



Rocky Mountain  
Elementary School  
RMES Growth Plan 2023/24





# RMES Growth Plan 2023/24

## Where are we?

- ❖ Even though we still have literacy improvement as our main goal, we are starting fresh with this growth plan and consider it in year one. This is due to the fact that we are going to be tracking our literacy data differently and we are also adding a second goal as a school focus.

## Stakeholders:

- ❖ Both staff and PAC members were given the opportunity to review and provide input to the growth plan on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. As the year continues we will continue to discuss our growth at staff and PAC meetings and seek input on this living document.

## Who are we?

- ❖ Rocky Mountain Elementary School is a rural, Kindergarten to Grade 6 elementary school and was established in 1982. There are currently 260 students attending the school. The school is on the edge of the small mountain community of Elkford, with a population of approximately 3000 people who mostly work in a resource-based industry that involves shift working schedules. It serves all of the elementary aged students of the community. It is the sole feeder school of Elkford Secondary.
- ❖ Of the 268 students in our school, 22 of them are students with diverse abilities and 50 identify as having Indigenous ancestry.

## Current Staffing

Principal	1.0
Vice-Principal	1.0
Classroom Teachers	11.0
Library Teacher	0.7
Prep Teacher	0.9
School TTOC	1.0
Student Services Teachers	1.1
Youth Care Worker	1.0
Counsellor	0.4
Indigenous Support Worker	0.8
Speech Language Pathologist	0.6
SLP Assistant	0.4
Secretaries	1.0
Education Assistants	6

## Mission Statement:

- ❖ *To provide students with equitable, quality educational opportunities in a safe, supported environment through the efforts of a caring, professional team in cooperation with students, parents and the community.*

## Our Process

Through data shared and conversations had with staff and parents, we have decided that a literacy goal should still be a main focus at RMES. Through professional development and staff conversations we have also decided that we want to have a goal of focusing on Indigenous Education and moving forward as a school with Truth and Reconciliation.



## Our Priorities

As a school community there are always so many important areas of focus and goals to strive for. Currently our priorities are focussed on literacy and Indigenous Education because:

- We still have over 50% of our student population not yet reading at grade level. We know that the ability to read and comprehend is a necessity for all other curriculum areas and is a crucial aspect of a student's learning journey.
- We have an obligation as a school staff to help educate not only students, but also our parent community on the journey towards Truth and Reconciliation. To do that we need to ensure we personally are taking the steps necessary for our own learning and understanding.

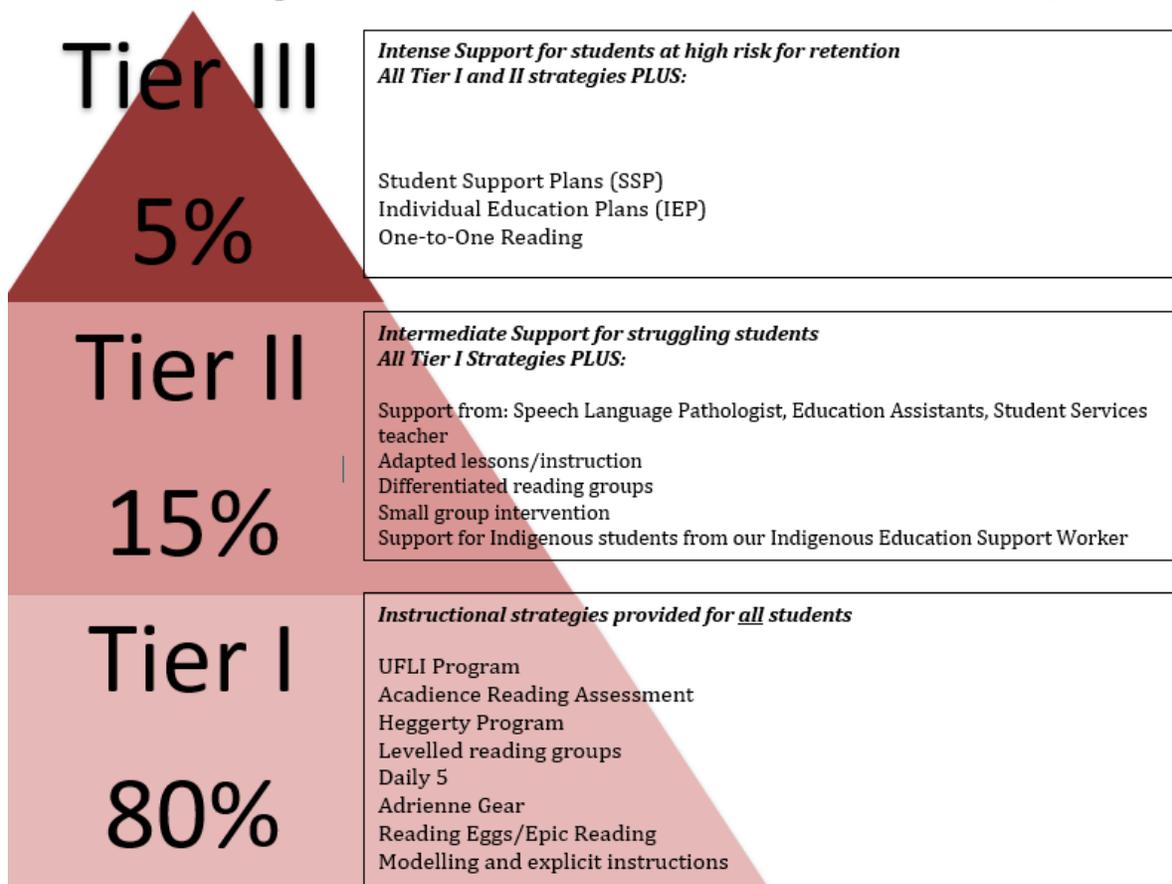


## Goal #1: Literacy – *To improve our students’ literacy scores and overall literacy success using a Response to Intervention (RTI) plan that addresses all student needs.*

Last year was a bit of a transition year in literacy for many staff and students at RMES. We were introduced to the UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute) literacy program, the Heggerty phonics program as well as the Acadience Literacy assessment. Many teachers have been or will be learning about these programs and implementing them in their classrooms. Anytime new initiatives are introduced it requires time and support. We are grateful to have both Erin Jones (District Literacy Teacher) and Jennifer Attorp (Vice-Principal and Student Services Teacher with a strong literacy background) to guide us through these new programs and assessments.

Based on individual meetings with classroom teachers, we know that the following programs and supports are in place for our students to help us achieve our goal.

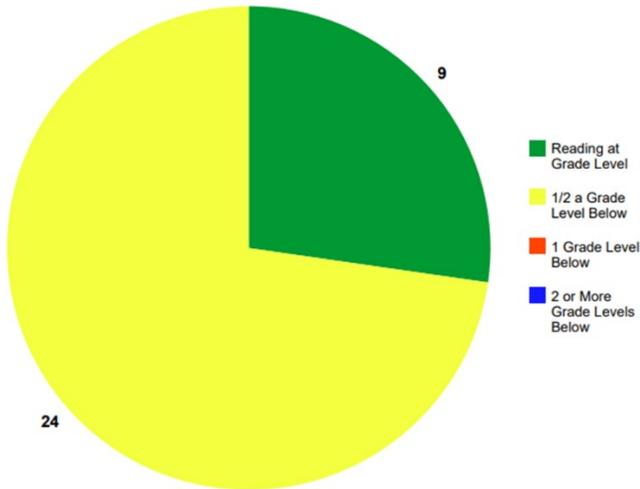
### Response to Intervention (RTI)



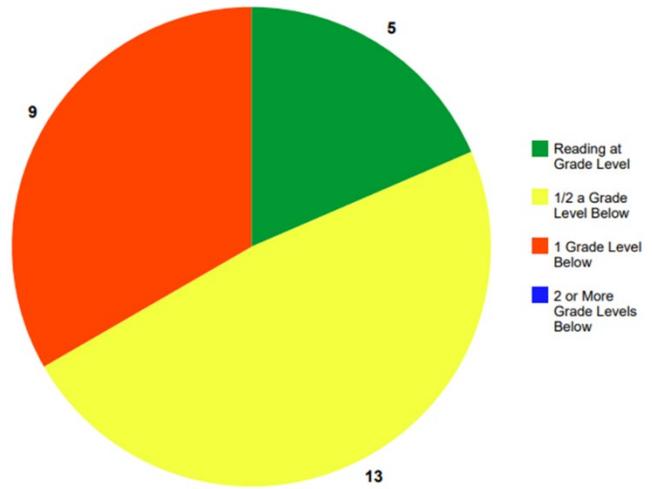
## Goal #1 – Initial Data (From Fountas & Pinnell literacy assessments)

- The following data is from our literacy scores at the end of the 2022/23 school year and is broken down by the current grades.

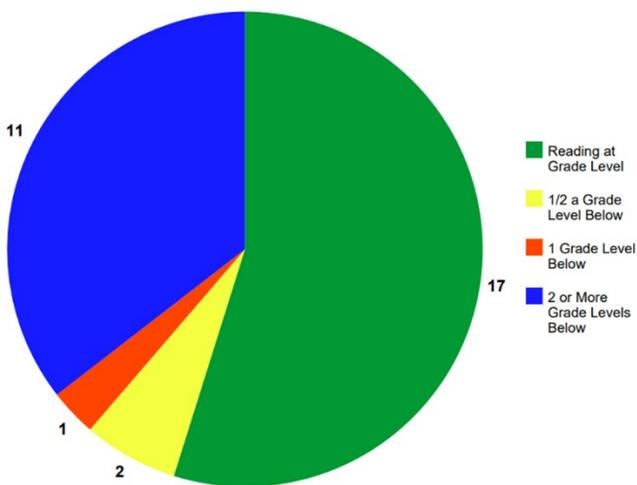
Grade 1 Literacy Scores



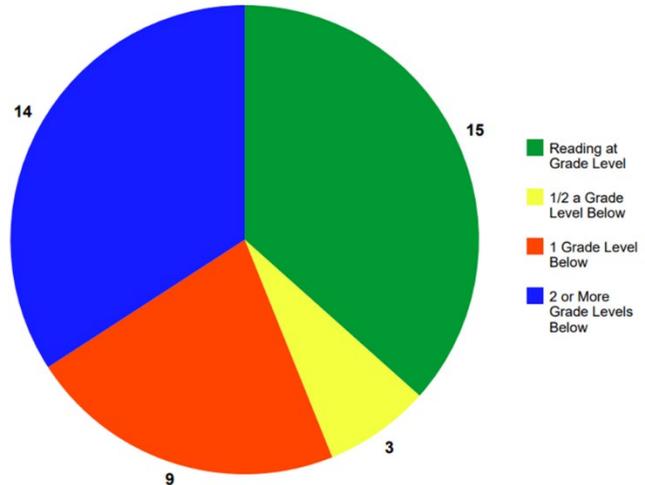
Grade 2 Literacy Scores



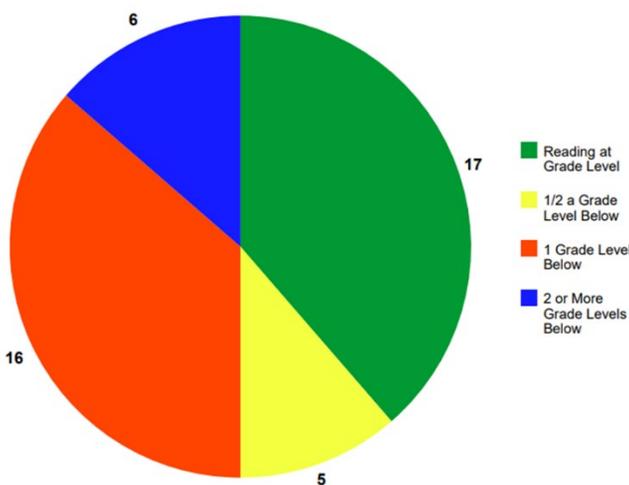
Grade 3 Literacy Scores



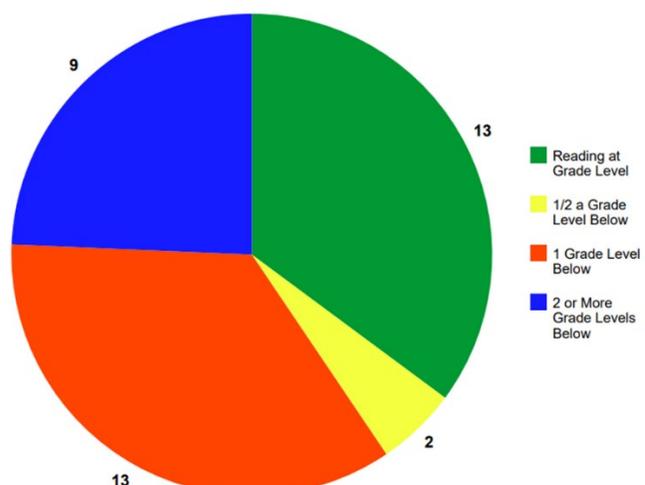
Grade 4 Literacy Scores



Grade 5 Literacy Scores



Grade 6 Literacy Scores



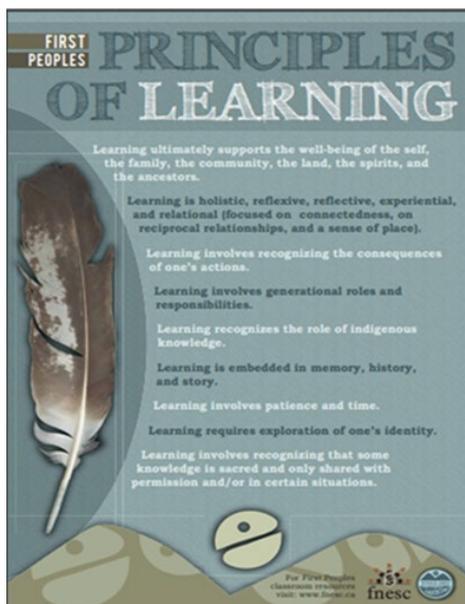


## Goal #2: Indigenous Education – *To move staff, students and our parent community forward on the journey to Truth and Reconciliation to foster respect for Indigenous perspectives and history.*

We know that it is our job as educators to engage with intention, to support Indigenous Education and anti-racism in our school. We can't and shouldn't be on that journey alone. Involving our students and families into those conversations and education is a key part of honoring what needs to be done for Truth and Reconciliation to move forward in our school, as well as our community.

### Current Practices in Place

- Indigenous Support Worker who provides resources, guest speakers and performances, school activities and field trips to support Indigenous Education
- Our Indigenous Support Worker also facilitates the inclusion of Indigenous content in classes
- School wide recognition of Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Visible Ktunaxa language and signage around the school
- Ktunaxa language on the announcements
- Land acknowledgement at school events
- Indigenous books and resources shared and made visible to staff and students
- Community circles in staff meetings and classrooms
- Outdoor education and teaching respect for those spaces and the land.
- First Peoples Principles of Learning visible in spaces
- Indigenous content in school newsletters and social media
- Utilizing First Voices
- Participating/Supporting the Moose Hide Campaign, Rock your Mocs, Have a Heart Day, We Matter, Metis Week, MMIW



## Next Steps, we as staff commit to:

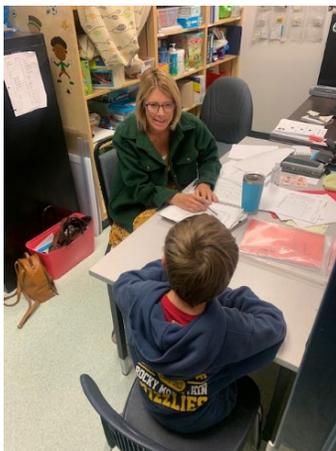
- Being more intentional with our First Peoples Principles of Learning, talking about it with students and sharing with parents and moving it beyond the 'poster on the wall'
- Finding an Elder or knowledge keeper to be a part of our school community
- Practicing our Ktunaxa language skills beyond the initial greeting
- Bringing even more Indigenous art, music, texts into the school
- Creating safe spaces for Indigenous relationships to be built and sustained
- Being more intentional with land acknowledgements and ensuring they are also done outside
- Devoting time at each professional development day to continue the conversations and learning about Indigenous perspectives

## Expected Outcomes of Goal #2:

- Our hope is that the more intentional we are with Indigenous Education, the more we enhance awareness and build a community that is welcoming and caring, where everyone feels safe, heard and represented.

## Reaching all Learners:

- ❖ At RMES, 19% of our learners identify as Indigenous. With the support of our Indigenous Support Worker, these students have access to Indigenous content books and resources to support them on their literacy journey. As a school, we also focus on the First Peoples Principles of Learning which supports all students on their education journey.



- ❖ Of our student population, 9% are diverse learners with diverse abilities. These students are supported with specific IEP goals created by all members of their team (parents, teacher, education assistant, student services teacher, youth care worker, counsellor, Indigenous Support worker). These goals hone in on their diverse needs and are adjusted accordingly to ensure success in all areas of their schooling.



Rocky Mountain Elementary School is an amazing community to be a part of. Our staff are passionate and committed to creating a caring environment where everyone is safe, welcome and free to be who they are. This type of environment fosters incredible learning and engagement which allows our students to flourish. We are also lucky to have incredibly supportive families who are part of this educational journey. Together as a team we are ready to work toward these goals and make Rocky Mountain Elementary School an even better place to learn and thrive.

