

**Media Release**  
**RCCDSB Approves 2024-2025 \$93.1 Million Budget**

**June 25th** - The Renfrew County Catholic District School Board is proud to announce they have approved the 2024-2025 school year budget of \$93.1 million with a focus on student readiness, mental health, math and literacy supports, special education, and faith.

While setting the 2024-2025 budget, the Board ensured that resources are allocated to facilitate their mission: *We are an inclusive Catholic learning community called to love unconditionally and educate hearts and minds in the way of Christ.* Additionally, the budget aligns with the goals of RCCDSB by enhancing opportunities for all students, and promotes the theme of the 2024-2025 school year from their [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#): *As a community of believers, we strive to foster student ability to think critically, communicate effectively and work collaboratively.*

**Budget Highlights:**

- \$112,700 invested in licensing for Early Reading Interventions, \$34,800 for early reading enhancements, \$276,700 for education staff to assist with reading interventions
- \$288,800 invested in the Board Math Action Plan and its implementation, including funds specifically for digital math support tools
- \$11 million invested in Special Education Resources
- \$10,000 in Skilled Trades, \$155,083 in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, funds allocated to Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) and \$10,000 for the Entrepreneurship Pilot Project
- \$11.2 million invested in school condition improvements, \$5.2 million towards school renewal projects
- A total of \$14,100 was invested in Health Resource Training for staff, including support for Anti-Sex Trafficking, vaping, bullying, and cannabis use

The Board has continued their investment in the important work of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility. In the 2024-2025 school year, the RCCDSB will undertake an Equity Audit and have allocated funds to assist us in this work.

Mental Health and Wellness remains a priority for the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board 2024-2025 budget as a key condition for students to thrive. In the budget, funds have been allocated to continue to support students in a post-covid world. Social Workers and School Attendance Counsellors work daily with students on topics such as anxiety, social skills, self-regulation and disengagement, and this work will continue through the 2024-25 school year and beyond.

*Schools to believe in!*

RCCDSB has invested in literacy and reading enhancement supports for the classroom including the Reading Screening Tool Acadience and the devices to support the implementation of the reading screener within the kindergarten to grade 2 classes. The Board has hired 3 literacy Intervention Specialist teachers who will provide support to kindergarten to grade 3 classrooms in literacy and reading. They will also engage in providing targeted reading interventions for students who have not yet met the benchmarks in reading screeners. These teachers will work one-on-one or in small groups with students from K-2 who would benefit from this extra support.

RCCDSB recognizes the importance of skilled trades, pathways and experiential learning and the great benefit it offers students. The Board has received \$10,000 to provide bursaries for the Skilled Trades, \$10,000 for the Entrepreneurship Education Pilot Project and \$13,100 for experiential learning for guidance teachers. The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program has remained a budget priority with \$155,083 invested for the 2024-2025 school year. RCCDSB has also allocated funds for the Specialist High Skills Major Program (SHSM). "Encouraging students to pursue their passions and provide opportunities for them to explore different post-secondary pathways is important to us at the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board, and we look forward to observing the great benefits that come from these influential programs." Bob Schreader, RCCDSB Chair, shares in his remarks at the June 24th Board meeting.

Enhancing their Catholic faith is another priority at RCCDSB, the Board has allocated funds to sponsor teachers who would like to complete their religious education qualification, and they are continuing their focus on Adult Faith Formation within the Catholic School Board.

"The Renfrew County Catholic District School Board would like to thank the members of the budget team for the time and expertise they provided to prepare a balanced budget that ensures our students will continue to learn, achieve their best, and grow closer to Christ in Schools to Believe In." Bob Schreader shared this at the June 24th Board meeting before the budget was approved.

*Schools to believe in!*