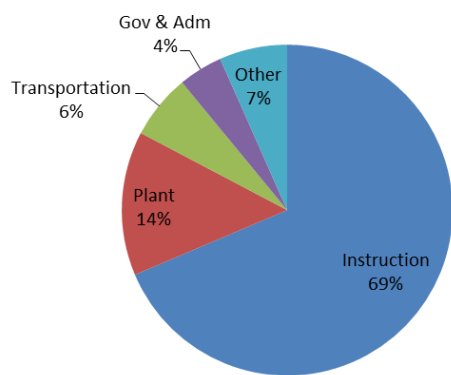


Saskatchewan School Boards - Provincial Efficiencies 2015-16

As part of the Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP), one of the outcomes is that by August 31, 2020 we implement a sector-wide approach to find efficiencies and increase value-add in order for the sector to be responsive to the challenges of student needs. The specific improvement target for this outcome is that by August 31, 2017 an accumulated savings of \$5 million will be achieved.

As locally elected boards, school divisions have the autonomy to set their own budgets in order to be responsive to the challenges of local needs. In 2015-16, approximately \$1.7 billion in operating grants were provided to school divisions from the Government of Saskatchewan. 2015-16 proved to be a challenging fiscal year for the province and this prompted action that far surpassed the ESSP improvement target. School divisions have identified approximately \$9 million in accumulated efficiencies for the recent 2015-16 school year.

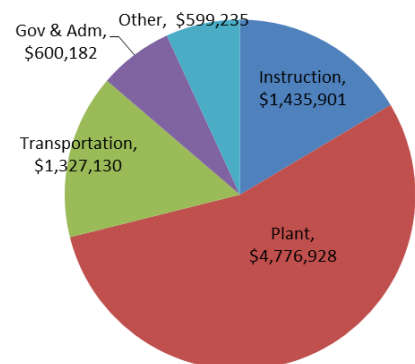


Expenditures for school divisions are allocated to the following categories: Instruction, Plant, Transportation, Governance & Administration, and Other.

With the majority of the funding going to instruction and school facilities, each board of education has been committed to identifying efficiencies or new approaches that would have minimal impact on the students' educational outcomes yet operate within their budget. The financial or time efficiencies were repurposed within the school division or realized as a savings to help offset budgetary decreases or pressures.

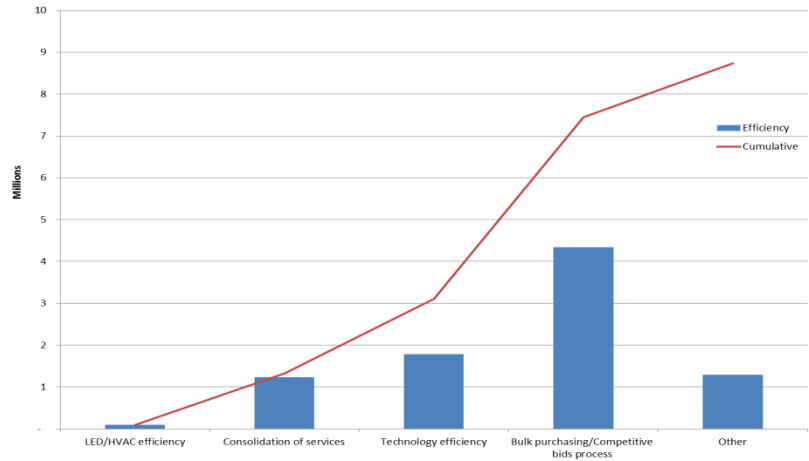
The SSBA received 24 self-assessments and from those school divisions, approximately \$9 million in efficiencies were identified within the following categories:

- Governance & Administration – savings predominantly due to improved use of technology and reduction in FTEs/positions.
- Instruction – savings predominantly due to increased use of technology, bulk purchasing for the classroom and vacancy management.
- Plant – savings predominantly due to energy savings by upgrading to energy efficient LED lighting and bulk natural gas purchasing.
- Transportation – savings predominantly due to purchasing gently used replacement vehicles and identification of the most efficient number of bus routes.
- Other

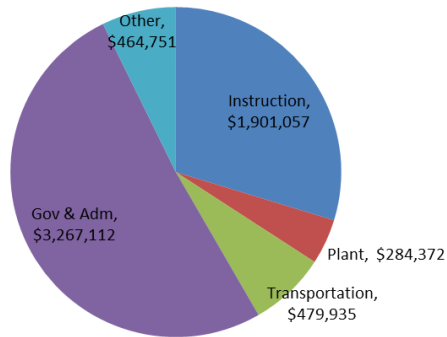


There were several common themes:

- LED/HVAC efficiency upgrades (\$0.1 million)
- Consolidation of services (\$1.2 million)
- Improved use of technology (\$1.8 million)
- Bulk purchasing/Competitive bids process (\$4.3 million)
- Planned reduction in FTE/positions (\$6.4 million)



Although some of the efficiencies identified from 2015-16 school year will have a continued financial impact in the 2016-17 school year, any savings identified were repurposed to offset the reduced operating grant that did not fully address increased enrolments and the Collective Bargaining Agreement.



In addition to the 2015-16 efficiencies identified, there were also \$6.4 million in planned reductions in FTE/positions and vacancy management during the school year. Some of the school divisions provided estimates totaling \$7.4 million in continued position reductions and specific program reductions planned for the 2016-17 school year to address funding challenges.

Boards of education in Saskatchewan know that the fiscal challenges in the province are shared by all of us and have worked hard to find and are continuing to find efficiencies as outlined in this document. School divisions are dealing with significant challenges as a result of the current fiscal situation and school boards are going to do everything in their power to ensure students are not negatively impacted by this situation. At the same time, boards are facing difficult decisions with reduced resources available and issues like increasing student numbers and aging infrastructure.

School divisions also had an unexpected \$2.18 million reclaimed in July 2016 related to the WCB surplus distribution and the same will occur in December 2016 when the second half of the distribution is made to employers. This results in approximately \$4 million in realized savings for the province.

Education is an investment. We need to stay focused on student outcomes and keep the momentum of the Education Sector Strategic Plan. Any further changes considered in education need to consider first and foremost what is best for students.