



News Release

For Immediate Release

SJASD Budget Makes Targeted Investments to Support Students and Operations

March 16, 2026 (Winnipeg, MB) – The St. James-Assiniboia School Division (SJASD) approved its budget for the 2026/27 school year at a regularly scheduled Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

After consultations with the community last fall and in March, the Board of Trustees approved an operating budget of **\$146,637,864**, an increase of **3.3 per cent** or \$4,728,753 over the 2025/26 budget.

For 2026/27, the Provincial Government provided SJASD with a **1.55 per cent** or \$832,500 increase in total provincial operating support. Of this total, 0.81 per cent or \$435,500, represents a grant to support teacher salary harmonization costs.

The 2026 mill rate is **13.848**, representing an increase of **8.87 per cent** from the 2025 mill rate of **12.720**. The owner of an average principal residence in the Division can expect an increase in school taxes of **\$67 annually, or \$5.59 per month** after the application of the province's 2026 Homeowners Affordability Tax Credit (HATC). The average home value in the Division decreased in 2026 to **\$330,200** from **\$330,300** in 2025 (*City of Winnipeg, Residential Unit Report January 2026*).

"Directing resources to the classroom has always been a key priority for the Division. This year, we continue to maintain low student-to-teacher ratios, while making small, targeted investments to support school operations, transportation consistency, and student wellbeing," said Tara Smith, Chair of the St. James-Assiniboia School Division.

In 2026/27, enrolment is projected to increase by **1.03 per cent**, or **88 students**, for a total of **8,666 students**.

SJASD is making the following targeted investments to support students and operations:

- Hiring **5.5 FTE secretarial staff members** to support 11 of SJASD's smallest schools, providing more predictable daily support and fostering proactive communication between school and home.
- Hiring **1.75 FTE relief bus drivers** to strengthen operational resilience, reduce route cancellations, and improve service consistency.
- Hiring **1 FTE accounting staff member** to improve finance support across the Division.
- **Lowering school fees** for families by supplementing school budgets to reduce supply fees for students in Middle Years and reduce course fees in Senior Years.
- **Launching a second after-school program** in partnership with The Peacefull Village Inc. to support the educational advancement of students within the John Taylor Collegiate family of schools.

"While expenditure growth this year has been driven primarily by compensation pressures from wage settlements, through careful budgeting we were able to increase support to school operations while lowering school fees for families and expanding after-school programming," said Smith.

Administrative costs of **2.84 per cent** remain unchanged from last year and close to the Provincial Government's 2.70 per cent expenditure guideline. For more information on the 2026/27 budget, visit sjasd.ca/governance/budget.

SJASD is a progressive school division in west Winnipeg serving over 8,500 students across 26 schools. SJASD is committed to educational programs in which children can develop their natural abilities to their fullest extent, building upon personal strengths and the richness of our area's culturally diverse population. SJASD operates on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, the Ininewak, and the Dakota Oyate peoples, and on the birthplace and homeland of the Red River Métis. Our community is bound by Treaty One and we are all tied together through the treaties. For more information, visit sjasd.ca.

-30-

Media Inquiries:

Michelle Lancaster, Communications Specialist, SJASD | Phone: (204) 888-7951, ext. 2013; Email: communications@sjasd.ca

2574 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3J 0H8
Telephone: 204-888-7951 | Website: www.sjasd.ca