

AN ENGLISH EDUCATION,
A BILINGUAL FUTURE



Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board
2020 - 2021
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

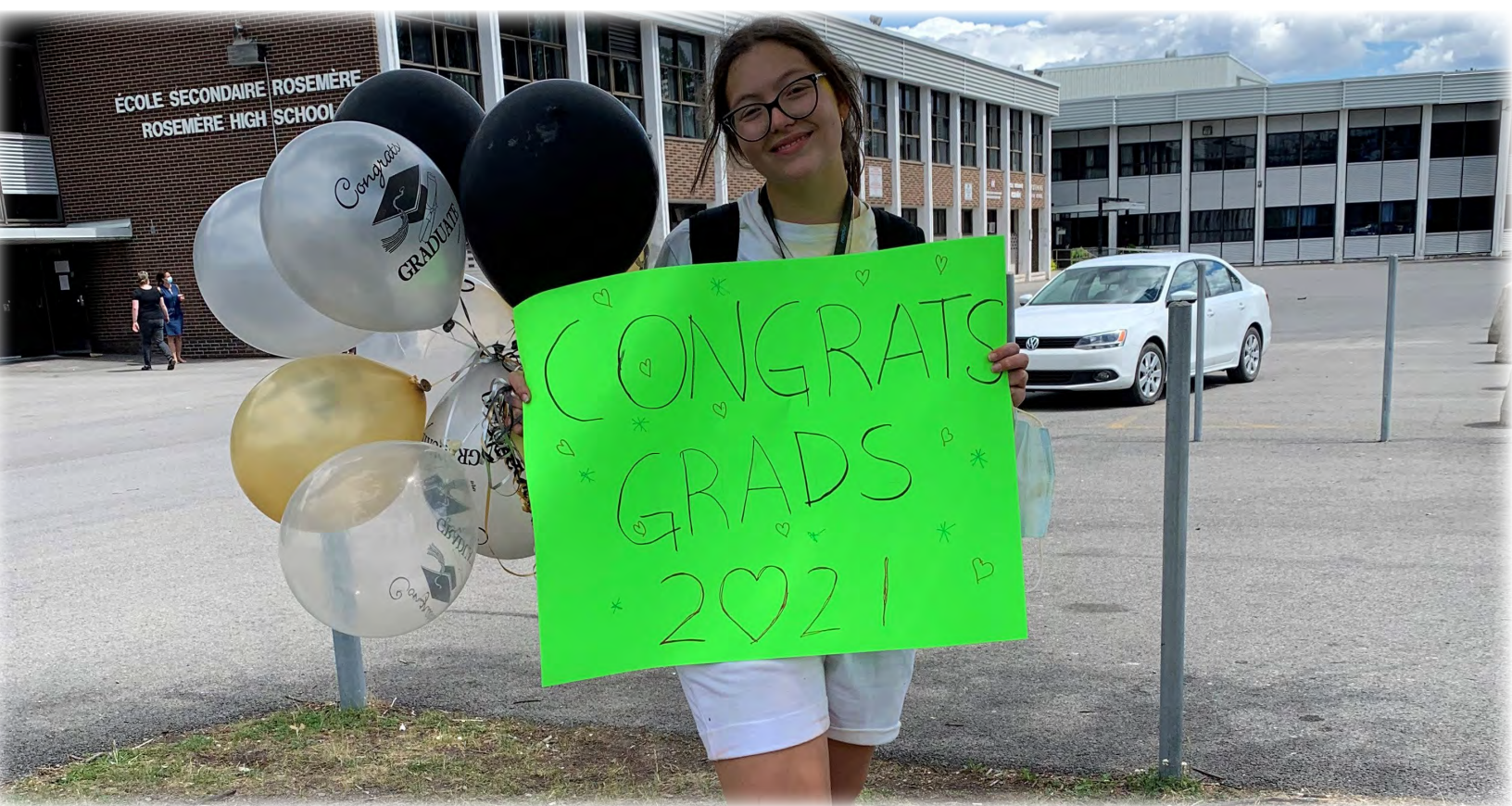


COMMISSION SCOLAIRE SIR-WILFRID-LAURIER
SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD



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Message from the Chairperson



Dear SWLSB Stakeholders,

Although COVID-19 continued to be part of our daily lives in 2020-2021 and required us to do things differently, it has not stopped our school board from accomplishing great things, all while ensuring the safety and security of our students and employees.

Vocational Training Program Adapted to a New Reality

In May 2020, the Government launched a massive recruitment campaign for CHSLD staff. Following the announcement to train 10,000 CHSLD orderlies across the province, CDC Pont-Viau adapted its PAB (*Préposé aux bénéficiaires*) program to make sure students were well trained in this condensed 375-hour, full-time program, spread over a 12-week period beginning on June 15, 2020. At the end

of their training, students obtained their Skills Training Certificate which led to full-time jobs in a CHSLD. We are proud to report that 34 students successfully completed the program at CDC Pont-Viau.

Pre-Kindergarten Popularity

In 2020-2021, the number of pre-kindergarten classes grew to 34 classes in 20 schools, which represents an increase of 50% from 2019-2020. This is excellent news for the anglophone community and has a direct impact on student enrolment. When pre-kindergarten was first introduced in 2018-2019, there were five classes. This number has since grown considerably. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is one of the school boards in the province with the greatest growth in pre-kindergarten. We surveyed students and parents about their pre-kindergarten experience, and their responses were overwhelmingly positive.

Excellent Graduation Rate

We are particularly proud of our graduation and qualification rate, which continues to rise. It currently stands at 87.7 percent, ranking our school board first in Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière and among the top five in the province, out of 72 school boards/school service centres. This graduation rate is a testament to the efforts and creativity deployed by everyone at the school board in keeping our students engaged and focused on the important goal of graduating.

Going Virtual

COVID-19 has certainly changed traditional ways of doing things. We have started organizing a variety of virtual events and have put forward initiatives to ensure that our community continues to benefit from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier way of life.

- **Laurier News** | A video news bulletin showcasing student, school/centre and head office initiatives. These capsules have proven to be popular, as the four editions have obtained more than 13,500 views.
- **Embracing Diversity Conference** | This first edition held on January 4, 2021, brought together key speakers and offered online workshops to our community to better help and understand kids with special needs.
- **Embracing Diversity – SEAC Edition** | The Families edition was held on January 10, 2021. More than 100 families attended this conference.
- **Virtual Open Houses** | Our high school teams joined forces and organized open houses to acquaint Grade 6 students with their new school before the beginning of the next school year.
- **LRHS CEGEP Seminar** | Laurentian Regional High School held its first annual Zoom seminar for parents on the CEGEP application process.
- **Information Technology Department** | The team worked tirelessly to make sure our rural regions had access to internet for distance learning purposes. As an example, they provided LTE modems (portable wireless modems) to families without internet.
- **Virtual Laurier Gala/Hope Fest 2021** | The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation held the second edition of the Laurier Gala and Hope Fest through a Facebook Live event on May 28, 2021. It was important to recognize student success and highlight student talent despite the sanitary measures preventing us from celebrating in person. The event, hosted by Cousin Vinny, included 16 performing acts and 200 student recognitions in the categories of academics, arts, sports, citizenship and school perseverance.



Virtual Campus

We are extremely proud of everyone involved in the establishment and operation of the SWLSB Virtual Campus. In a very short time frame, everyone came together to literally build a virtual school for our 294 students with medical exemptions that prevented them from physically attending school. We wish to commend our 60 employees who worked at the Virtual Campus and ensured that students experienced a school year that was as close to normal as possible, despite being virtual.

Launch of a New Website

A completely redesigned website was launched in April 2021. The school board's previous website was created in 2006, so an upgrade was long overdue. The new website is now more user friendly, interactive and mobile friendly, thus allowing our community to access it on whichever device they prefer.

Infrastructure Upgrades

During the course of the summer, many schools got different upgrades. A total of \$11 million was invested in 13 schools. A wide range of renovations were completed to washrooms, entrances and a parking lot, portable classrooms were added, masonry work was done on outdoor walls, windows were replaced and ceilings and roofs underwent maintenance. Additionally, we are in the process of completing the energy efficiency project that has been ongoing for the past 18 months. Overall, 21 schools will have benefitted from improvements within the scope of this project. We have reduced our energy consumption by 25% and reduced greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 66%. We estimate annual savings of approximately \$275,000.

Entrepreneurship Is Alive and Well!

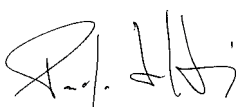
Many projects submitted by our schools for the OSEntreprendre Challenge were awarded a prize. This province-wide challenge promotes and encourages entrepreneurial activities at all levels of education and in businesses across the province. The challenge took place on three levels: local, regional and provincial. The Council of Commissioners was proud to recognize the winners of the 23rd edition of the OSEntreprendre Challenge at the May 2021 Council meeting.

Thank You from the Bottom of Our Hearts

Even though it has been said many times, the Council of Commissioners wishes to, once again, thank parents for their adaptability and support during this time. Very special thanks to all school and centre teams for being flexible in meeting continued demands and ensuring respect of sanitary measures, to the caretakers for ensuring that all buildings were kept clean and safe, and to the school/centre administration for being the "glue" that kept our students and staff united during all the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Special thanks to our Director General, Ms. Gaëlle Absolonne, and our Assistant Director General, Mr. Frederic Greschner, for leading our school board with such dedication, passion, authenticity and rigour.

On a personal note, I wish to thank my fellow commissioners with whom I have the privilege of working. Thank you for being so invested in your role and for always putting students at the centre of all our decision-making.

Looking towards the future, we can expect things to get better as a new normal will emerge once the virus is better controlled. Words cannot sufficiently express how privileged I feel to collaborate with such dedicated and passionate individuals. Together, we have accomplished so many things despite the challenges we faced. Although we cannot predict everything in life, we have learned once again that together, we are stronger.



Paolo Galati
Chairperson



Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Portrait

SWLSB schools range in enrolment from 90 students in one of our elementary schools located in a rural Laurentian setting to more than 1,500 students in our largest secondary school in Laval. Illustrated below is our enrolment portrait.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board	Student Enrolment as of September 30, 2020
26 Elementary Schools	7,688 students
9 High Schools	4,910 students
Homeschooling	901 students
Total enrolment YOUTH SECTOR (excluding homeschooling)	12,598 students
2 Adult Education and 2 Vocational Training Centres	1,141 students
1 Nature and Science Centre	
1 Service aux entreprises (Qualification)	

Laval

11 Elementary Schools	3,743 students
3 High Schools	2,399 students
Total enrolment YOUTH SECTOR	6,142 students
1 Adult Education and 1 Vocational Training Centre	

Laurentides

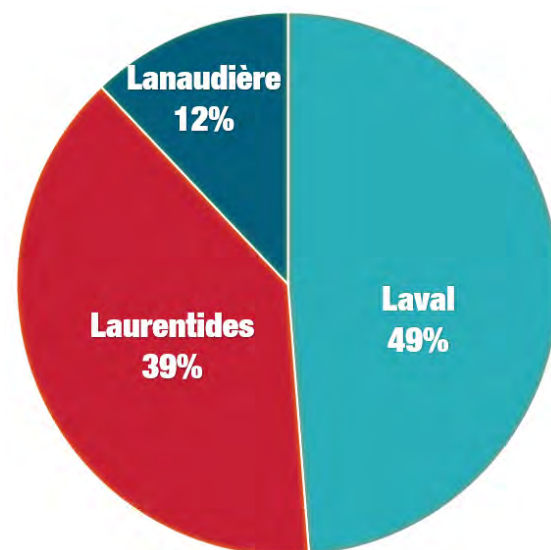
11 Elementary Schools	2,665 students
5 High Schools	2,271 students
Total enrolment YOUTH SECTOR	4,936 students
1 Adult Education and 1 Vocational Training Centre	
1 Nature and Science Centre	

Lanaudière

4 Elementary Schools	1,280 students
1 High School	240 students
Total enrolment YOUTH SECTOR	1,520 students

Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board - Employees

Administrators	99
Professionals	106
Teachers	1,231
Support Staff	617
Maintenance	123
TOTAL	2,176



Vision

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board believes that all students deserve its complete commitment to their success.

Mission

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's mission is to provide engaging and innovative learning where everyone achieves success and well-being. To accomplish its mission the school board:

- Supports student success
- Prepares students for the future
- Offers equitable and varied educational options





Paolo Galati*
Chairperson



Donna Anber*
Electoral Division 1



Karla Abraham Di Francesco
Electoral Division 2



Melissa Wall
Alternate Vice-Chairperson
Electoral Division 3



Olivia Landry*
Electoral Division 4



Bob Pellerin*
Electoral Division 5



Emilio Migliozi
Electoral Division 6

James Di Sano*
Electoral Division 7



Vincent Cammisano*
Electoral Division 8



Anick Brunet
Electoral Division 9



Tara Anderson
Parent Commissioner
Elementary



Adam Gordon*
Vice Chairperson
Parent Commissioner
Secondary



Stéphane Henley
Parent Commissioner
Students with Special Needs



*Members of the Executive Committee.

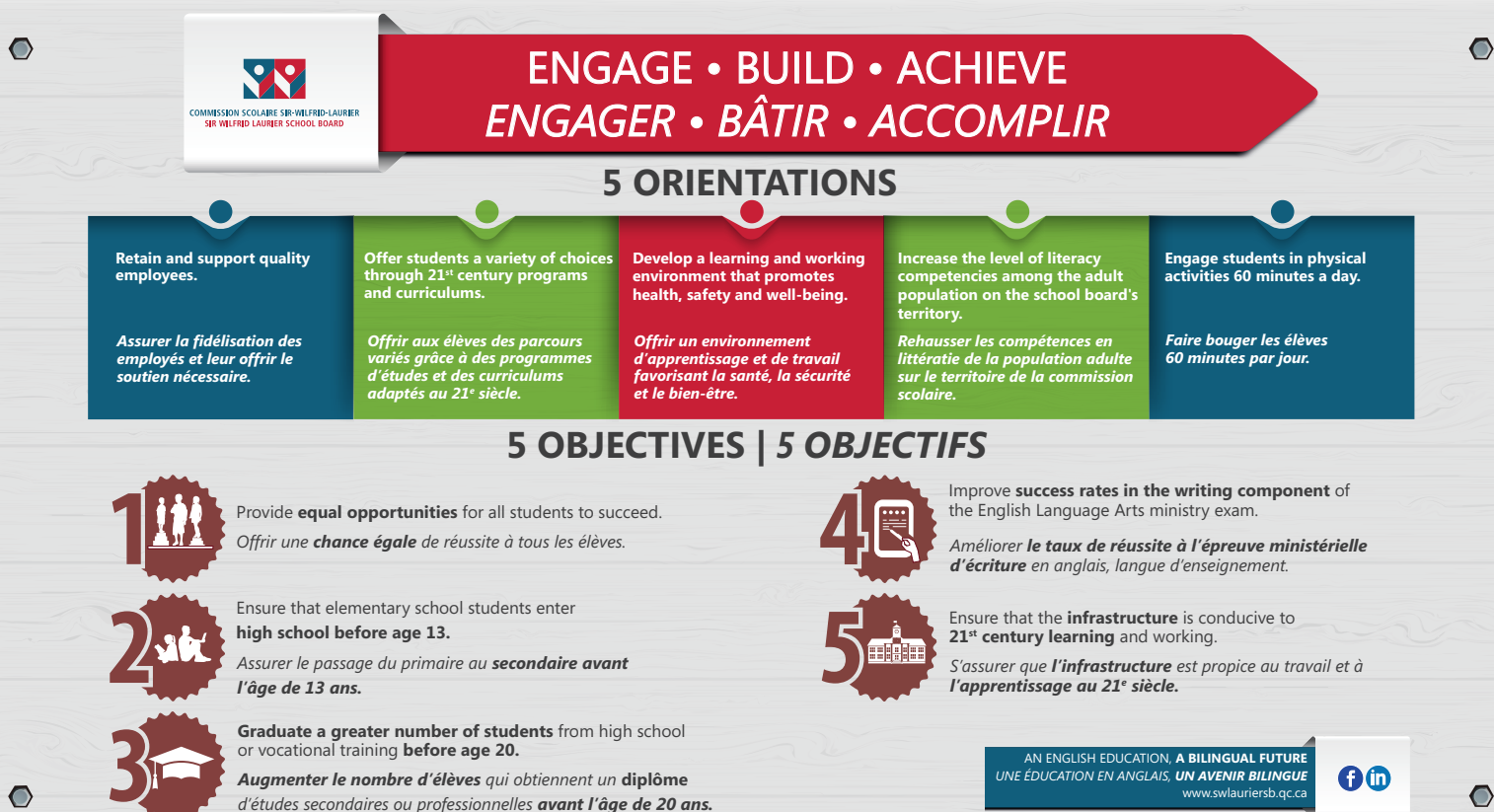
2018-2022 Commitment-to-Success Plan (CTSP)

The first version of the 2018-2022 Commitment-to-Success Plan (CTSP) was adopted by the Council of Commissioners on June 27, 2018.

In the preparation stages, students, parents, staff, governing board members, alumni and community stakeholders, including elected officials, were consulted on the direction and orientations that should be the focus of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board. Following approval by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES), the final version of the plan was adopted by Council on October 18, 2018.

The CTSP includes five orientations and five objectives (as illustrated below) aligned with those of the MEES to ensure improved student success rates.

The 2020-2021 Annual Report focuses on the school board's results achieved in the third year of the 2018-2022 Commitment-to-Success Plan.



Our CTSP in Action Survey Results

The 2020-2021 school year has been challenging for students and staff alike. Despite this, our teams pulled together and made sure the school year would be a successful and memorable one for everyone. In June 2021, we surveyed our employees and asked them to tell us what they were most proud of and to share the many accomplishments achieved during this extraordinary school year in our schools, centres and departments!

One of the orientations of the Commitment-to-Success Plan is to make sure students **are engaged in 60 minutes of physical activity each day!** Here are some of the ways this has been achieved:

- Dancing
- Walking
- Playing outside
- Racing
- Yoga
- Biking
- Jumping rope
- Soccer
- Football
- Hockey
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Punching ball
- Zoom workouts
- Zumba
- Body breaks
- Fitness classes (online and in-person)
- Movement hallway breaks
- Hula hooping
- Fitbit challenges
- Stretching



Our CTSP in Action

Survey Results

To keep students engaged in their learning, our school teams have excelled in putting forth **student-centered academic initiatives**. Here are some of the academic initiatives put forth this year.

- Readers' Club
- Show and tell
- Homework club
- Nature projects (hydroponics, butterflies, gardening)
- Inventions contest
- Career fairs
- Crime solving games/school escape Rooms
- Technology and robotics in the classroom
- Letters with love for the elderly
- Publishing student books
- Spoken word workshops
- Artwork contests
- Supporting national and international movements
- Virtual learning events with parents and students
- Entrepreneurship projects
- Polar Expressions Publishing contest



Recognition is important and at SWLSB, we love celebrating our students! Here are some of our **award and recognition initiatives**.

- Attribution of bursaries
- Student recognitions during Leadership week
- Student of the month award
- Pink in the City award
- Secret appreciation cards to students and staff
- Valentines for veterans
- Participation in the youth and philanthropy initiative
- Daily shout-outs for students and staff to recognize positive things done during the day
- Model the way honours
- Laurier Gala / Hope fest
- Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation citizenship bursaries

Our CTSP in Action

Survey Results

We asked our school and centre teams the following question:

What mental well-being initiatives for students and staff are you most proud of?

- In our Ethics and Religious Culture classes, students were encouraged to share their feelings throughout this year by having the first 10 minutes of each class dedicated to mental health.
- Our social worker held workshops for all our students and staff where she gave tips and tricks on staying healthy for both mind and body.
- Although we were together from behind screens, teachers and staff of the Virtual Campus worked hard to take care of students and each other. Thought and effort went into special moments to help our students feel cared for and make learning exciting. Whether it was mailed letters, little surprise drop-offs at students' houses, or the effort to arrange a socially distanced face-to-face meeting at the end of the year, a lot of heart went into making this year a memorable one.
- Secondary 5 students produced two incredible animation films, one about depression and the other on eating disorders, of such high calibre, they could easily be put on TV.
- Our Wellness Committee established the Buddy Up Campaign, which paired staff each term, to support throughout as buddies, which was a huge success!
- Twice each day, the students spend 3.5 minutes concentrating on relaxation and breathing while listening to mindfulness music.
- Our school had wellness activities for staff throughout the year.
- Our high school had the Study Skills Workshop, the Breathe Workshop and the Sexting Workshop.
- We would take our students for walks to the nearby parks.
- Our Rainbow Room and staff have been very supportive to both students and staff.
- Several check-ins with our students. Peace circles where students share how they are feeling.
- This year, I had lots of students actually bonding with their peers due to the fact that they were together all day in the same bubble.
- We put in place Zen Rooms for each cycle/group of teachers throughout the school where they could work or rest/recharge in safety and peace.
- Stress relief workshops.
- Mindful Mondays at our school helped break the barrier between home and school life and proved a good way to gauge everyone's mental health.
- We built garden boxes for pre-K students to grow flowers and vegetables.
- Sticking together, as a team, we were able to overcome all our mental health highs and lows. Keeping in touch by sending a simple email or text message, or picking up the phone to check on a colleague makes all the difference in one's mental health.



Our CTSP in Action

Survey Results

- Doing riddles and trivia questions at the beginning of each class and drawing prizes every few weeks.
- We had Spirit Week where we celebrated being kind, made each other laugh by wearing silly hats, silly socks, and crazy hair. We also had some special treats like TCBY and popcorn!
- We had a wellness bingo in our school.
- We focused on learning about our emotions through the zones of regulation. Learned how to take a moment through various breathing techniques.
- Yoga was also introduced to the students.
- Students wrote a check-in journal to express how they were feeling and if everything was okay around mid-year in March. They really appreciated the gesture and expressed how they felt better after expressing their feelings in writing.
- Students participated in a mental well-being workshop that explained coping mechanisms for students.
- The creation of a Zen Den (Snoezelen Room) was a huge success. Students used it almost daily.
- We had a professional come speak to the staff and students about mental health.
- Using restorative practices for student interventions, peace circles, and an open-door policy.
- We have been offering art therapy to students (a mural will be painted) and online cooking classes to promote healthy eating and keep our students connected and engaged during this difficult time.
- Our Rainbow Room has been used to promote relationship building, reduce anxiety and improve social skills. With the bubbles, we have been able to support individuals and groups with a more targeted approach.
- Art therapy sessions online for students. Cooking classes to keep students motivated, engaged and healthy! Online get-togethers for staff.
- Our Social Committee always had some activity happening to lift our spirits. Little gifts left, games to play, treats in mailboxes, etc.
- Students did 5-minute breathing exercises every day.



Results in Achieving the MEQ Targets

OBJECTIVE 1:

By 2030, reduce the gap in success rates between various groups of students by 50%

The Ministry of Education has identified certain groups of students who do not meet the criteria to graduate and has established a 50% reduction in identified gaps. All students have our commitment to their individual success and as such, we will follow suit and make sure that all students have equal access to education.

RESULTS: The 2019 results for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board indicate a 6.6% gap between the graduation rate of girls and boys. This represents a 1.5% point decrease from the gap reported in 2018 (8.1%). The gap between the graduation rate of students with handicaps, social maladjustments or learning difficulties and students without an IEP has also decreased by 1.3% points since 2018 (reported gap of 27.6% in 2018). These results indicate that we are merely 0.9% points away from attaining our 2022 target of a 25.4% gap between these two groups of students.

Finally, we have surpassed our 2022 goal of a 10.2% gap between students starting secondary school in a low socio-economic area (*milieu défavorisé*) and students from other areas. The graduation rate of students starting secondary school in a low socio-economic area (attending schools with an IMSE index of 8, 9 or 10) is higher than the graduation rate of students coming from other areas (attending schools with an IMSE between 1 and 7). This resulted in a negative gap given that the rate of the comparative group was inferior to the rate of the reported group. This may be attributed to the fact that the low socio-economic areas were made up of two schools in 2018 whereas, in 2019, only one secondary school met the criteria indexed at a 9.

	Province of Québec					Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board				
	Baseline 2015 (2008 cohort)		Results 2019 (2012 cohort)		Target 2022	Baseline 2015 (2008 cohort)		Results 2019 (2012 cohort)		Target 2022
	Success rate	Gap	Success rate	Gap	Gap	Success rate	Gap	Success rate	Gap	Gap
Boys ¹	73.8%	All sectors 10.1%	77.3%	9.1%	6.1%	78.4%	8.7%	84.4%	6.6%	6.2%
Girls ¹	83.9%		86.4%			87.1%		91.0%		
Students with handicaps, social maladjustments or learning difficulties	48.3%	Public sector 34.1%	56.1%	30.1%	25.3%	55.4%	31.4%	68.6%	26.3%	25.4%
Students without IEP	82.4%		86.2%			86.8%		94.9%		
Start secondary school in a milieu défavorisé ²	69.0%	Public sector 8.9%	73.5%	7.5%	6.5%	70.8%	12.6%	87.7%	-0.2%	10.2%
Other areas ³	77.9%		81.0%			83.4%		87.5%		

Source: Rapport *Diplomation et qualification par commission scolaire au secondaire*, édition 2020 (Tableau 1)

Source: Excel report titled "885 000_Taux_Diplomation_qualification_ed2020_DIS" Charlemagne, October 2020

Source: Excel report titled "Indice de défavorisation - 2017-2018" Charlemagne, November 2021

Source: Excel report titled "Indice de défavorisation - 2018-2019" Charlemagne, November 2021

¹7-year graduation and qualification rate

²Based on the indice de milieu socio-économique (IMSE) of the public secondary school attended (IMSE decile rank 8, 9 or 10)

³Based on the indice de milieu socio-économique (IMSE) of the public secondary school attended (IMSE decile ranks 1 to 7)



OBJECTIVE 2:**By 2030, reduce to 10% the proportion of students starting public secondary school at age 13 or older**

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adheres to research-based practices and therefore does not promote the retention of students. Although certain decisions are made to retain a student, these are made by the school team, along with the family, for exceptional reasons with the best interest of the student in mind.

RESULTS: The 2019 results indicate that the proportion of students who start public secondary school at age 13 or older in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is 3.9%. We continue to maintain results below our 5% target.

	Province of Québec				Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board			
	Baseline 2017	2019	2020	Target 2022	Baseline 2017	2019	2020	Target 2022
Proportion of students	11.0%	9.6%	9.2%	11.4%	3.7%	3.7%	3.9%	< 5%

Source: *Portrait des statistiques ministérielles*, édition septembre 2020 (tableau 6)

Source: Excel report titled "885 000_Taux_Diplomation_qualification_ed2021_DIS" Charlemagne, November 2021

OBJECTIVE 3:**By 2030, have 85% of students under the age of 20 obtain a first diploma (SSD or DVS), and 90% obtain a first diploma or qualification**

The SWLSB demonstrated an increase in its graduation rate from 84.2% in 2018 to 87.7% in 2019. We continue to focus on the implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) in order to build a results-based culture at the school level. Teachers are encouraged to continue using formative and summative assessments as well as the practice of providing feedback to students so they may improve their learning. We expect to see an increase in the success rate in the various subjects, resulting in an increased graduation rate.

RESULTS: The 2019 graduation rate of students under the age of 20 obtaining a first diploma or qualification (based on the cohort of students entering Secondary 1 in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board by September 30, 2012) is 87.7%. This represents a 3.5% point increase in the graduation rate from 2018 (84.2%).

Improve the graduation and qualification rate (7-year cohort)								
	Province of Québec				Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board			
	Baseline 2015 (cohort 2008)	Results 2019 (cohort 2012)	Target 2022	Target 2030	Baseline 2015 (cohort 2008)	Results 2019 (cohort 2012)	Target 2022	Target 2030
Students under 20 obtain a first diploma or qualification	78.8%	81.7%	84.0%	85.0%	82.8%	87.7%	88.0%	90.0%

Source: Rapport *Diplomation et qualification par commission scolaire au secondaire*, édition 2020 (tableau 1)



OBJECTIVE 4:**By 2030, increase to 90% the success rate on the composition component of the Elementary 6 (Cycle 3, Year 2) language of instruction ministerial examination in the public system**

SWLSB offers students an English education and a bilingual future. Our Secondary 5 English Language Arts and French Second Language subjects continue to yield results in the 90 percentiles. Measured at the end of cycle 3, we maintain high results in both languages.

Supporting English- and French-language teaching and learning and providing early interventions will help us maintain the current course success rates. SWLSB continues to promote collaboration between language teachers at all levels to ensure our schools produce bilingual students. We continue to emphasize the importance of languages to afford our students a bilingual education.

RESULTS: The 2019 data indicates a 92% success rate in both the reading and writing competencies of the English Language Arts Grade 6 Ministry exam. This represents a 0.4% increase from the 2018 results in reading and a 2.4% decrease from the 2018 results in writing. This trend demonstrates steady results in the 90% range in English Language Arts. The French Second Language results indicate a 4.7% and a 2.8% decrease in the reading and interaction competencies when compared to the 2018 results. The fact that the 2019 FSL exam was better calibrated and therefore more difficult than the 2018 FSL exam explains this decrease in result.

Improve and/or maintain the first- and second-language competencies of our students

	Province of Québec		Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board			
	Baseline 2016	Target 2022	Baseline 2016	Results 2018	Results 2019	Target 2022
Grade 6 English Language Arts (ELA) Reading Competency - MEQ exam	n/a	n/a	90.1%	91.6%	92.0%	92.5%
Grade 6 English Language Arts (ELA) Writing Competency - MEQ exam	n/a	n/a	94.0%	94.4%	92.0%	94.0%
Grade 6 Français Langue Seconde, programme de base (FLS) Reading Competency - SWLSB exam	n/a	n/a	94.0%	92.7%	88.0%	95.0%
Grade 6 Français Langue Seconde, programme de base (FLS) Interaction Competency - SWLSB exam	n/a	n/a	94.0%	92.8%	90.0%	95.0%

Source: SWLSB Lumix data retrieved October 29, 2021



OBJECTIVE 5:

By 2030, ensure that all school buildings are in good condition

The age and condition of many of our buildings represent a challenge for providing a 21st century learning environment. Moreover, universal design principles were not considered in 20th century building and infrastructure design. Upgrades to our buildings continue to take place annually based on the available funding.

To bring our schools and centres up to the satisfactory level of the Facility Condition Index, the Material Resources Department continues to work diligently to carry out many projects such as roofing, window replacement, brick pointing, foundation work, washroom renovations and auditorium renovations. Given sufficient Ministry funding, we are confident that we will be able to meet our goals for next year.

Ensure that all school buildings are in good condition

	Province of Québec		Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board	
	Baseline 2018	Target 2022	Baseline 2018	Target 2022
% of schools, centres and buildings in satisfactory condition according to the Facility Condition Index (FCI)	68.0%	85.0%	26.0%* (13 buildings)	50.0% (23 buildings)

Source: *Système informatisé de maintien d'actifs des commissions scolaires (SIMACS) 2017*

*Our baseline percentage is lower than the provincial level because of the buildings part of our Arundel Nature and Science Centre.



Hillcrest Academy - Before



McCaig Elementary - Before



Mountainview Elementary
- Before



Sainte-Adèle Elementary
- Before



Rosemere High - Before



Hillcrest Academy - After



McCaig Elementary - After



Mountainview Elementary
- After



Sainte-Adèle Elementary
- After



Rosemere High - After



Adult Education and Vocational Training

Adult Education

Educators and students within the adult education community were faced with many challenges during the 2020-2021 school: online learning, increased isolation and individualism, health and security measures and sadly, for some, the loss of loved ones.

Over the year, the focus at both Adult Education centres (Vimont and Lachute) turned to our local objective 1: **to provide a structure through which students' perceived difficulties are addressed on a regular basis.** Additional support measures were implemented to allow students to continue learning throughout these difficult times.

- Five resource specialists and two mathematics tutors were engaged to help support students with learning challenges, for a total of \$84,000 in dedicated funding.
- A hybrid model of study was offered that permitted students to either remain at home for their entire learning pathway or to participate in a hybrid model of learning, i.e., two days a week online and three days a week in person to meet and work in person with fellow students and teachers.
- Our social worker and guidance counsellor supported all students in need.

In spite of environmental and learning difficulties and the irregularities of the year, 1,750 students at Vimont and 163 students at Lachute wrote summative exams and received Ministry credits for various secondary level courses.

In keeping with their commitment to both mental and physical well-being, the centres initiated a number of extracurricular activities. Funding requests totalling \$18,500 were granted to community organizations by the Ministry of Education. Through these initiatives, we were able to invite many students to take part in a number of activities.

- We initiated a healthy eating Zoom series during which a teacher-cook demonstrated the preparation of a meal. Students, having received beforehand the ingredients required to prepare a specific recipe, cooked along with the teacher-cook in a virtual environment. All participants prepared and enjoyed their meal from the safety of their own kitchens.
- Art therapy was offered to all students. A mural of their work is now displayed in the corridor at CDC Vimont.
- We continued our family literacy program with a distribution of free books to those who participated. Four storytelling events took place between January and May, each one devoted to a highlighted book, followed by family activities.
- Our social integration students benefitted from yoga sessions as well as photography classes.

Overall, in a year of uncertainty and challenge, we continued focusing on being creative and following our five tenets of creativity: improve mood, boost self-esteem, improve cognitive function, improve social life and alleviate stress and anxiety.



Vocational Training

Enrolment	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Students under 20 years	71	73	61	47
Students over 20 years	441	510	379	409
Total	512	583	440	456

Source: Lumix

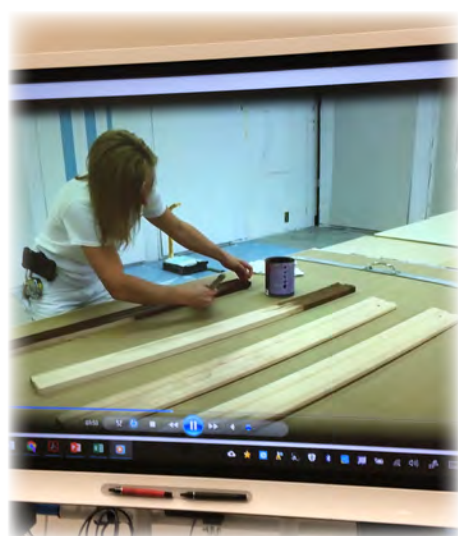
The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board offers a wide variety of vocational training programs in its centres in Laval, Lachute and Saint-Eustache that meet the diverse career needs of adult learners under and over 20 years of age. While the limitations on international travel and the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be factors in the decrease in the number of students in vocational training programs, we have seen an increase in enrolment in the over-20-years-of-age group for the 2020-2021 school year. This is one of the results of the pandemic during which many people started seeking a career change or new career opportunities.

The increase in qualification and graduation rates in our high schools has brought about a decline in the number of students under 20 years of age who are attracted to vocational training programs.

Our Computing Support and Health, Assistance and Nursing programs (both 1800-hour programs) continue to be the most popular. Enrolment in other vocational training programs has seen a slight increase as we move forward in the easing of pandemic restrictions.

Career exploration activities, promotional campaigns on social media and local advertising are important and impactful means of recruiting students. Student retention is high thanks to the academic, guidance and social service support measures put in place to assist students in managing their study, work and family life obligations so they may complete their programs of study in a timely manner.

Our dedicated team of professionals helps our students swiftly transition from a place of learning to the world of earning.



International Student Program

In the 2020-2021 school year, our International Student Program welcomed students from India, Brazil, China, Nigeria, Venezuela, Vietnam, Mexico, Sweden and Cambodia.

Several international students (some returning students and some new students) in the youth sector were enrolled in the following schools:

- Laval Senior Academy
- Rosemere High
- Laurentian Regional High
- Lake of Two Mountains High
- John F. Kennedy Elementary
- Saint-Paul Elementary
- Sainte-Adèle Elementary
- Pinewood Elementary, and
- Pierre-Elliott Trudeau Elementary

As for the vocational training sector, despite the pandemic, we welcomed **eleven new international students** to the following programs:

- Computing Support
- Health, Assistance and Nursing

As was the case for the 2019-2020 school year, enrolment for the 2020-2021 school year was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic. While COVID-19 cases rose throughout the world, international students faced many challenges in coming to Canada, such as increased delays in obtaining their visa, lack of vaccinations, quarantine measures and few available flights.

Despite the difficulties of the pandemic, many students are very interested in coming to our schools and centres. We continue to promote our school board through online platforms and participate in virtual recruitment fairs across the country. We are currently working on further developing our current partnerships and building new partnerships to advance our program and increase recruitment of international students to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.



The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board offers customized training to businesses across the LLL territory through its business training division: QUALIFICATION. Since its launch in 2014, QUALIFICATION has continued to grow, going from \$36,000 in revenues in 2014-2015 to \$1.3M in 2020-2021.

As in many other areas, the pandemic has brought forth new ways of working. In 2020-2021, QUALIFICATION adapted its offer of service to reflect the new reality of virtual learning and offered online customized training through the Zoom platform. This allowed the training division to maintain its activities despite the pandemic and the sanitary measures in place. To support teachers and collaborators during this transition, it offered them free training sessions for developing techno-pedagogical skills and mastering Zoom. As a result, QUALIFICATION now offers training courses both virtually and in person.

In partnership with the Institut de leadership and Services Québec Laval, QUALIFICATION launched a new leadership program in 2020-2021 attended by more than 20 participants. It also provided professional development opportunities to school board employees and more than 80 businesses. Excel, Outlook, Zoom, Communications, Team Management, Coaching, Francization, and English as a Second Language were among the courses offered.

QUALIFICATION offers a wide variety of personalized training and coaching opportunities. You can find out more at www.qualification.ca.

SERVICE AUX ENTREPRISES
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bilingual training



Our Partner: the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation is a non-profit organization that works in collaboration with businesses, parents and schools to build partnerships with the goal of giving back to the students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board. Over the past 15 years, the Foundation has invested more than \$950,000 in our schools and centres and every year awards citizenship bursaries to graduating students in the youth and adult sectors. The money raised by the Foundation comes from two major fundraisers held in January and June.



The Foundation, in partnership with the school board, also finances the annual Laurier Gala/Star Fest, an evening that recognizes more than 200 students in our school board and highlights the musical talents of over 20 students.

Though we were not able to organize any fundraisers during the 2020-2021 school year because of the pandemic, we held a virtual Hope Fest concert featuring the talents of students of our school board. We are hopeful that we will be able to continue our fundraising efforts soon.

Board of Directors of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation

President

Josée Côté

Vice President

Archie Cifelli

Treasurer

Steve Ceccolini

Members

Leslie Andradi • Harold Ashenmil • Vincent Cammisano • Sandra Di Iorio

James Di Sano • Chrystine Legault • David Paulozza • Ed Turchyniak

Gaëlle Absolonne • Paolo Galati

Maxeen Jolin • Susan O'Keeffe

Non-voting members

Administration



Parents' Committee Report

In accordance with the province's Education Act, every school holds a general assembly prior to September 30 of each school year during which parents/guardians are elected to the school's Governing Board (GB). From among the GB members, each school elects one delegate and one alternate to represent the school on the school board's Parents' Committee (PC). The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) also elects one member to be a part of the PC. The PC is the only committee comprised entirely of parents/guardians.

In 2020-2021, members of the PC met 13 times and held their meetings by Zoom in order to respect public health guidelines. Zoom proved to be an invaluable tool that allowed PC to maximize its accessibility to all members. This resulted in strong attendance at each meeting.

The PC is consulted by the school board on a wide range of topics that benefit our children. Aside from monthly meetings that are publicly accessible, PC maintains contact with its community through a section of the school board's website, a Facebook Page, as well as occasional mass emails.

In 2020-2021, PC undertook to strengthen relations with the Special Education Advisory Committee. PC invited SEAC to combine efforts on the FB page to help build an even stronger audience. Both committees also began inviting each other's members to all meetings.

A proud moment that should be highlighted from this past year: PC undertook to plant a tree at the head office to commemorate all those who were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The team chose to appropriately refer to this as "The Tree of Hope".

Despite the challenges brought about by the pandemic, the PC team continued to thrive and advocate for all parents. We are truly proud for the efforts put forth.

On behalf of the 2020-2021 Parents' Committee, I would like to thank all parents and stakeholders for their encouragement, support and dedication. Special thanks go to all the head office staff for their assistance through various reports and presentations and for their general support and presence at PC meetings. Together we are stronger!

Looking forward to another great year ahead.

Regards,
Adam Gordon
2020-2021 Chairperson, Parents' Committee



EXECUTIVE COMPOSITION	COMMITTEES	CONSULTATIONS	TOPICS DISCUSSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson Vice-Chairperson Secretary Treasurer Elementary Parent Commissioner Secondary Parent Commissioner SEAC Delegate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) Regroupement des comités de parents 3L - RCP3L Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deeds of Establishment Three-Year Plan for the Allocation and Destination of Immovables School Calendars Enrolment Criteria Budget Building Anti-Bullying and Anti-Violence Plan By-Law Establishing Procedures for the Examination of Complaints from Students or Their Parents Policy on Reconsideration of a Decision Affecting a Student Policy on School Fees Charged to Parents Various EPCA consultations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal rules update Air purifiers/ventilation Public health guidelines Distance education Vaccination campaigns
SUBCOMMITTEES			PRESENTATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC Facebook page PC² - Parents' Committee Publicity Committee Rules and Regulations Budget 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech-Language Pathology LEARN Quebec EPCA Overview



Ethics Commissioner and Student Ombudsman Reports

Ethics Commissioner

For the year ending June 30, 2021, the undersigned, in my capacity as Ethics officer charged with the enforcement of the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct of the Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, handled no complaints.

Montreal, September 15, 2021



Me Vincent Guida
Person charged with the enforcement of the
Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct of the
Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board

Alternate Student Ombudsman

For the year ending June 30, 2021, the undersigned, in my capacity as alternate student ombudsman for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, did not handle any complaint referrals.

Montreal, September 15, 2021



Me Vincent Guida
Alternate Student Ombudsman of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board



Finance

Statement of Principle

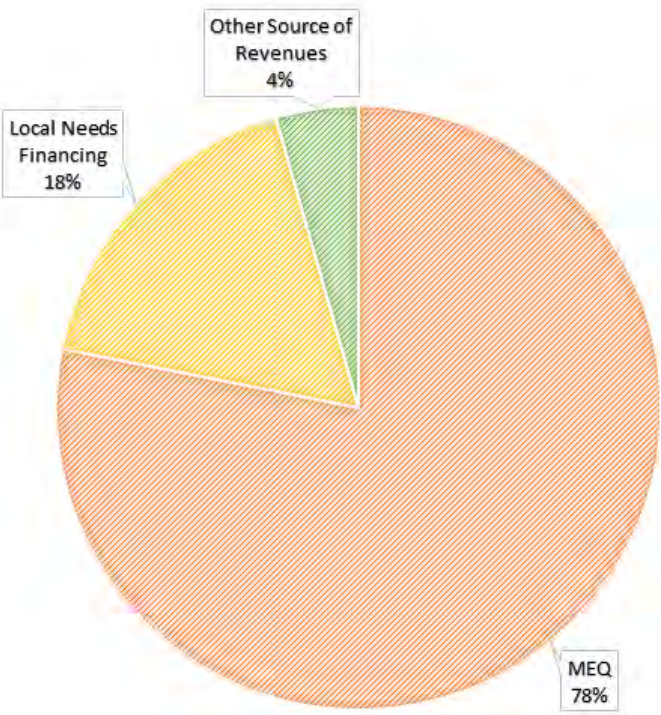
The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board allocates the resources at its disposal among its schools and centres in an equitable manner and in consideration of the social and economic disparities, the needs expressed by its institutions, existing partnerships and the Commitment-to-Success Plan. The school board reserves the amount determined necessary for its needs to administer the services entrusted to it by law and for the needs of its committees.

The school board establishes parameters for the equitable distribution of its resources that ensure services to students as required by the provisions of the Education Act and school board policy.

These parameters take into account the distinctive feature of each school and centre. Allocations are built on a base and/or a per-student allocation adjusted in consideration of social and economic disparities.

The budgetary process encourages responsibility, accountability, innovation, creativity and transparency.

REVENUES: \$187,267,077



Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board

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