

# REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

## **STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: LITERACY**

Submitted by District Principal Kirsten Deasey  
November 2021

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Goal 1d: Our students will be **literate**. They will be effective communicators, critical thinkers, and engaged citizens.

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### **Overview:**

Literacy is recognized as foundational to the development of the educated citizen. It is a key to unlocking learning in all subjects, as students must comprehend, think critically and communicate across disciplines. Literacy enriches our lives, providing the skills to find success in the workforce as well as to make sense of the world in which we live. Sharing our stories and listening to the stories of others creates a caring and compassionate society and is the cornerstone of democracy.

### **Synopsis of this Year's Initiatives:**

To support our district in meeting the Literacy Goal articulated in the Strategic Plan, three literacy-focused committees meet regularly. These committees are composed of teachers and administrators, and include the:

1. Elementary District Literacy Committee
2. Teacher Librarians
3. Secondary District Literacy Committee – A new committee, formed in September 2021, designed to focus on secondary literacy across the district.

These committees have developed Action Plans in the following four areas:

1. Assessment & Communicating Student Learning
2. Building a Professional Culture Focused on Improving Literacy Results
3. Community Literacy Connections
4. Joy in Literacy

Actions include:

#### Assessment & Communicating Student Learning

- A district-wide in-service series has been designed for K – 9 teachers to support their understanding of the Draft K – 12 Reporting Policy. The foundational role that literacy plays in activating the curricular competencies when using standards-based assessment will be highlighted and explored throughout the series.

- Committee Members from the three Literacy focused committees are participating in the Ministry of Education’s ‘Performance Standards Benchmarking Trials.’ These teachers are joining teachers across the province to provide feedback and create clear examples of how literacy & numeracy are embedded in all learning areas, and to establish a consistent, common language and approach for literacy that is aligned province-wide, across grades and assessments.

Professional Culture to Improve Literacy Results

- School District No. 46 is working with Jennifer Serravallo’s team, a renowned international literacy expert, to support K – Grade 8 teachers through the ‘Collaborating About Reading Engagement (‘CARE’) Project. Two representatives from each school and the teacher librarian lead their school teams through this 4-part series focused on Reading & Writing Strategies.
- The Story Workshop Series will support educators from early years and up through elementary to support literacy by exploring relationships between play, the arts and literacy.

Community Literacy Connections

- The WonderWheels Bookmobile Bus brings books to students across the coast through weekly summertime visits. This summer saw 470 visits by children, and 934 books borrowed. Children and families also engaged in ‘Trails & Tales’ walks and story times throughout the summer up and down the coast.
- Access to authors provide in person and virtual visits to students throughout the year. In Family Literacy week alone, we supported over 2500 student engagements with Canadian authors.

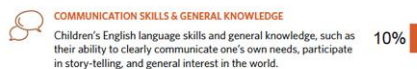
Joy in Literacy

All of our initiatives recognize the importance of supporting students to experience joy and fulfillment through literacy. The Coastal Voices Writers Anthology publishes the work of students across the district, celebrating their stories and their voices, harnessing the intersections between all of our goals and actions.

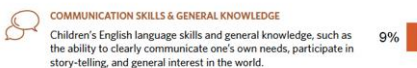
**Data Analysis and Review:**

**Early Development Instrument (‘EDI’)**

2019-2020 Results

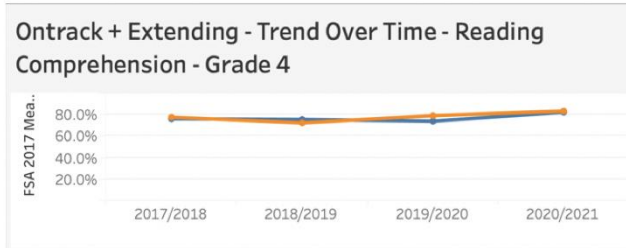


2020-2021 Results

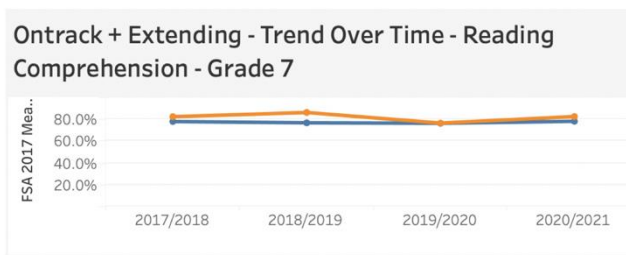
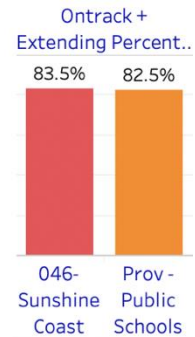


EDI results remain stable in the Communication and Language & Cognitive Development domains of the EDI. These continue to be domains where Sunshine Coast children do very well.

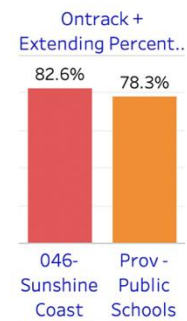
Foundation Skills Assessment - Reading:



**2020/21  
Ontrack &  
Extending Gr.4  
Reading**



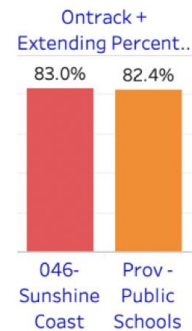
**2020/21  
Ontrack &  
Extending  
Gr.7  
Reading**



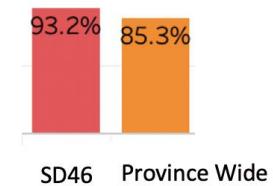
Foundation Skills Assessment - Writing:



**2020/21  
Ontrack &  
Extending Gr.4  
Writing**



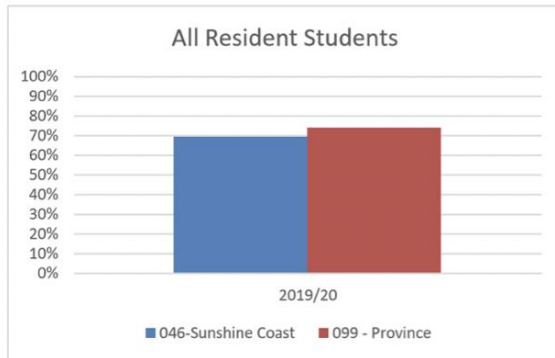
**2020/21  
Ontrack &  
Extending  
Gr.7 Writing**



Current FSA results reveal that Sunshine Coast Students do better than provincial averages in both reading and writing in both grades 4 & 7.

### Graduation Assessment - Literacy 10

(Portion of Grade 10 resident writers 'Proficient' or 'Extending')



**Figure 11: Graduation Assessment Grade 10 Literacy - All Resident Students**

Sunshine Coast students are slightly below the provincial average in the Graduation Assessment – Literacy 10. A Secondary Literacy Committee has recently been formed to support secondary literacy across the district.

### Resources/Budget:

#### CARE project series

- Hiring the presenter from Jennifer Serravallo's Team
- Support for the participation of the primary, intermediate & librarian representatives in each elementary.
- Support for school teams to collaborate through 'CARE Collaboration Time.'
- Resources for participating teachers

#### WonderWheels Bookmobile

- Books & staffing for the bookmobile
- Destiny Library System

Release for teachers to participate in District Literacy Committees, In-Services, collaborative learning opportunities and trainings. This includes the in-service for all K – 9 teachers on the new reporting policy three-part series scheduled for 2021-22.

Expertise and resources to support literacy learning – including access to Canadian Authors, Coastal Voices Writer's Anthology, the Coast Reads initiative, and many other initiatives as outlined in the slide show accompanying the Education Committee minutes.

### Emerging Areas of Need:

- Supporting our teachers to become familiar with literacy Assessment & Communication Student Learning practices outlined in the K – 12 Draft Reporting Policy in anticipation of it being implemented for the 2022-23 school year.
- Supporting our students to navigate literacy and learning through the backdrop of the global pandemic will require literacy supports that are relevant and designed to help students make meaning of today's modern society.
- Strategizing to support Secondary Literacy across the district.
- The indigenization of the work we do in schools and the role literacy plays in the 94 Calls to Action in moving us forward in Truth & Reconciliation.

**Adaptations/Next Steps:**

- A series on the new Ministry Draft Reporting Policy and our involvement in the trialing of the Performance Standards Benchmarking will support teachers across our district to use current best practices in literacy assessment and communication of student learning.
- A series on 'Story Workshop' and 'Teaching Reading & Writing Strategies' will support educators to be responsive and student-centred in their literacy practices.
- A continued focus on Joy, engagement and making meaning will be especially important as we educate literate citizens within the context of a global pandemic.
- The Secondary Literacy Committee will engage in on-going, focused and collaborative work to support secondary literacy across the district.
- Direct links to literacy practices and Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being, as a fundamental braid woven into the district-wide Ensouling Our Schools series.