

Waterloo Region District School Board 2023 Community Report Card

Last year we committed to providing the community with an assessment of the WRDSB's work. The Community Report Card will be shared publicly every year.



Increase student learning through engagement

- 85.2% students graduated in five years
- Increases in Student Achievement rates as shared through EQAO data
- Participation in programs gaining specialised skills for future pathways, 1,140 students in 2022-23 and 1,849 students in 2023-24
- This year launched Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices as the compulsory Grade 11 English credit for all students



Centring students

- Launched Student Agency and Voice plan
- To support student-led initiatives, WRDSB developed a procedure to provide resources that support student-led initiatives
- Engaged students through student events and messages



Equitable opportunities and outcomes

- 1:1 device access. All students provided Chromebooks to use from Grade 9 through Grade 12. There is also a virtual desktop so technical software can be used outside of school for certain classes
- More than 10% of WRDSB sites have had accessibility upgrades such as installation of barrier-free washrooms and elevators
- WRDSB is one of Southwestern Ontario's largest licensed childcare providers, with 4,156 children and more than 69 directly operated sites



Strengthen connections through family and community engagement

- Launched community roundtables for various identities including, but not limited to, ethnic and religious communities
- Developed and launched a Community Engagement Charter
- Hosted a Listening Forum series and shared the feedback with families and the public



Collaboration and compassion for transformation

- Partnership with the Region of Waterloo, City of Kitchener and Student Transportation to find equitable transportation options for high school students
- Partnership with SMART Waterloo, which has launched pilots that have directly impacted 10 schools and more than 500 children and youth
- Partner with the City of Kitchener for Grade 7 students to come up with solutions to address housing crisis



Support for student and staff well-being

- Provision of social-psychological counseling and support for staff affected by traumatic events
- First Student Wellness Conference hosting more than 100 secondary students
- 21 community partnerships to support student mental health and well-being



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Waterloo Region District School Board 2023 Community Report Card Summary

The Waterloo Region District School Board's (WRDSB) core work is to help students become skilled, caring and compassionate global citizens so when they graduate, they will have the skills to succeed on their chosen pathway. To do this, WRDSB is transforming public education. The change includes collaborative relationships, a spirit of innovation, and a clear purpose to support student achievement. This Community Report Card shares some of the work we have done to support this goal.

In the [WRDSB Strategic Plan](#), we committed to an Annual Report Card. This report covers work we did over the past year to accomplish our vision and meet our strategic directions. This is the first WRDSB Community Report Card.

During the 2022-23 school year, WRDSB made changes to how we deliver education. The reason for the change was to support academic achievement and positive well-being. The WRDSB is also improving how we connect with families and communities. This includes how we communicate, remain accountable and be transparent. We are also partnering more with local governments and organizations.

Sharing our Progress

The WRDSB Strategic Plan outlines specific directions. These directions are designed to make WRDSB a global leader in public education. WRDSB's culture of human rights helps us ensure we meet the needs of ALL the students we serve.

In the first year of implementation of the Strategic Plan, we have seen:

- Improved 2022-23 EQAO assessment and Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) results, including for multilingual learners.
- School administrators and staff develop stronger skill sets to meet individual students' learning needs.
- A Kindergarten to Grade 12 approach to supporting literacy and mathematics.
- Students in Grades 9-12 with access to technology and learning devices.
- Support for students and families, including resources and System Navigators for students who are newcomers, racialized and neurodivergent.
- Multiple opportunities for students to explore potential future pathways.

A Shared Commitment to Student Success and Well-being

We know this is work we cannot do alone and have committed to increased transparency to all those we serve. Families and caregivers are essential to supporting students' academic success and well-being. WRDSB works with families and community partners to support student achievement.

Some of the ways we work together:

- A Charter for Engagement that outlines how we will work to improve student, family and community voice throughout our work as a district.
- The launch of multiple community roundtables with representatives from various communities and identities across the region of various identities
- Hosted multiple Listening Forums to get feedback. The contributions from families and community members has led to changes in practices (report to be released shortly).
- WRDSB formed government and community tables. These focus on resources and support for students and families that impact student achievement and well-being.
- WRDSB works with municipal and community partners to create opportunities for students to develop solutions to real-life issues through their learning. Students have worked on issues that directly impact their communities. Solutions have addressed housing, food security and nutrition.

The Path Ahead

This first Community Report Card offers a snapshot of WRDSB's work. There are many ways we are moving forward in our plans to transform the education system. We are committed to being accountable and transparent. So we will continue to share our progress in this annual Community Report Card.



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