



SEVEN OAKS SCHOOL DIVISION INVESTS IN STUDENT SUCCESS 2025/2026 BUDGET

On Monday, March 10, 2025, the Seven Oaks School Division Board of Trustees approved the 2025/26 budget, ensuring class sizes remain small and current programming is maintained. Families will continue to benefit from no fees for lunch supervision, field trips, and band instruments. Additionally, this budget preserves low-cost fees for student supplies saving parents on average, \$80 per child, per year.

The \$207,772,283 budget will support 12,500 students across 27 schools, prioritizing classroom resources where they have the greatest impact. Recent provincial data shows that 83% of the division's expenditures go directly to the classroom, compared to the provincial average of 79%.

This budget reflects a 7.2% increase from 2024/25. With provincial funding increasing by 3%, and to achieve priorities, the required mill rate increase for Seven Oaks ratepayers is 4.5%. The average homeowner in Seven Oaks will see an increase of \$274 annually or \$22.83 per month in gross school taxes, based on an average home value of \$384,300.

Budget Highlights:

- 15 new educational assistants to support diverse student needs.
- 5 additional teachers to accommodate growth and maintain class sizes.
- 4 new school buses to support transportation services.
- Elimination of budget deficit and replenishment of recommended surplus.
- Wage and benefits adjustments, accounting for 3.55% of the overall budget increase.
- School based budget allocation for climate justice initiatives.
- Expansion of middle years Indigenous cultural credit.

Board Chairperson Ed Ploszay stated, *"This budget reflects our ongoing commitment to directing resources to the classroom, where they have the greatest impact on student outcomes. At the same time, it highlights increasing cost pressures and the ongoing need for Seven Oaks trustees to work in partnership with the province of Manitoba to advance the ideals of public education."*

For more information, please contact Tony Kreml, Superintendent, Seven Oaks School Division.