

CONNECT CHARTER SCHOOL

AERR Summary for 2014/15

Fast Facts

- Public Charter School
- Inclusive - first come basis
- 600 students
- grades 4 to 9
- located in Lakeview, Calgary

Vision

"Developing students as extraordinary citizens." A lofty vision, but one which speaks of the significance we place on the key pillars of our program:

- outdoor & environmental ed.
- collaboration
- inquiry-based learning
- research
- technology integration
- real-life learning

Research & Innovation Mandate

As a public charter school, Connect has an additional responsibility for research and innovation. We share the results of our work on our Connect! blog, by hosting dozens of visitors each year, presenting at major conferences and more.



Priorities & Accomplishments

There were many highlights in the 2014-2015 school year....

- The level of intellectual engagement for our students is **25% higher** than the national average.
- 77% of Connect students report they are **highly skilled** and yet challenged by their work, compared to 57% nationally.
- Connect **outscored the provincial average** on Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) in all subjects at both grade 6 and 9.
- Overall, 40.5% of Connect grade 9 students achieved the standard of excellence on the PATs.
- The percentage of students meeting the acceptable standard on the PATs is 20% higher than the provincial average.



Highlights & Challenges



Parental and Community Engagement

The School Council at Connect is a highly involved and invested group. Working with the school staff, they undertook a number of initiatives in 2014-15 that encouraged parental and community engagement:

Connect School Council again hosted an annual Parent Summit in April of 2015, with over 100 participants in attendance.

Organization of parent information sessions throughout the year on topics such as Internet safety, dealing with stress and anxiety, high school transition, and more.

Open forum, "Dialogue with Darrell (Principal)" sessions at each school council meeting.

Thousands of hours of parent volunteer time on field trips (including the many overnight trips), supporting special events, fundraising, supporting learning in class and much more.

Accountability Pillar Survey results and Tell Them From Me survey results indicate a very safe, supportive environment: 93.3% of students, parents and teachers agree that students are safe, learning the importance of caring and respect, and are treated fairly in school.

We are an inclusive Charter School and do not discriminate in our entrance process - we are stronger for our diversity.

Students, staff and parents understand the significance of outdoor and environmental education.

Student achievement remains very high, coupled with high levels of student engagement and challenge. A disposition of inquiry is a highly effective means by which we can address both the fundamentals of learning as well as deeper learning and knowledge creation.



Stewardship of Resources

- 2014-15 budget of \$6.66M
- government grants comprise -82% of total revenue
- instructor salaries & benefits equal -58% of total expenses
- 2014-15 budget had a recorded deficit of \$304,645 which was drawn from the accumulated operating surplus
- the audited financial statement for 2014-15 can be found here:

<http://www.connectcharter.ca/wordpress/publications/plans-and-reports/>

The full Annual Education Results Report and 3-Year Education Plan is available on the school website at <http://www.connectcharter.ca/wordpress/publications/plans-and-reports/>