMA is set for the 2022-23 school year during the Preliminary Budget; whereas, although there are still the September 29th final student enrolment counts, these updated enrolments do not take account until the following budget year (as part of estimated enrolments and as part of a prior year WMA adjustment).

High School Funding - Funding for high school will also use the WMA enrolment methodology, which will replace the Carnegie Unit and credit enrolment unit funding. However, high school funding base rates are higher than the Kindergarten to Grade 9 base rate to reflect the additional costs of high school programming.

Services & Supports

The Services and Supports grant funding consists of several grants to support the specialized learning needs and/or groups of students that may require additional supports. These grants include, ECS Pre-K Program, Unit Funding (PUF), Moderate Language Delay Grant, Specialized Learning Support, First Nations, Metis and Inuit Education, English as a Second Language, Refugee Student and Institutional Programs. The majority of these grants are calculated using the WMA.

Schools

The Schools grant funding includes Operations and Maintenance funding, Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR), Transportation, and Supernet funding. Operations and Maintenance funding is allocated in a combination of the WMA enrolment and the school facility space utilization. Transportation funding is currently under review and the funding we receive has remained the same for Budget 2020 and Budget 2021.

Community

The Community funding includes various grants such as Socio-Economic, Geographic, and School Nutrition. These funding allocations are specific provincial allocations based on the Division's factors and indexes compared to the Province and the respective funding allocations.

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Jurisdictions

The Jurisdictions grant separates the funding specifically for Board Governance and System Administration. This is a targeted grant in that the division is not supposed to spend over the amount allocated by Alberta Education.

Staffing Allocations

Staffing has the greatest impact on the educational opportunities provided to students within Wild Rose School Division and consequently makes up approximately 71 percent of the Division's budget.

In 2022-23 the division is projecting staffing of 240 full time equivalent (FTE) teachers (including four held in contingency) and 82 full time equivalents (FTE) educational assistants. The division spends approximately 50 percent of the budget on teaching staff. In 2022-23 teaching staff will decrease by 14 FTE and 13 Educational Assistants from 2021-22. However, based on projected student enrollment, it will allow the Board to maintain reasonable class sizes and the additional supports required for students where needed. The Family Wellness Program will see the continuation of the one year temporary Family Wellness Worker Assistants Program. However, staffing will be reduced from 8.5 FTE to 5.5 FTE. Family Wellness Workers will remain at 10.4 FTE.

For the 2022-23 school year, the division will be hiring two Indigenous Education Specialists, Elders and a 0.5 FTE Director of Indigenous Education. Together with the Board and administration, they will be responsible to help division staff move forward in their commitment and understanding of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. This team will support First Nations, Métis and Inuit student experience success, enhance communications between the school and the First Nations, Métis and Inuit community and provide a vital social and cultural link between the school and the community.

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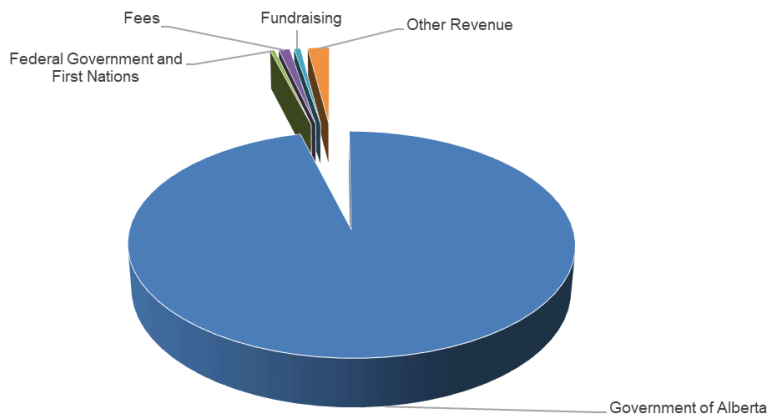
Financial Summary

The 2022-23 Wild Rose School Division budget has a deficit of \$1,404,924. The division operating reserves are expected to decline by at least \$1.4 million to cover the deficit.

The budget is based on a number of key budget assumptions. The assumptions are based on the best information available at the time the budget was prepared. Some of the key budget assumptions include:

1. Funding received from Alberta Education as indicated in March 2022.
2. Best estimate of the current year deficit as that will affect the reserve balance.
3. Unfunded agreement for ATA and TEBA provincial negotiations.
4. Returning cleaning schedules and HVAC systems back to precovid levels.
5. Board governance and system administration expenses are expected to remain within the \$2,212,588 grant provided for administration.
6. Asset Retirement Obligation - a new accounting standard Applies to all public sector entities (except government business enterprises for the purposes of the policy) that are included in the government reporting entity (GRE) for the Province of Alberta. School divisions are required to set up a liability for the cost to remediate asbestos in a school when a school is disposed of.

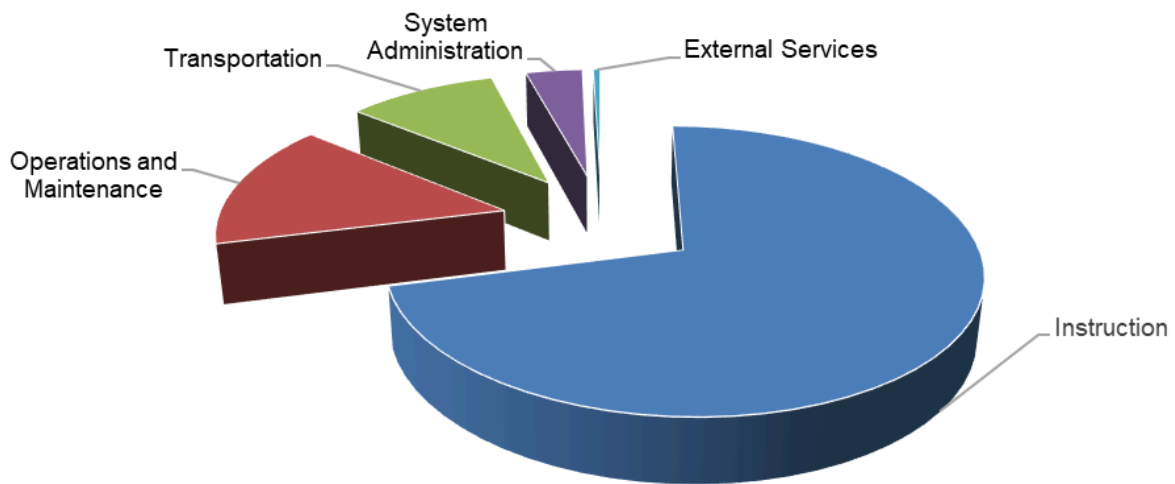
Revenue



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Revenue by Source		
	2022-23 Budget	
Government of Alberta	56,858,351	96.0%
Federal Government and First Nations	256,000	0.4%
Fees	594,000	1.0%
Fundraising	350,000	0.6%
Other Revenue	1,141,800	1.9%
Total	59,200,151	100%

Expense by Program



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Expense By Program		
	2022-23 Budget	
Instruction	42,943,466	70.9%
Operations and Maintenance	9,136,207	15.1%
Transportation	5,981,645	9.9%
System Administration	2,270,844	3.7%
External services	272,913	0.5%
Total	60,605,075	100%
Annual Surplus (Deficit)		(1,404,924)

Business and Financial Risk

Wild Rose School Division receives over 90 percent of its funding from the provincial government. As a result, the division's sustainability is dependent on this funding.

There may be a risk of additional unanticipated expenses due to Covid.

The province has not signed an agreement with the Alberta Teachers' Association for the 2022-23 contract year for central bargaining matters. There is some risk that the deal will not be funded by the Alberta Government and that costs of this future agreement will exceed the amount budgeted.