

Directions for the Future



Simcoe County
District School Board

Annual Report 2005 - 2006



Director's Message

As the 2005-2006 school year draws to a close, students and staff have much to be proud of. Over the past year, we have:

- Improved our overall test scores on standardized provincial tests;
- Launched an unprecedented \$40 million worth of school repair, renovation, and construction work;
- Secured collective agreements until 2008 with all of our unionized groups;
- Opened a new school and begun work on five Best Start childcare facilities in our schools;
- Continued to build partnerships with numerous agencies, including the Children's Treatment Network, Nipissing University, Penn State University, the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, and the York Region District School Board;
- Celebrated our many award-winning students and staff;
- Continued to provide a wide range of professional development opportunities for our teachers, vice principals, principals, and senior administrators;
- Raised record-breaking funds for various charities, including the Terry Fox Foundation;
- Taken the senior administrative team "on the road" for monthly school visits with students and staff;
- Welcomed a number of new trustees and staff members; and
- Reorganized our system into families of schools in an effort to better support students.

Did you know?

The SCDSB covers a geographic area the approximate size of Prince Edward Island!

We've continued to do those things that have been successful, and have implemented new programs and strategies as required to meet the needs of our students. This report highlights just *some* of the SCDSB's many achievements in the areas of literacy and numeracy, staff excellence, and safe, supportive learning and working environments.

Over the coming year, we will continue to work towards our system goals with the recognition that we are united in a single purpose: to improve achievement for students in Simcoe County.

Sincerely,

K. Gordon Campbell, Director of Education



Senior Administrative Team

Director of Education K. Gordon Campbell

Central Administrative Team

Associate Director, Superintendent of Facility Services Lou Brandes

Associate Director, Superintendent of Student Achievement & School Improvement Doug Tateishi

Superintendent of Employee Services Aileen Ashman

Superintendent of Business Services Mark Valcic (to September 2005)
..... David Gray (effective March 2006)

Superintendent of Education, Special Education & Leadership Development Lindy Zaretsky (effective March 2006)

Superintendents of Education

North & East Region
Area 1: Janis Medysky
Area 2: Michael Carson

Central & South Region
Area 3: Kirsten Parker
Area 4: Norm Stormes

South & West Region
Area 5: Sandy Thompson
Area 6: Kathi Wallace



Did you know? Approximately 57,000 students attend SCDSB schools and learning centres.



Chair's Message

Over the course of the past year, this board has accomplished a great deal. We've worked with our senior administrators to make decisions that are in the best interest of students, addressed a number of tough issues, and worked to best position the SCDSB into the future.

Among our accomplishments are a policy change that will accommodate kindergarten students in their home schools to the greatest extent possible, decisions to close some schools and build others, and an expansion of our alternative learning programs and co-operative education opportunities.

This year we also welcomed Trillium Woods Elementary School, a new school at the south end of Barrie, to our family. As we move forward, trustees will continue to be part of the exciting facility renewal process and will have an opportunity to explore, with staff, the potential for more environmentally-friendly and sustainable learning and working environments.

As this term draws to a close, I would like to thank all trustees for their service to their communities and their continued commitment to student success. I would also like to offer sincere thanks to everyone who has assisted me as a trustee and as Chair in understanding the issues coming to the table.

Finally, I would like to thank our students, staff, parents and communities for the pivotal role each plays in supporting our students through these vital years in their lives. Your work and your efforts to support our young people are very much noticed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Diane Bell, Chairperson, Simcoe County District School Board

2005-2006 Trustees

Adjala-Tosorontio & Essa	Robert North (Vice-Chair)
Barrie.....	Scott Baker (to January 2006) • Julia Gasewicz • James Scott • Tom Spall (effective February 2006)
Collingwood & Clearview.....	Caroline Smith
Innisfil.....	Donna Armstrong
Midland, Penetanguishene, Tiny, & Wasaga Beach.....	Brad Saunders
Native Communities Representative.....	Boyd Jamieson
New Tecumseth & Bradford West Gwillimbury.....	Nancy Halbert
Orillia.....	Debra Edwards (Chair to December 2005)
Oro-Medonte & Springwater.....	Craig Hurst
Severn, Ramara, & Tay.....	Diane Bell (Elected Chair December 2005)
2005-2006 Student Trustees.....	Shelby Guthrie • Sarah Wassmer

Student Achievement

System Goal:
Improved student achievement in all areas, with a cross-curricular focus on literacy and numeracy.



Improved Results on Literacy & Numeracy Tests

Results of provincial tests administered in the spring of 2005 showed overall steady improvement in the achievement of grade 3 and 6 SCDSB students. Grade 3 and 6 students improved in reading (up 9% and 6% respectively), writing (up 3% and 4% respectively), and mathematics (up 8% and 5%) over the previous school year.

81% of Grade 10 Students Reach Literacy Target

In March, 4,400 Grade 10 SCDSB students wrote the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Of these students, 81% met the standards for reading and writing that *The Ontario Curriculum* expects them to have acquired by the end of Grade 9.

SCDSB Expands Alternative Learning Programs

In February 2006, the SCDSB expanded its Alternative Learning Program sites to Bradford, Angus, and Alcona. These new sites are in addition to the five programs already offered in Midland, Barrie, Collingwood, Orillia, and Alliston. Each program offers credit recovery and literacy and numeracy improvement; this newest phase also emphasizes partnerships with local communities to provide opportunities for job skill development and work experience.

Over The Top Co-op Pilot Project a Success

During the 2005 -2006 school year, co-operative education pilot program *Over The Top Co-op* was introduced at two SCDSB schools. Available to students who had left secondary school prior to graduating and were working full or part-time, *Over The Top Co-op* is an opportunity for students to achieve the last one to three elective credits they need to graduate. Local employers were tremendously supportive of the program, which will again be offered in the 2006-2007 school year.

Improved Data Collection

During the 2005-2006 school year, the SCDSB embarked on the *Managing Information for Student Achievement* (MISA) project, an initiative to support educators in using data to improve student achievement.

MISA funding has allowed the SCDSB to take approximately five years of paper data and make it available electronically for analysis to improve student achievement. Ongoing staff training is underway to assist in our efforts to make data-informed decisions.

Employee Excellence

Each year, numerous SCDSB employees are recognized for their contributions to student learning and to their professions. Listed below are a handful of our many award-winners:

John F. Freudeman Excellence in Curriculum Award **Jeannie Wilson, SCDSB Curriculum Consultant**

This award is presented annually to a SCDSB employee who shows leadership in curriculum development and implementation.

Teacher-Librarian of the Year **Pat Elliot, SCDSB Resource Teacher**

Ms. Elliot was presented with the 2006 Award for Teacher Librarian of the Year at the Ontario School Library Association's (OSLA) annual conference in Toronto on February 2, 2006.

Joanne Twist Guidance Leadership Award **Carol Deimling, SCDSB Curriculum Consultant**

The award is given annually in recognition of Joanne Twist, who modeled principled leadership based on coordinating and facilitating, with a main focus on the team contribution.

OSSTF Excellence in Education Distinguished Teacher Award **Jeff Attwood, teacher at Midland Secondary School**

OSSTF Provincial Award of Merit **Verla Hall, teacher at Park Street Collegiate Institute**

Custodial Attendance Awards **85 SCDSB custodial & maintenance workers received Attendance Awards in 2005.**

Leadership and Staff Development

System Goal:

Leadership capacity at the board, region, and school levels supported and maintained by staff development that is aligned with system goals.

COMPASS: Community Partners with Schools

COMPASS is an initiative of the Child, Youth and Family Services Coalition of Simcoe County. During the 2005-2006 school year, community school teams in the Orillia and Midland areas linked schools with community supports and service providers, including those providing parenting programs and mental health, counseling, child protection, community recreation, and youth justice services. Additional community teams will be organized so that, by 2008, every school community in Simcoe County will have access to its own regional COMPASS team.

System Goal:

Employees in all sectors are characterized by their diversity, knowledge, skill, dedication and commitment to the success of all students.





Did you know?

The SCDSB is an active partner in the Children's Treatment Network (CTN) of Simcoe York. CTN provides a single point of contact for parents caring for children and youth from birth to 19 who have special physical, developmental, and communication needs. Partners in this initiative also include representatives from healthcare, recreational, educational, social and community groups.



SCDSB Staff Take Role in Provincial Leadership

It is a testament to the quality of work our staff produce when they are selected to share their knowledge and expertise in a leadership capacity at the provincial level. Over the course of the past year, numerous SCDSB staff members have been seconded by the Ministry of Education to provide support for provincial education initiatives. Each of these individuals has played a significant role in advancing student achievement, particularly as it pertains to literacy and numeracy, character and citizen development, and student success strategies.

Principal and Vice-Principal Symposia

In 2006, SCDSB administrators had an opportunity to meet and work with colleagues in two venues: a principal symposium focusing on system planning and teambuilding, and a vice-principal symposium focusing on data management. Both events provided excellent professional development and networking opportunities and were very well received by those in attendance.

Partnerships for Leadership

During the 2005-2006 school year, the SCDSB established partnerships with two universities to co-design and present powerful leadership sessions for school leaders. In partnership with Penn State University, staff developed a series of five modules on topics ranging from ethical leadership to organizational management and change processes, while a partnership with Nipissing University yielded modules on data management and informed decision-making.



Did you know?

Every SCDSB school participated in the annual Terry Fox National School Day Run held in September 2006. Our students and staff collectively raised \$320,000 for cancer research!

Safe & Supportive Environments



Reorganizing to Better Serve Students

During the 2005-2006 school year, the Simcoe County District School Board reorganized into a *Family of Schools* model. Effective March 2006, schools were divided into one of three *families* consisting of elementary and secondary schools.

The aim of this reorganization is to strengthen partnerships across our system and provide improved continuity and consistency for students from kindergarten to grade 12. Over the coming year, we will continue to develop and implement strategies for improving our service to students and their families.

Good Places to Learn

In the 2005-2006 school year, the SCDSB launched an ambitious round of repair, renovation, and construction work. Funding for this unprecedented improvement of local learning environments came through the provincial government's *Good Places to Learn* initiative. As a result of this new funding, the SCDSB's school renewal budget increased from \$ 7 million to \$40 million.

Best Start Childcare Programs

Childcare programs were created or expanded at the following SCDSB elementary schools in 2006 through the Best Start program:

- Trillium Woods Elementary School
- Willow Landing Public School
- Harriett Todd Public School
- Minesing Central Public School
- Goodfellow Public School

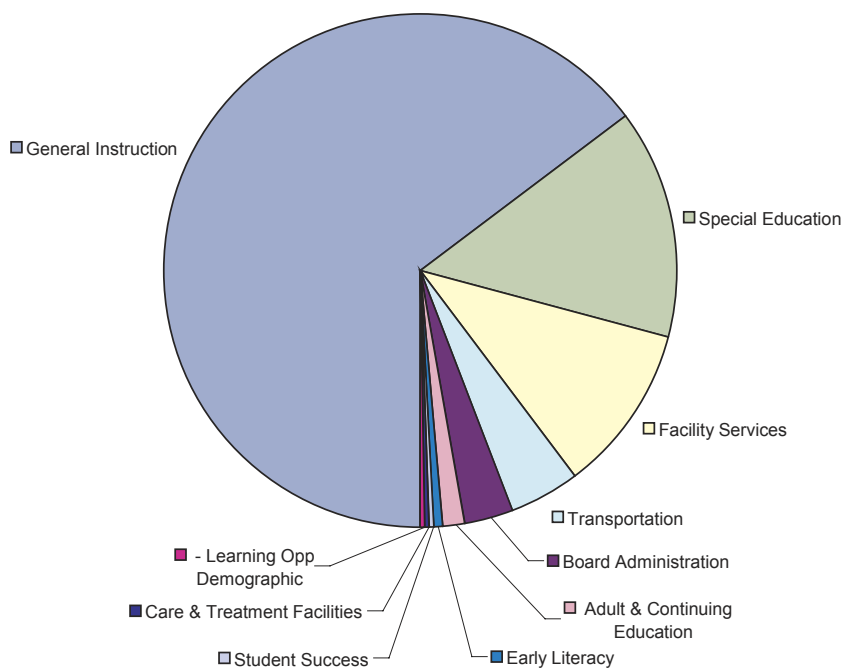
Best Start is a partnership between the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the County of Simcoe, public health, childcare and children's service providers, and Simcoe County's five school boards. It is anticipated that all SCDSB Best Start sites will become fully functional during the 2006-2007 school year.

Financial Information

Projected Net Operating Expenditures

For the year ending August 31, 2006

General Instruction	\$256.2	64.6%
Special Education	57.3	14.5%
Facility Services	42.1	10.6%
Transportation	17.6	4.4%
Board Administration	12.1	3.1%
Adult & Continuing Education	5.3	1.3%
Early Literacy	2.3	0.6%
Student Success	1.5	0.4%
Care & Treatment Facilities	1.1	0.3%
Learning Opportunities – Demographic	0.9	0.2%
Total	\$396.4	100.0%



Simcoe County
District School Board

We Welcome Your Feedback

For more information about activities and programs outlined in this report, or to receive additional copies, please call us at **(705) 728-7570**.

If you would like to comment on this report, please email us at webadmin@scdsb.on.ca to provide us with your feedback.