

## **ALBERTA INITIATIVE FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT (AIS)**

In Peace Wapiti the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AIS) involves 10 different projects in support of improving program delivery in our schools. The initiative has been extended to a fourth year. Authorities of SIB have unofficially indicated that the projects will continue beyond Year 4. The following is a list of the projects with a brief description of each including the intended results.

1. Students at Risk (STAR) Project (Beaverlodge High School).  
One component involves half-time on-campus programming through non-traditional delivery methods under the direct supervision of a teacher using ADLC resources. The second component emphasis work-related skill developments, knowledge of the expectations of the work place, and completion of the high school program within 4 years of entering it. Significant improvements have been obtained by students in all areas.
  2. Gifted Program and Selected PTR Reduction (Beaverlodge Elementary)  
One component is an enrichment program for grades 2-6 students; the other a PTR reduction for grade 3. In respect to the first, it is expected students would benefit from increased self-esteem. Lower PTR has the potential of improving standardized test results in grade 3. The results from year 2 indicates that the objectives are being accomplished.
  3. Reducing Class size at the Primary level (Helen E. Taylor)  
PTR is reduced in the primary grades through the addition of staff. The goals are to increase reading scores in grade one, CCAT scores in grade two and improve achievement test scores in grade three. Positive results are being obtained in all areas.
  4. Elementary Learning Strategies and Mathematics Resource Room (Harry Balfour)  
The first component involves testing to identify learning style. Students are then taught compensating strategies that allow them to use their strengths to compensate for their weaknesses. In year 1 the math resource room involved individual or small group instruction for remediation. In year 2 the "pull-out" model has been replaced with a full math program delivery to students in need of remediation. The intended goals include improved scores on grade 6 achievement tests and increased parental satisfaction with assistance their children receive. Objectives have been accomplished in all areas.
  5. Reduced PTR in Grade One and Two (Sexsmith Elementary). The primary focus of this project is to reduce PTR in Language Arts in grades 1 & 2. The secondary focus is to reduce PTR in math and language arts
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- at the grade 3 level. The goals are to improve student reading abilities, increase parent satisfaction with the school program for grades one and two and to improve grade 3 PAT scores. Positive results to date have supported the value of reduced PTR.
6. Information and Communication Technology Support  
This project is intended to facilitate the implementation of the ICT program through providing an additional staff allocation to allow time for lead teachers to in-service staff. The goals include assisting schools with the implementation of the ICT curriculum and providing teachers with the necessary continuous inservice. Continuing and creative Professional Development are proving to be of great value and benefit to teachers. A Teaching Assistant Technology Support component has been added and is proving to be a great benefit to the schools.
  7. Curriculum Implementation Support Enhancement  
Lead teachers are assigned to mentor math and Physical Education teachers in the jurisdiction. The goal is to assist all schools with the implementation of the new curriculum. The physical education component was completed after year 2. Both aspects of the project created positive results in the areas of teachers professional development and PAT scores in math at the grades six and nine levels.
  8. Increased Counselling Time  
A total of 1.825 F.T.E. teachers were added to the staffing complement to enhance counseling services in our schools. Goals are to decrease discipline referrals and suspensions and increase student/parent school involvement in behavioral change and post secondary education/career planning. Positive changes have occurred in all areas.
  9. Extended Early Literacy Initiative  
This project extends the Early Literacy Initiative (Grades 1 & 2) to include grade 3. The goal of this program is to have all students in grade 3 perform at the provincial standard in Language Arts. Over a two year period an average of 79% and 82% of the students enrolled in this project performed at the acceptable standard in the reading and writing components respectively in the achievement tests. This project is proving to be invaluable to the education of our students.
  10. Special Education (Sexsmith Secondary School)  
A half time special education teacher is added to the staff to teach the GLSP program and junior high resource program. The goal is to integrate special needs students into the classroom. Results support the value of this project.
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