



June 2, 2025

2025-26 Elementary Band Program Proposed Restructuring

As Regina Public Schools moves through its budget process, there have been questions and misunderstandings with regard to the elementary band program. The Board of Education and the administration of the school division is sharing this information for the benefit of school families and all staff.

Regina Public Schools encourages and supports arts and music education throughout the school division, including the elementary band program.

Following the recent Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and the Government of Saskatchewan, there has been a refocusing of provincial budgetary resources on addressing classroom complexity in schools. While funding in this area is welcomed and supported by Regina Public Schools, this has required the school division to carefully re-examine spending in a number of areas that are not directly funded by the provincial government, which includes the elementary band program.

As a result, the school division's 2025-2026 budget proposal, which will be considered by the Board of Education in June, includes changes relating to the elementary band program.

The elementary band program is being re-structured.

- There are currently 14 teachers/FTE, next year there will be 9.5 FTE.
- All elementary band teachers were consulted with regarding alternate teaching opportunities, including the affected 4.0 FTE teachers. One teacher requested to have their contract reduced to .5 FTE.
- The result is that the elementary band program teaching staff may be responsible for more students in 2025-26 school year.
- Looking ahead, the school division may review the program to ensure that it continues to equitably complement and expose all Regina Public School students to music appreciation, performance and instrument mastery.

Why is this decision being made so late?

- Normally, the school division gets funding information from the Ministry of Education in March. This year, the technical information did not come until May, and the school division has had to prepare its budget in one third of the regular timeframe. The Board of Education receives the budget and must have it approved by June.
- Timing did not permit expansive public consultation, although the school division did work through its regular budget creation process which includes consultation through school and system leaders.

What are the system-wide implications from the implementation of these efficiencies?

- All areas of the school division have been reviewed. While provincial funding has been increased for classroom complexity and capital (new school builds), other funding has not kept pace with inflation, growing enrolment and increased student complexity.
- The school division has had to find \$2.65 million in efficiencies.
- Many schools and most departments are affected by these budget decisions, including:
 - Pupil/Teacher ratios, particularly in early years grades, are higher than expected at several schools;
 - Some Intensive Support programming has been restructured;
 - The Facilities Department has had to cut \$600,000 from its budget;
 - The Information Technology Department is struggling to equitably meet the technological requirements of teachers and students in schools; and
 - Numerous teaching and learning supports have been postponed.

What will the elementary band program look like in September 2025?

- Any restructuring, other than the aforementioned staffing is still being considered. The school division's goal is to continue providing:
 - band for Grades 6, 7, and 8;
 - large group and small group instruction; and
 - the existing model whereby students are pulled out of regular class to attend band will continue in the schools currently participating.

The elementary band program will continue to prioritize providing high-quality instruction and the foundation for success at the secondary level of instrumental music curriculum. Following the finalization of enrolment numbers and instructional space, schedules will be developed to establish equitable delivery of learning outcomes across the school division. The elementary band program, like other Regina Public Schools programs, strives to be responsive to the specific needs of students and the school communities they serve.

Sent on behalf of:

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