

The Chinook's Edge School Board [plans to advocate](#) with the provincial government regarding [early years testing](#). The [Board is asking](#) the government to consider the timing of the test, and that only students who are at risk be assessed more than once a year. The Board would also like the province to consult with the College of Alberta School Superintendents before implementing changes.

Trustees will also [advocate](#) with the province about health supports for students. The Board wishes to see a cross-ministry approach so that education funding can be more focused on educational supports for students.

The annual [Chinook's Edge Celebrations event](#) continues to be a highlight for trustees. This year's event was held October 24, and [recognized dozens of staff](#) who have served the division for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years, as well as 34 new teachers and 37 retiring staff members. The Board thanks each staff member for their service to the school division and to students.

Trustees were honoured to participate in [Remembrance Day activities](#) in schools as well as in communities leading up to November 11. The Board thanks staff members who create opportunities for students to learn more about the cost of war, and of the freedoms we enjoy.

Congratulations from the Board goes to eight Chinook's Edge students who were invited to [play in the Alberta Wind Symphony](#) in Edmonton between October 23 and 26. The symphony accepted 85 students from across the province after applicants completed an audition. The invited Chinook's Edge students attend Didsbury High School, Cremona School and Sundre High School.

The Board was pleased to see Ecole Olds High School and Ecole Deer Meadow School staff [participate in a poverty simulation](#), offered by the Town of Olds Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and the United Way of Central Alberta. The event gives staff members a simulated experience with poverty, and is intended to increase understanding of the challenges families who are experiencing poverty face.

Thanks from the Board goes to [staff and parent volunteers](#) who are running a [new breakfast program](#) at Ross Ford Elementary School in Didsbury, as well as local businesses who are making donations. [The program started](#) after a Family School Wellness Worker noticed a need. The program is helping students self regulate better, and transition into the school day more comfortably. The program is offered to any student who wants to participate.

The Board is interested in the success of multiple strategies to support inclusion in school, and help staff in supporting students who have complex needs. Trustees were [pleased to learn](#) that a newly created Educational Assistant Collaborative Support Model is seeing success. Also of interest is that leaders from another Alberta school division recently visited Chinook's Edge to observe the model.

The Board continues to support schools who are offering career exploration and skill development. This fall the third cohort of students [began the Veterinary Technology Assistant](#) (VTA) program at Olds College of Agriculture and Technology. [Fourteen Chinook's Edge students](#) from nine Chinook's Edge high schools are attending the [two-semestered program](#). Students who complete the program earn credits towards their high school diploma and a VTA certificate from the college, which makes them employable.

Trustees are also supportive of the [division's ongoing work](#) to support career practitioners and administrators in the division as they work to connect students with meaningful careers.