

## CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

The Peace Wapiti School Board is comprised of what were once three different Divisions and also of a part of a fourth. Spread over an area of 30,000 square kilometers in northwestern Alberta, our school system services approximately 5,790 students located in 28 schools. Our jurisdiction extends from Sturgeon Heights in the east to the British Columbia border in the west. It stretches from south of the Wapiti River to the Peace River on the north.

Some of our jurisdiction schools are located in remote settings while others are located in the region's towns and villages. The Board's largest school, Harry Balfour, is located in the City of Grande Prairie serving students from the immediate surrounding area.

- The Board operates seven high schools:  
Central Peace High School  
Beaverlodge  
Eaglesham  
Ridgevalley  
Savanna  
Sexsmith  
Peace Wapiti Academy
  - For 2001/2002 Peace Wapiti Academy served students in grades 9 and 10. One grade is being added each year until the full high school program is offered in September, 2003.
  - We also operate schools on four Hutterite Colonies. We provide schooling for students from the Horse Lake Reserve and from the Aspen Grove and Kelly Lake Metis settlements. Excluding the Colony schools, the smallest school has an enrollment of just over 30 students and the largest has over 650 students.
  - About 30 students from the Bonanza area of our jurisdiction attend school in Dawson Creek, B.C.
  - Just over 120 students living close to Grande Prairie attend non-system schools within the City.
  - About 170 students are on home schooling programs and are provided support by the Board staff.
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- Most Board schools operate programs similar to those found in comparable schools anywhere in Alberta. However, to function as economically as possible, when enrollments are low and/or declining in some areas, some smaller schools must provide double, triple and quadruple grading.
- In the smaller, remote high schools heavy reliance is placed on distance education programs to augment the basic in-school offerings. Some specialty programs exist to meet local needs.
- Cree language classes are offered in both Hythe schools. Native liaison workers assist with school programs in four schools.

The School Board employs the full-time equivalent of over 300 teachers and 398 non-teaching staff. In addition to the 700 regular staff members, the Board employs a considerable number of part-time and casual personnel, making it one of the largest employers in the Peace River Region.

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