

Annual Report 2000-2001  
School District 8  
June, 2001

**Mandate:**

Given clearly defined and high expectations, all children can and want to learn. The mission of School District 8 is to responsibly and cooperatively provide all students with the opportunity for learning, to a measurable standard, through quality instruction in a safe environment.

**Achievements in 2000-2001 (educational):**

- All provincial assessment results show an improvement/gain since the inception of the testing program. A trend document was developed to show the pattern of district results.
- All schools formulated a Literacy Plan.
- February Pre-Kindergarten screening, to identify children at-risk, was expanded to include all elementary schools.
- Initial teacher in-service sessions to introduce the new Gage Cornerstones Language Arts resource were held.
- The D.A.R.E. program was expanded to include elementary schools outside the city limits – Brown's Flat, Westfield, Inglewood.
- Schools were required to profile and document the reading progress of all K-2 students on the First Steps Reading Continuum form.
- Elementary Schools established leveled book resource rooms to house guided reading texts for use with their students.
- The implementation of the "Literacy Hour" in all elementary schools continued including the establishment of three model schools to showcase teachers in classrooms employing this approach to literacy instruction. These teachers will welcome visits from other teachers in 2001-2002 to see the "Literacy Hour" in action.
- The Elementary Curriculum team continued to support teachers in the development of a balanced approach to literacy instruction by planning, conducting or facilitating teacher in-service sessions on a variety of topics and by working with teachers in the teacher's classroom to bring theory into practice.
- Appointment of SPR for ML Science, supported by release time, in anticipation of new curriculum, expectation to continue in coming year with increased time
- Secondment of technology advocate for ML technology education to support ongoing enhancement of and support to curriculum
- Support for ML Social Studies through release time to a teacher to meet with and work with SS teachers, especially at grade 6 and 7 level. Again, hope to continue in coming year
- Inservice on accelerated reader and math programs
- Expansion of student led conferencing

- Individual school initiatives - eg River Valley after school activity program, Simonds Middle playground, Beaconsfield/St. Martins literacy centre/initiatives, Bayside weekly meetings of administrators with ML teams.
- Math 9 implementation in all schools. Teacher team met during the year to consult and collaborate on the implementation process.
- Math 10 implementation plan organized. A team of 16 Grade 10 teachers training for full implementation at that level for September 2002.
- Expanded work by math mentors in K-8 with support and inservice provided through a variety of activities from individual classrooms, to staff inservice, grade level meetings, focus hours, and district professional development.
- Parent information nights conducted by the Math Supervisor and mentors for elementary, middle, and high school. Very well attended with over 200 parents taking part in this first-time effort.
- Posters developed and provided to each classroom in the district delineating the curriculum outcomes in Mathematics for the respective grade with the previous and next grade level illustrated in a user-friendly fashion. (These materials have been shared provincially.)
- Development of a colour poster illustrating the continuum of Mathematics outcomes from K-12 based on the provincial curriculum documents. (This has been shared, at their request, with Indiana State University.)
- Establishment of accelerated learning program in 2 of 4 high schools at the grade 9 level.
- Students attending district 8 alternate learning centre, Woodlawn, and writing provincial assessments achieved a 100% success rate.
- Senior band and strings groups combined, under the leadership of their respective teacher/conductors, to form the first full student orchestra with a combined complement of over 75 musicians.
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#### Achievements in 2000-2001 (administrative):

- Development of approach to supervision and evaluation of teachers and slated for further exploration and development - in service, familiarization, feedback in coming year including introduction of new format for probationary teacher reports. Includes ongoing process of developing supervisor and principal domains ala EPP
- Development of a question bank for use in the hiring process - administrators, teachers within framework of domains of Enhancing Professional Practice (EPP).
- Implementation of provincial electronic report card, K-8. Inservice was provided to support this initiative.
- District 8 Positive Learning Environment Plan completed with appendices, which include resources, ideas, and support materials.
- Development of a Safe Schools – Safe Communities binder and desk flip chart (with emergency procedures). This binder includes a compilation of all policies, regulations, plans, etc. related to making schools safe.

- Continued growth of Professional Seminar Series; evening professional development sessions covering numerous topics ranging from curriculum implementation, computer technology, classroom management, and brain theory. Some sessions were also made available to parents in 2000-2001.
- Partnerships (Continuations and New):
  - With Big Brothers and Sisters, and support from the Saint John Board of Trade, the continuation of the In-School Mentoring Program initiated in September, 1999. The program has grown in size to incorporate 6 schools with plans for further growth in 2001-2002.
  - With John Howard Society and support from FCS, and Public Safety, to institute the ISLC program in support of 15-18 year olds continuing education.
  - With FCS to design and implement an educational and personal support program for children in 'Protection', SHARP. A further partnership with the YM-YWCA has provided a wonderful enhancement to this program.
  - With Family Services Saint John, the FAST Program (Families and Schools Together), this program out of Calgary has been piloted during the school year. It is a developmental program for parents and children. Forest Hills Elementary School was the pilot site completing the first year with 2 graduating classes.
  - With Saint John Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative (BACPI) and the YM-YWCA, the institution of an in-school daycare facility for student parents. The daycare is situated in Prince Charles School (K-8 building) allowing parents to attend their community high school on an altered schedule with the opportunity to take a fifth credit after regular hours at Prince Charles focusing on child development and parenting skills.
  - With New Brunswick Carpenters and Millwrights the development and institution through Coop Education 120 the opportunity to provide students with the opportunity to gain experience in the trades area. Students were able to receive credit for hours toward a preapprenticeship.

Priority Projects for 2001-2002 (educational):

- A Primary Intervention Program for Grade 2 students with literacy learning difficulties was developed for implementation in 2001-2002.
- Implementation of new Math curriculum at Grade 10 level and development of plan with inservice support for implementation at Grade 11 in September 2002.
- A continued focus on literacy and numeracy initiatives K-12.
- Expansion of parent information sessions in the area of curriculum in support of student learning and parental involvement.
- Continued support and encouragement to schools in formulating strategies to meet the needs of children and work toward the enhancement of teacher skills in the area of curriculum delivery.

Priority Projects for 2001-2002 (administrative):

- Inservice and implementation on Safe Schools – Safe Communities binder and desk flip chart with all school administrators
- A two-day seminar for all new administrators, to be held in August, entitled “What I Wish I’d Known When...”. This is a joint effort of district staff and present administrators. Presenters have volunteered their time and expertise to this initiative.
- Continuation of the Beginning Administrators Program, initiated by District 8. (Other districts within the province have emulated this program.)
- Continued support of BTIP, Professional Seminars Series, and other professional development opportunities.
- Continued support to supervisors and school administrators and teachers toward parent initiatives to increase/enhance parental involvement in the learning process for children.
- Continuation of partnership ventures developed during 2000-2001 and to advance new partnerships based on identified needs to provide for a more community approach to education.