



News Release

For Immediate Release

Modest SJASD Budget Maintains Programs and Services for Students Average homeowner can expect a \$35 increase to their tax bill

March 6, 2024 (Winnipeg, MB) – The St. James-Assiniboia School Division (SJASD) approved its budget for the 2024/25 school year at a regularly scheduled Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

The Board of Trustees approved an operating budget of **\$130,209,877**, an increase of **5.59 per cent** or \$ 6,899,169 over the 2023/24 budget. The mill rate for 2024 remains low, increasing to **12.453**, up from 11.960 in 2023.

In 2024, the Provincial Government provided SJASD with a **0.7 per cent** increase in provincial operating support. This is in addition to \$575,000 earmarked for a universal Nutrition Program, bringing total provincial funding to 1.9 per cent. The Province also advised school divisions they could increase the Special Requirement.

After consulting with the community, the SJASD Board of Trustees approved an education property tax increase of **4.12 per cent**. The average homeowner can expect to pay **\$35.24** more in net school taxes after the estimated education property tax credit and rebate, based on an average home value of **\$317,700** (*City of Winnipeg March 2024 Property Assessment*).

“This budget balances the needs in the classroom with our fiscal responsibility to our community. After careful deliberation, we felt that a small tax increase was the best way to maintain the programs and services that students and their families have come to expect from SJASD,” said Holly Hunter, Chair of the St. James-Assiniboia School Division.

In addition to maintaining small class sizes, free lunch supervision, and the Grade 3 Swim Program, the Division will also hire one additional Student Services Coordinator to support the growing complexity of needs in the classroom, while also making two small investments to launch a Division-wide eSports program (\$15,000) and expand vocational programming to John Taylor Collegiate (\$30,000).

“In spite of budget challenges such as salary settlements, continued inflationary pressures, and increased maintenance and service costs, the Board remains committed to allocating a large proportion of funding to support direct classroom instruction and the additional needs of our student population,” said Hunter.

In 2024/25, enrolment is projected to decrease slightly by **0.54 per cent**, or 45 students, for a total projected enrolment of **8,315 students**. Average class sizes are expected to remain within the Board’s [guidelines](#), and very close to new provincial guidelines.

Administrative costs of **2.67 per cent** remain within the Provincial Government’s 2.7 per cent expenditure requirement. SJASD also expects to set aside \$2,905,531, or **1.8 per cent** of operating expenditures as a Gross Operating Reserve. (*The Provincial Government’s guidelines for Operating Reserves is a maximum of 4 per cent*).

For more information on the 2024/25 budget, visit sjasd.ca/governance/budget.

SJASD is a progressive school division in west Winnipeg serving over 8,300 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 lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininew and Dakota peoples, and on the homeland of the Red River Métis nation. SJASD respects the Treaties that were made on this territory. For additional information, visit sjasd.ca.

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