



INVESTING IN EDUCATION PAVES THE WAY TO A GREAT FUTURE FOR OUR KIDS



THE **POWER** OF A **WELL-FUNDED EDUCATION**

At Elk Island Public Schools, we're proud of the education we're able to provide to students throughout the Division. What children learn—from the time they enter kindergarten to when they graduate from high school—has a positive and enduring impact on many aspects of their lives. Aside from personal success, educated individuals contribute significantly to business innovation, productivity and improved economic outlooks for the province and country.

Students with a solid educational foundation are also more actively engaged in society, make positive life choices and place less stress on social services. In other words, a government that invests in education will reap the dividends by having a diverse, skilled and strong workforce leading the way to a healthy economy.

Like many school boards, however, EIPS faces significant challenges in meeting students' needs when funding is not stable, predictable, adequate and flexible. It's difficult to make long-term, strategic plans when funding streams vary from year to year or are unexpectedly discontinued.

Additionally, it's essential funding is made available to better support an increasing number of students with complex needs—whether that's through direct funding or complementary resources provided by agencies such as Alberta Health Services. After all, every child should have the opportunity to develop and achieve.

EIPS IS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING GROWTH AND SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS. BUT, TO MAKE THAT A REALITY THE DIVISION NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS THAT PROVIDE ESSENTIAL RESOURCES.



FACT

Base instruction funding has been frozen three times since 2007-08—and it has remained the same for the last three school years.

FACT

Specialized supports for Alberta's youngest and most vulnerable children is underfunded:

EIPS has a \$4.4 million deficit in this area for the 2018-19 school year.

LOCALLY ELECTED SCHOOL BOARDS GIVE FAMILIES A VOICE



ADVOCATES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

The centralization of control at the provincial government level represents an erosion of autonomous, locally elected school boards—and the education of children and youth in our communities is impacted as a result.

School board trustees serve as the voice of the community, representing the unique and diverse interests of students and families. They communicate local educational priorities to decision-makers and provide accountability for the allocation of learning resources in our schools.

A cookie-cutter approach to education rarely works well for anyone. Locally elected school boards are best positioned to set strategic priorities reflecting community expectations, allocate resources in areas required most urgently, meet the evolving needs of students and ensure sound educational practice across a division.

School boards meet and make decisions in open meetings, ensuring the public and media have access to debate and insight into how taxpayer money is allocated. This influence is lost when the authority of school boards is reduced.

In recent years, the autonomy of locally elected school boards has been challenged. Bills have been passed, and related policies and procedures enacted, which restrict local decision-making authority and hamper trustees from allocating funding to meet the educational requirements of students best.

To meet their commitment to the communities they are elected, trustees must have the flexibility to respond to areas of critical need, be nimble enough to move quickly to address issues that arise, and have the chance to work collaboratively with parents and community members to meet the learning needs of students throughout a division.

SCHOOL BOARDS ARE ADVOCATES FOR ALBERTA'S CHILDREN AND NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO CONTINUE FULFILLING THAT IMPORTANT MANDATE.

FACT

When the right to approve field trip fees was taken away from local school boards, students missed out on a variety of valuable educational opportunities as the new centralized process was overly prescriptive.

FACT

School boards are no longer able to negotiate compensation when recruiting for a superintendent, which has impacted the ability of boards to attract and retain the best quality candidates to champion learning within a division.

