



EDUCATION PLAN

2023
2026

Powering Hope and Possibilities



Education Plan

Each and every year, all of our schools in Golden Hills, along with our staff, work hard to improve our schools and learning environments to create valuable educational opportunities for our students.

We take the feedback from teachers, staff and parents, as well as our achievement results and use that critical information to report to our school communities and develop a plan to move forward. On the following pages, you will find our Education Plan for 2023-2026.



Board of Trustees



Golden Hills School Division Board of Trustees

Back Row (left to right): Justin Bolin - Ward 3, James Northcott - Ward 2, Barry Kletke - Ward 1
Front Row (left to right): Rob Pirie - Ward 4, Board Chair Laurie Huntley - Ward 5, Jennifer Mertz - Ward 4

We want every one of our schools to be the first choice for parents and students in their communities. Our staff has worked hard to provide innovative, caring and creative learning environments across all of our schools. We are proud of the work and we are also very proud of our hard working and dedicated schools.

*Laurie Huntley
Board Chair*



About Our Division

Golden Hills School Division is one of the largest employers in rural mid-eastern Alberta. The Division employs approximately 900 people, including bus drivers, maintenance workers, support staff, caretakers, teachers and others. We are all dedicated to supporting student learning in the classroom.

We value our diverse environments and the communities we are part of that are rich with culture and educational opportunities.

Accountability Statement

The Education Plan for Golden Hills School Division commencing September 5, 2023 was prepared under the direction of the Board of Trustees in accordance with the responsibilities under the Education Act and the Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act.

This plan was developed in the context of the provincial government's business and fiscal plans. The Board has used its performance results to develop the plan and is committed to implementing the strategies contained within the plan to improve student learning and results.

The Board approved the Education Plan for 2023/24 to 2025/2026 on May 23, 2023.


Board Chair

Our Schools

Golden Hills has 15 regular schools, two Christian alternative schools, two virtual schools, three outreach schools, 19 Hutterite schools and an international program with 300 students from 30 countries.

The communities we work with consist of numerous farms and acreages, Siksika Nation, as well as local towns, villages and countries around the world. Golden Hills is a global community.

By Geographic Area

ACME/CARBON/LINDEN

- Acme School
- Carbon School
- Dr. Elliott School

THREE HILLS

- Three Hills School
- Prairie Christian Academy*

TROCHU

- Trochu Valley School

EAST WHEATLAND

- Wheatland Crossing School

VIRTUAL

- Golden Hills Learning Academy
- NorthStar Academy

STRATHMORE

- Anchors Outreach ^
- École Brentwood Elementary
- Carseland School
- Crowther Memorial Junior High School
- George Freeman School
- Strathmore High School
- Strathmore Storefront School ^
- Trinity Christian Academy*
- Westmount School
- Wheatland Elementary School

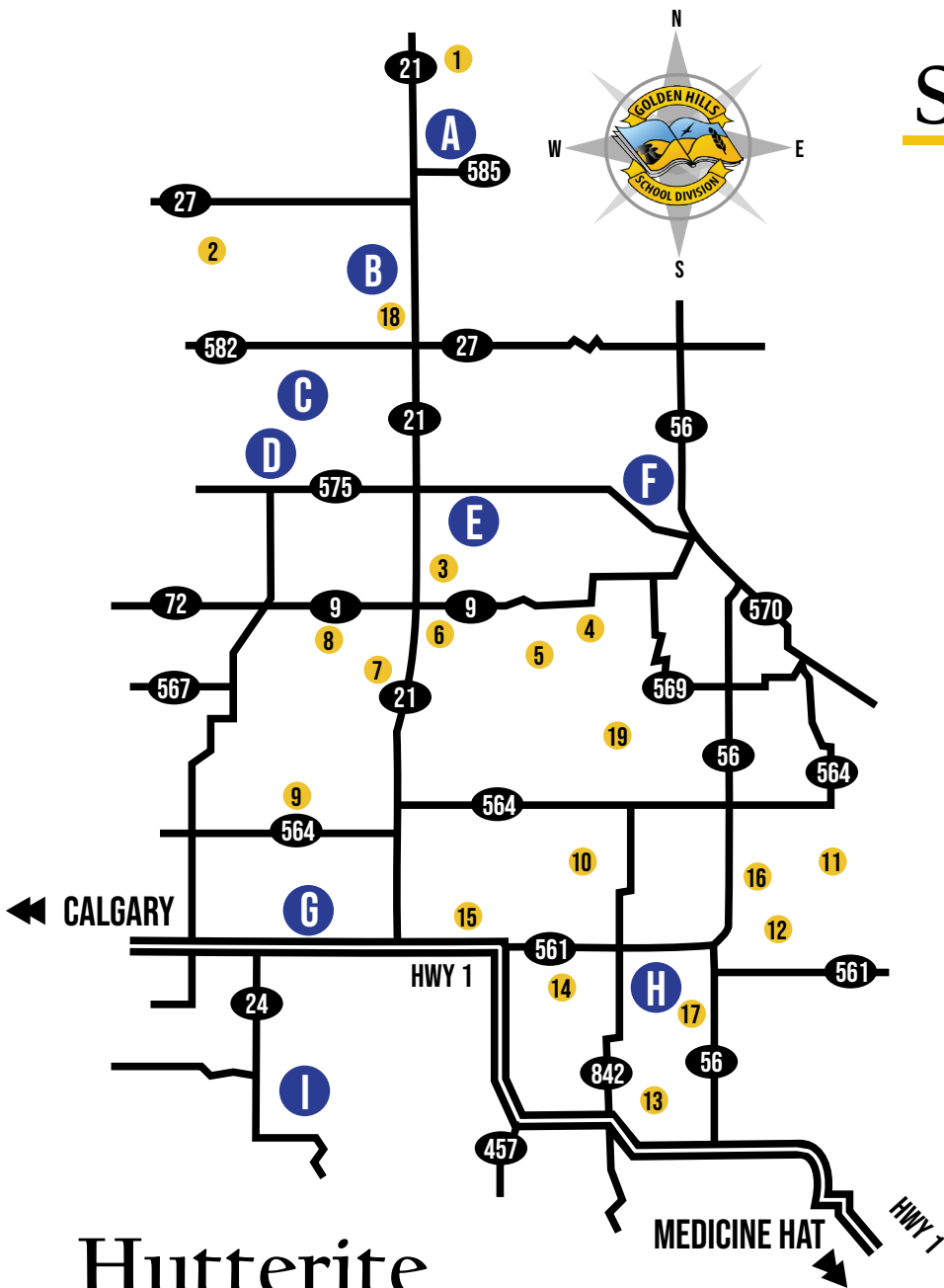
DRUMHELLER

- Drumheller Valley Secondary School
- Drumheller Outreach ^
- Greentree Elementary School

* Christian Schools
^ Outreach Schools

HUTTERITE COLONY SCHOOLS

- Huxley Colony School
- Valley View Colony School
- Bristestone Colony School
- Rosebud Creek Colony School
- Sayre Colony School
- Rosebud River Colony School
- Hines Colony School
- Sandhills Colony School
- Mountainview Colony School
- Poplar Row Colony School
- Crawling Valley Colony School
- Rising Sun Colony School
- Towers Colony School
- Twin Creeks Colony School
- Glenrose Colony School
- Wintering Hills Colony School
- Green Acres Colony School
- Three Hills Colony School
- Country Hills Colony School



Hutterite

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 Huxley Colony
Huxley | 7 Stahlville Colony
Hines | 14 Twin Creeks Colony
Twin Creeks |
| 2 Torrington Colony
Valley View | 8 Sandhills Colony
Sandhills | 15 Wheatland Colony
Glenrose |
| 3 Britestone Colony
Britestone | 9 Mountainview Colony
Mountainview | 16 Wintering Hills Colony
Wintering Hills |
| 4 Hillview Colony
Rosebud Creek | 10 Standard Colony
Poplar Row | 17 Green Acres Colony
Green Acres |
| 5 Rosebud Colony
Sayre | 11 Ridgeland Colony
Crawling Valley | 18 Three Hills Colony
Three Hills |
| 6 Springvale Colony
Rosebud River | 12 Sunshine Colony
Rising Sun | 19 Midwest Colony
Country Hills |
| | 13 Cluny Colony
Towers | |

Schools

- A** Trochu
Trochu Valley
- B** Three Hills
Prairie Christian Academy
Three Hills
- C** Linden
Dr. Elliott
- D** Acme
Acme
- E** Carbon
Carbon
- F** Drumheller
Drumheller Outreach
Drumheller Valley Secondary
Greentree Elementary
- G** Strathmore
Anchors Outreach
École Brentwood Elementary
Crowther Memorial Junior High
George Freeman
Golden Hills Learning Academy
Strathmore High
Strathmore Storefront
Trinity Christian Academy
Westmount
Wheatland Elementary
- H** Wheatland Crossing
Wheatland Crossing
- I** Carseland
Carseland
- NorthStar Academy



Students

8200

Kindergarten to
Gr. 12 in person and
online

300

International

155

Siksika First Nations



Programming in Golden Hills

Golden Hills School Division is proud to offer outstanding programs and school choices for students and parents, by providing a variety of program options. By using an innovative approach to student instruction and student engagement, we complement our excellent academic preparation with valuable opportunities in areas such as...

1. Foundational Skills

Literacy, Numeracy and Technology * Early Literacy Intervention * Leveled Literacy Intervention * Early Numeracy Intervention

2. Critical Skills

Creativity * Communication * Citizenship * Critical Thinking * Collaboration

3. Science & Technology

STEAM/STEM * Media * Computer Programming * Robotics * 3D Design

4. Arts

Fine Arts * Theatre

5. Languages

English as a Second Language * French Immersion * Second Languages



6. Athletics

Outstanding athletics facilities support our athletes and promote a healthy lifestyle. Facilities include the hockey rink, the soccer/baseball field, and the Strathmore Motors Sportsplex.

7. Career Advancement

Registered Apprenticeship Programming * Counselling * Post-Secondary and Work Partnerships

8. Student and Family Support

Early Childhood Services at four of our elementary schools * Family School Community Resource Programs * Learning Support Programs

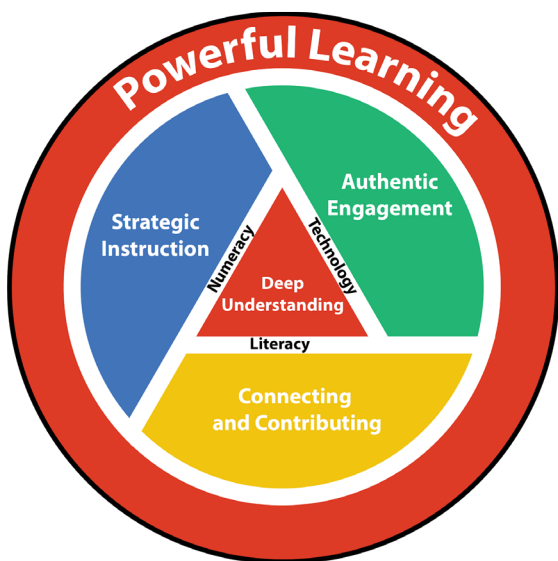
9. Specialized Programs

Advanced Placement * Honours Programs * Student Leadership Development * Dual Credit Programs

Our Vision for Powerful Learning & Student Success

Our students and their learning are our number one priority. In the past, students have been asked to memorize and repeat information. In our world today, this is no longer enough. Students still need foundational skills, but just as importantly, they need the ability to think critically and creatively to communicate effectively and work together, using innovation to have a positive impact on the world around us.

Classrooms that engage students and involve them in real life problems and projects give our students the best opportunities to develop those skills. Powerful Learning is an evidence-based framework based on the best research that maximizes the opportunities for deep understanding for our students. By incorporating Powerful Learning into our classrooms, every day, our teachers and staff work to support deep understanding and the development of those necessary skills for success beyond the classroom. Golden Hills is working hard to power hope and possibilities, as we nurture the leaders of tomorrow.





Above: Strathmore High School Community Greenhouse.



Above: Students tour of the Sunterra greenhouse.

Connect with Us!



Golden Hills has launched our Powerful Learning website and Facebook to share our Powerful Learning stories with our communities of parents and educators.

Click on the icons to connect with us!

Planning and Priorities

ASSURANCE MODEL

School jurisdictions have greater flexibility in responding to the needs and priorities of their local community while still maintaining provincial standards. Jurisdictions are expected to have a strong stakeholder engagement process to inform local priorities and use this to shape their planning and reporting.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

During the 2022-2023 School Year, Golden Hills stakeholder engagement has included:

- School council representative meetings with the Board of Trustees
- Trustees attending portions of regular local school council meetings to receive ongoing feedback
- Connecting meetings with Sr. Administration and School Administration (weekly/biweekly/monthly)
- Regular Sr. Administration meetings with Siksika Elders and the Elder Advisor to the Board, Clarence Wolfleg

These stakeholder engagements sessions has allowed Golden Hills to focus on a review of our key priorities.

KEY PRIORITIES

For the 2023/2024 school year Golden Hills will continue to focus on the following as our key priorities in our Assurance Framework:

Goal 1: Every Student is Successful

Goal 2: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students are Successful

Goal 3: Literacy and Numeracy Success for all Learners



1 GOAL

STUDENT GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT: Every student is successful OUR STRATEGIES

WITH THE TIMES

Golden Hills ensures our instruction is up-to-date and that we incorporate technologies and resources that prepare our students for work and life after school.

We are constantly improving the ways we teach our students by implementing high-yield evidence-based strategies.

Our teachers, instructional coaches and leaders are constantly looking for the most engaging ways to teach our students and to set them up for deep learning which will transfer between the classroom and community.

POWERFUL LEARNING

To ensure continued success for all our students, Golden Hills utilizes Powerful Learning.

Powerful Learning is the design and implementation of purposeful and impactful learning experiences that **foster deep student understanding of curriculum outcomes and competencies** designed to prepare students for future challenges.

Powerful Learning encompasses three main components, Strategic Instruction, Authentic Engagement and Connecting and Contributing.

STRATEGIC INSTRUCTION

Strategic Instruction includes assessments and instructional strategies that foster innovative thinkers, doers and connectors.

AUTHENTIC ENGAGEMENT

Teachers ensure Authentic Engagement by creating a culture and space that is welcoming to students, promotes thinking and involves students in meaningful learning.

CONNECTING & CONTRIBUTING

Connecting and Contributing refers to students' abilities to regulate their emotions, connect with others and make positive contributions to their world now and in the future.

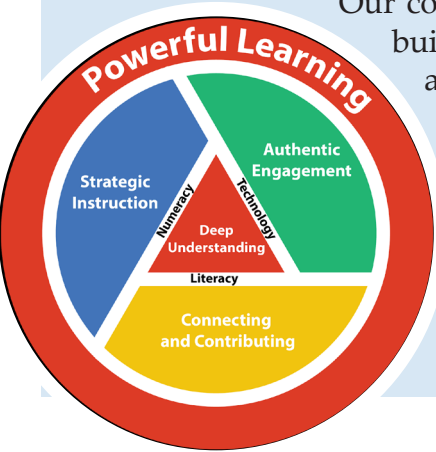
Powerful Learning also ensures Foundational Numeracy and Literacy skills. Our research-based Literacy and Numeracy frameworks guide instruction in our classrooms. Students who require additional support access programs such as Kindergarten Boost, Early Literacy Intervention, Early Numeracy Intervention and Leveled Literacy Intervention.

To prepare students for a digital world, meaningful integration of technology is implemented in our classrooms. Our classrooms are supported with Chromebooks, ActivBoards and iPads as well as access to

robotics and 3D printers allowing students to use these common technologies and to explore different avenues of learning.

Instructional Coaches work collaboratively with teachers and schools to implement Powerful Learning. Instructional Coaches work with teachers in a variety of ways including co-constructing lessons, co-teaching and offering professional development opportunities.

Our coaching team helps to build teacher capacity in areas such as literacy, numeracy, the competencies, differentiated instruction and technology, all in meaningful ways.



PARTNERSHIPS

Strong partnerships allow our schools and our school system to better deliver programming to the individual students who require it.

Golden Hills works collaboratively to ensure success for all students through interagency partnerships such as with the Regional Collaborative Service Delivery, Alberta Health Services, Child and Family Services and school health partners. Together with our partners, we provide specialized supports for diverse learners, including gifted students, students with academic or social emotional needs, LGBTQ students, First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, English Language Learners and students requiring mental health supports.

Partnerships within our local communities and with the broader global community provide the programming options and supports our students need for dual credit, career connections, green certificate, work experience, and apprenticeship programming.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Student achievement drives instruction and school teams are continually analyzing data, reflecting and enhancing instructional practices to better meet the needs of individual students. To improve graduation and dropout rates, schools are creating a sense of belonging by intentionally connecting with each student. Graduation plans are developed collaboratively with students, parents and staff. Students who require additional courses are contacted and provided with flexible options to return and graduate.

GOAL 2

STUDENT GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT: First Nations, Métis and Inuit students are successful OUR STRATEGIES

Golden Hills partners with the Siksika Board of Education through an Educational Service Agreement that supports 155 Siksika students in our schools.

Golden Hills School Division is also proud to have 296 self-declared First Nations, Métis and Inuit students across our school division. In addition to strong relationships with our students and families, we also appreciate the excellent partnership, collaboration and support with Siksika parents, Board and Council leadership and the Siksika elders who work closely with us.

ACADEMIC SUPPORTS

Our staff offers early and late targeted intervention in numeracy and literacy skills and social emotional supports to ensure a stronger foundation for future learning.

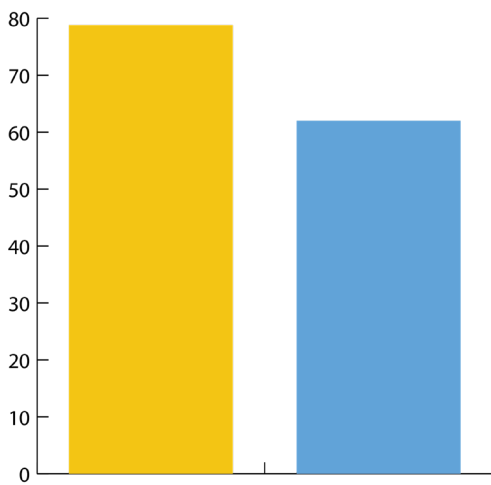
The goals of our First Nations Liaisons are to enrich the educational experiences of all of our students and to support the students and families of Siksika Nation. Some of the areas of support are educational achievement, attendance, high school graduation planning, and culture.



CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our schools create inclusive and safe spaces for all. Our teachers infuse First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture within various curriculum areas and the school environment. We also provide Blackfoot language instruction, hold cultural events, such as pow wows, and blanket exercises, organize cultural field trips, and host guest speakers, providing a plethora of cultural opportunities at our schools.

HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION RATES



Golden Hills three year First Nations, Métis and Inuit graduation rates are **above** the provincial graduation rates for Provincial First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.

GHSD First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students

Alberta First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students



FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Our Division continues to play an active role in developing cultural awareness. Our district focus group strives to gather and implement best practices in First Nations, Métis and Inuit education across the system. Furthermore, our teachers and leaders engage in numerous professional development opportunities and work towards increasing their foundational knowledge of First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture, in order to foster an informed and culturally aware learning environment for our students.





STUDENT GROWTH AND ACHIEVMENT: Literacy and Numeracy Success for all Learners

OUR STRATEGIES

Providing the best educational experience and best opportunities for success means supporting our leaders in our schools and in our classrooms. District-wide systems and support to ensure Powerful Learning in our classrooms include collaborative job-embedded teams of teachers, instructional coach supports, collaborative leadership development and local decision making.

Teachers and school administrators who are well prepared and well supported do their best work in support of student success in classrooms.

CLASSROOM LEADERS

Our classroom teachers are absolutely key in creating Powerful Learning environments and ensuring student success. We work hard to provide a variety of ways to support our teachers. Such mechanisms include Leading and Learning, Collaborative Days, Instructional Coaches, focus groups, Professional Learning Communities, district professional development, external expert support and teacher supervision and observation.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY INTERVENTION

Golden Hills School Division continues to support the literacy and numeracy needs of our students through our early intervention programs. Our Kindergarten Initiative along with our Early Literacy and Numeracy Intervention serve grade one and two students. Students participating typically see between one to two years worth of growth during these short 12-week intervention sessions. These programs have a significant impact on our students, teachers and parents.

We have a number of mechanisms to support school leaders, who are the primary supports for leaders in our classrooms. Such mechanisms include Leaders for Learning, collaboration opportunities for our school administrators, admin planning support meetings, new administrator support, orientation and membership.



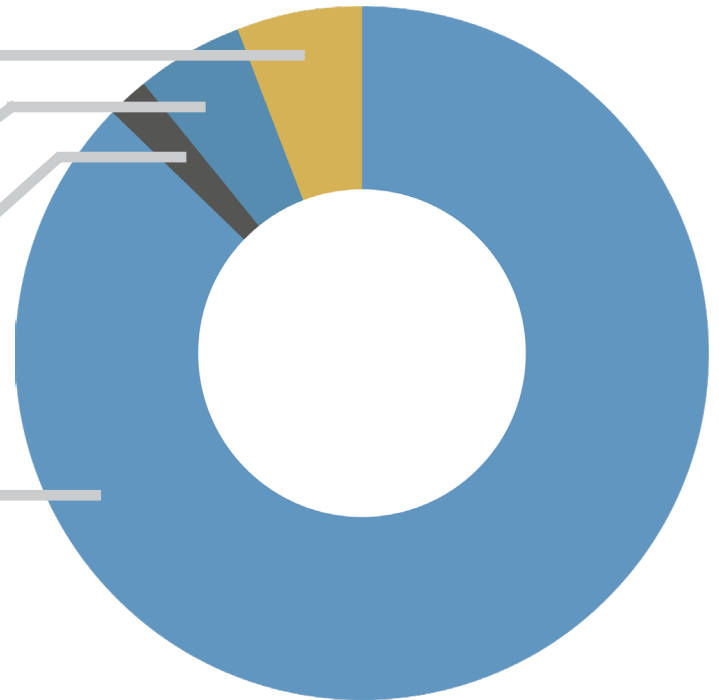
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021/2022 \$93.1M

2% School fees, school-generated funds & other revenue

9% International Student Services

2% Local Education Service Agreement

87% Provincial Government



EXPENDITURES

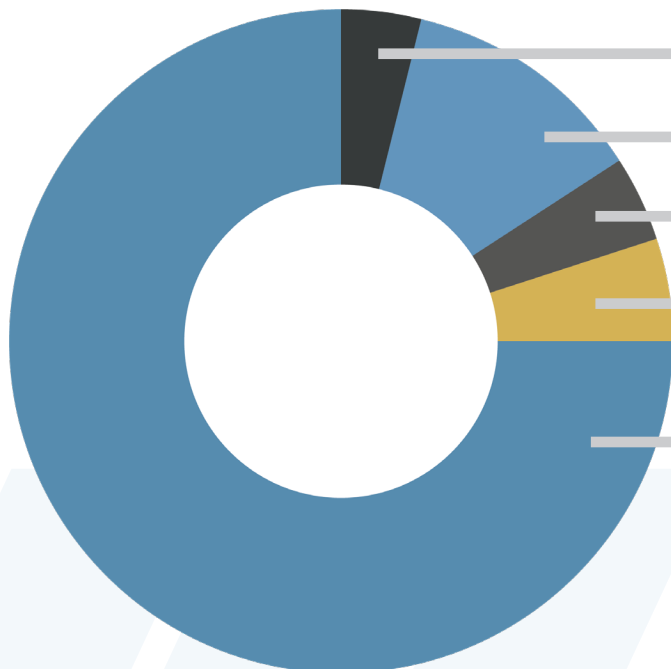
3% Administration

12% Facilities and Maintenance

5% Student Transportation

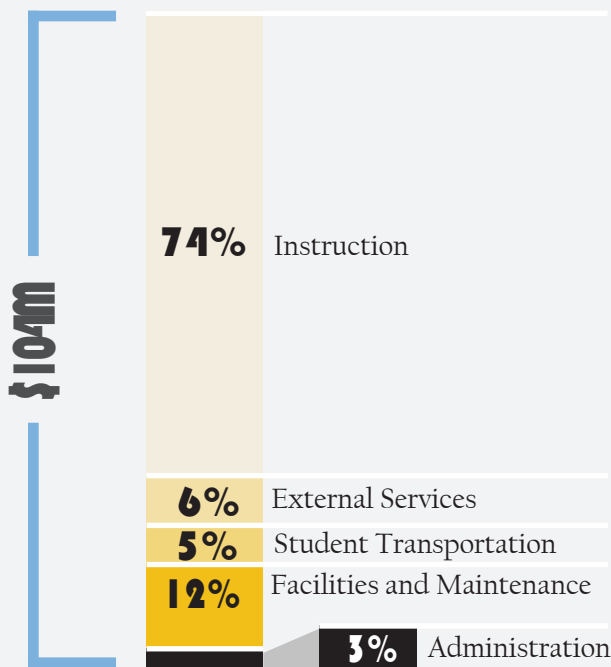
6% External Services

74% Instruction



BUDGET 2023/2024

WHERE WILL THE \$104M GO?



LEARN MORE...

For additional financial information, please review our

- Audited Financial Statements: <https://www.ghsd75.ca/download/405011>

This includes more specific information as well as school generated funds.

- Budget Documents: <https://www.ghsd75.ca/download/402304>

For more information about Finance or Budget please contact Tahra Sabir, Secretary-Treasurer at (403)-934-5121 (ext. 2017) or at tahra.sabir@ghsd75.ca.

SUMMARY

- Golden Hills spends less than 3% of its total operating expenses on administration. Therefore, we are able to direct more resources to the classrooms.
- 87% of our revenue comes from the provincial government.
- This site-based funding model advantages:
 - Keeps resources in the classroom;
 - Keeps decision making closest to the student; and
 - Encourages creativity and innovation in our schools.

Facilities and Capital Plans

Each year, school boards submit their facility needs to Alberta Education for the next three years.


Golden Hills has appreciated the support from Alberta Education in the Capital Planning process thus far. Most recently, they have funded the modernization of Acme School (K-6, 10-12) which will lead to the development of the Acme School Tri-Campus Community Innovation Centre.



On March 1, 2023, Westmount Elementary School in Strathmore was approved for planning funding for a replacement school.

Greentree Elementary School in Drumheller is also a top priority for Golden Hills School Division.

Currently Westmount Elementary School requires \$4,107,506 in maintenance cost over the next 5 years and Greentree Elementary School requires \$3,543,117 in maintenance costs over the next 5 years.



Each year the Board prepares a School Summary Report: <https://www.ghsd75.ca/departments/facilities-maintenance-services/school-summaries-reports>. The purpose of these school summary reports aligns with the three-year capital plans and additionally, ten-year facility plans where the purpose is to provide project justification and supportability to demonstrate overall planning and management, communicate local priorities, provide project definitions for budget and scope development and demonstrate that all options for the accommodation of students is reviewed and discussed.

The Annual School Summary Reports provide a complete review and assessment for Health & Safety, School Facility Information, Enrolment Trends & Budget Information. Part of these reports include information on existing communities which include birth rates, mobility of families, current and projected community populations. Each year these reports are brought to the Board to help identify capital plan projects.

APPENDICES

- A • [GHSD System Improvement: Powerful Learning](#)
- B • [Golden Hills Early Literacy Framework](#)
- C • [Golden Hills Early Numeracy Framework](#)
- D • [First Nation, Métis, Inuit Services Strategic Action Plan](#)
- E • [Inclusive Education Monitoring Report](#)

Quick Links

- [Provincial Roll-up of Jurisdiction AFS Information](#)

**The following is from the Public Interest Commissioner website and is based on Section 32 of Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act:
Pursuant to Section 32 of the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act, no disclosures were received during the 2021-2022 school year.**

