
Agenda – Education, Policy and Operations Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Limestone Education Centre

220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, Ontario

Public Viewing: [Join the Live Event](#)

Public Meeting – 5:30 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement: “The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit, and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land.”

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

4. PRESENTATION

4.1 2025-2026 EQAO Data – Program Leadership Team

5. REPORTS FOR ACTION

6. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 Summer Programming – Superintendent Blackburn, Superintendent Gollogly, Superintendent McWilliams, Superintendent Sartor (Pages 2-9)

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. CORRESPONDENCE

10. NEXT MEETING – December 2, 2026

11. ADJOURNMENT

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Administrative Report: Summer Programming

Education, Policy and Operations Committee Meeting

October 7, 2026

Purpose and Link to the Strategic Plan/Goal: Student Learning, Achievement and Well-Being

To provide Trustees with an update on summer programming that was offered to Limestone District School Board (LDSB) students during July and August 2026.

The LDSB continues to offer a wide variety of summer programming options for K-12 students. In doing so, we are focusing on all of the Strategic Plan Goals, which are:

- 1) Improving student well-being/sense of belonging, participation/engagement in class time and time focused on learning
- 2) Improving literacy learning and achievement for every student
- 3) Improving math learning and achievement for every student
- 4) Improving graduation rates and preparedness for future success for all groups of students
- 5) Improving responsiveness and service to families, staff, and community partners

Background

The LDSB has traditionally offered optional programming for elementary and secondary students during the summer months. These programs have evolved to meet the needs of the students within the system, but the general structure has remained.

Summer learning supports for students with special education needs and mental health needs started in response to the impact of COVID-19. Since that time, the Ministry of Education has provided school boards with funding to enhance opportunities to provide mental health and summer learning opportunities for students with special education and/or complex mental health needs.

Current Status

Summer Literacy and Math Program (SLMP) - Previously *Read-A-Lot*

During the summer of 2026, the LDSB offered an Elementary Summer Literacy and Math Program for 240 students from Senior Kindergarten to Grade 3 at four sites: The Prince Charles School (Napanee), Cataraqui Woods Elementary School, Molly Brant Elementary School and J.G. Simcoe Public School. The

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program was designed to provide targeted support in both literacy and mathematics through small-group instruction led by educators, tutors, Educational Assistants (EAs), and student mentors. The program was enhanced through a \$25,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area (CFKA), as well as additional funding through the Focus on Youth Program, and a Summer Learning for Students with Special Education Needs grant through Educational Services.

A significant feature of this year's program was the expansion beyond literacy to include a dedicated mathematics component. While the summer literacy program has a long history within Limestone, 2026 marked the first year that mathematics programming was intentionally integrated. CFKA grant funding enabled the purchase of high-quality instructional materials, including mathematics manipulatives, mentor texts, and take-home learning resources that students and families could continue to use after the program concluded. Focus on Youth funding led to our expansion from three to four sites, and a focus on hiring student mentors at each of the sites. Finally, the Summer Learning grant from Education Services enabled us to support each of the four sites with a team of EAs who provided direct medical, safety, and academic support to all students.

The program emphasized family engagement and community partnership. Families were invited to participate in open-house opportunities, they received resources to support learning at home, and they were connected with community supports. Following the Summer Literacy and Math Program (SLMP), families were also invited to engage in literacy learning through an online platform (Lexia) which included weekly virtual meetings from a trained educator to provide intervention support as needed. These initiatives strengthened the connection between school and home while building family confidence in supporting children's literacy and mathematics development.

Once again, students were provided with busing so that transportation to and from the program was not a barrier to student participation.

Overall, the program demonstrated positive outcomes for participating students. The assessment data demonstrated growth in literacy and mathematics skills. Further, student pre- and post-program surveys indicated significant increased confidence.

Focus on Youth Program – YMCA of Eastern Ontario

Through Focus on Youth, 18 LDSB students worked as staff members during the summer of 2026 in aquatics, camps, and facilities and cleaning roles. Each participant received training in YMCA policies and procedures, Healthy Child Development, WHMIS, AODA, workplace health and safety, violence and harassment prevention, program planning, behaviour management, and child protection. Experienced YMCA staff provided ongoing supervision and mentorship, helping students build the skills and confidence to contribute to safe, welcoming programs and services.

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The YMCA of Eastern Ontario reported 819 camp registrations at its Kingston and Rideau Heights locations, including 271 registrations supported by financial assistance. Its free Parks program welcomed 460 children. Focus on Youth gave LDSB students meaningful paid work experience while helping the YMCA deliver accessible summer opportunities for children and families across Kingston.

Summer Credit Programs (Secondary)

Enrolment in Summer Session continued to increase in summer 2026 with over 1,000 students initially registered in summer school. LDSB offered 39 different e-learning class sections this summer across 18 different course offerings which included: Gr. 10 Civics and Careers (in English and French); Gr. 10 Academic English, Science and Math; Gr. 11 University English, Math, Chemistry, Physics and Biology; Gr. 11 College English; the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC); Gr. 12 University English, Biology, Chemistry, Advanced Functions and Data Management; and Gr. 12 College English. There were eight new course offerings this summer compared to summer 2025. Additionally, LDSB had five summer co-op classes giving students the opportunity to earn credits while gaining valuable employment or volunteer experience; and LDSB Summer School partnered with Pathways to Education to offer an in-person Civics and Careers class for 15 Gr. 8 students from Molly Brant, J.G. Simcoe, and Rideau Heights with a focus on experiential learning.

Nine-hundred and seventy-two students finished their credits this summer, including 115 students earning summer co-op credits, working and volunteering across Frontenac and Lennox and Addington. Of these 972 students, 736 were Limestone students, while the remaining 236 were registered in LDSB courses from other boards in Ontario through the e-learning consortium. For those students who were able to complete their summer session course, 95% were successful in earning their credits. We had two students complete the last credit they needed to earn their high school diploma and move on to post-secondary in September.

Summer session teachers strive to offer consistent support to promote student success. LDSB guidelines on synchronous teacher office hours each day is a unique aspect that allows students to connect with teachers directly for support, and can lower the stress associated with asynchronous, summer learning. Staff were supported through weekly staff meetings and weekly student success meetings. Follow-up with students who were struggling was facilitated by the Summer Session Vice-Principal and Guidance Counsellor in addition to the support offered by teachers. For students needing additional social emotional supports, an Adolescent Care Worker (ACW) was available via a referral process.

This summer, the Careers classes partnered with the Virtual Career Lab. The goal was to help students feel confident, curious, and optimistic as they begin exploring their future pathways. By connecting Grades 9 and 10 students with people from diverse backgrounds and careers, we broadened their perspectives

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without adding pressure. These conversations encouraged students to identify what matters most to them, better understand their options, and move forward with greater clarity and confidence.

Summer Pathways Program - Experiential Learning and Community Connection

This program is a collaborative initiative between the LDSB and Pathways to Education that provides students with an engaging, credit-bearing summer learning experience focused on career exploration, community connections, and future pathway planning. The program offers students the opportunity to earn the Grade 10 Careers and Civics credit while participating in hands-on experiential learning opportunities throughout Kingston. Students explore sectors such as construction, transportation, robotics, hospitality and tourism, arts and culture, while developing transferable skills, confidence, self-advocacy, and a stronger understanding of postsecondary and employment pathways. The program is delivered through partnerships with local organizations, community agencies, employers, St. Lawrence College, Queen's University, and other community partners.

2026 Program Highlights

- 14 students participated in the four-week summer program.
- Students earned a Grade 10 Careers and Civics credit through an integrated experiential learning model.
- Students engaged with more than a dozen community and post-secondary partners across Kingston.
- Experiences included visits to St. Lawrence College, Queen's University, City Hall, Kingston Native Centre and Language Nest, Kingston Frontenac Public Library, Boys and Girls Club programming, financial literacy workshops, and skilled trades exploration activities.

Back to School Transitions

From August 24 to August 31, staff supported purposeful return-to-school planning for more than 400 students with special education needs and/or complex mental health concerns across 48 elementary and secondary schools. EAs, and Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), helped students reconnect with school routines, familiar adults, and learning environments through individualized transition visits, collaborative planning meetings, classroom tours, and other supports designed to ease the move into the new school year.

Literacy Camp Support

EA support was provided to Summer Literacy and Math Camps for elementary students to enable the full participation of students with special education needs in summer literacy programming. Twelve EAs provided support over three weeks at four LDSB sites.

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Adolescent Care Worker (ACW) for Summer School and Summer Literacy and Math Program (SLMP)

An ACW provided social and emotional support to three secondary students who participated in summer school. The ACW also implemented Kids Have Stress Too! sessions to 35 elementary students during the SLMP. This evidence-based program supports the creation of an emotionally healthy environment by promoting self-regulation and effective stress-management skills and strategies.

Learning Program Support (LPS) for Summer School

A LPS teacher provided ongoing support, guidance, and resources throughout summer school. LPS provided support for the full participation of students with special education needs in summer credit courses in July.

Sundance and Beacon Harbour Youth Facilities

Educational programming and support were offered to youth in custody this past summer through the partnership between the St. Lawrence Youth Association and LDSB. Support was provided for six weeks at Beacon Harbour and for the full nine weeks at Sundance. Beacon Harbour was a new site this year, having opened in second semester of the 2026-2027 school year. Students engaged in credit and non-credit learning opportunities with support designed to maintain connection, structure, and access to educational programming throughout the summer.

Social Work Support

One social worker provided continuity of care for 16 students over the summer, including 15 secondary students and one elementary student. Support was offered in a variety of ways, including virtual and hybrid sessions, to help students remain connected to mental health support during July and August. Four students were also referred to community-based mental health services to support ongoing care beyond the summer period.

In addition to direct student support, members of the mental health team completed professional learning to strengthen evidence-based practice. Two social workers and the mental health lead completed a three-day Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) training, while one Social Worker and three Psychologists completed a one-day Suicide Risk Assessment Management (SRAM) training.

Intensive Skills Y-Training

Twenty-two EAs participated in a two-and-a-half-day training. Participants learned and demonstrated the skills necessary to successfully support students with complex behavioural and mental health needs. Facilitators provide strategies for working with students through teaching, modelling, demonstration, and role playing. Most participants were also certified in Behaviour Management Systems training.

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Behaviour Management Systems Training (BMS)

Seventy-seven EAs, 20 Administrators, and nine Intensive Support Teachers and Student Success Teachers participated in BMS training. The primary emphasis of BMS training is prevention and includes strategies such as knowing the student, acting on early warning signs, the effective use of calming and de-escalation techniques. The training also addresses personal safety techniques such as avoidance, releases, and blocks.

Attendance and Engagement Resources for Schools

The Attendance Team met to collaboratively develop practical resources for schools that support student attendance and engagement. These resources are intended to build staff capacity, promote consistent approaches, and help schools respond proactively to attendance concerns while strengthening students' connection to school.

Gould Lake Outdoor Education

The following Gould Lake Outdoor Education programs were offered throughout July and August 2026, with **619 students** participating across a variety of day camp, wilderness tripping, and credit-earning programs.

Nature Camp for Students in Grades 1 to 4

This five-day program was held at the Gould Lake Outdoor Centre, with transportation provided from different locations across the LDSB catchment area for each session. Session 1 departed from Loughborough Public School, Session 2 from École Maple Elementary School, Session 3 from Southview Public School, Session 4 from Polson Park Public School, and Session 5 from Molly Brant Elementary School.

A total of **180 students** participated in Nature Camp over the summer. Of these participants, 10 students from Molly Brant Elementary School were selected by school staff to attend the program at no cost, helping to provide greater access to the Nature Camp experience.

Outdoor Escape for Students in Grades 5 to 6

Outdoor Escape was held at the Gould Lake Conservation Area, with **116 students** participating across three one-week sessions.

This summer, archery was introduced as a new program activity, along with a one-night overnight experience for Grade 6 students, providing participants with additional opportunities to develop outdoor skills, independence, and confidence.

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Quest for Students in Grades 7 to 8

Quest is an eight-day program based at the Gould Lake Conservation Area and includes a five-day canoe trip in Frontenac Provincial Park. Students have the opportunity to earn a 0.5 PAD105 credit through their participation in the program.

Four sessions were offered throughout the summer, with **90 students** participating. As part of the Ontario Leadership Scholarship program, 20 students were selected by school staff to participate in the program.

Girls Adventure Program for Students in Grades 7 to 8

The Girls Adventure Program (GAP) is an eight-day program intended for students who identify as female. The program is based at the Gould Lake Conservation Area and includes a five-day canoe trip in Frontenac Provincial Park.

A total of **29 students** participated in the program, with students having the opportunity to earn a 0.5 PAD105 credit.

Outreach for Students in Grades 9 to 10

Outreach is a 16-day program based at the Gould Lake Conservation Area and includes a nine-day canoe trip in Algonquin Provincial Park. Students have the opportunity to earn a full PAD205 credit.

Two Outreach sessions were offered this summer, with a total of **112 students** participating.

Outdoor Pursuits for Students in Grades 10 to 11

Outdoor Pursuits is a 16-day program based at the Gould Lake Conservation Area and includes a 12-day canoe trip in the Temagami area. Students have the opportunity to earn a full PAD305 credit.

Two Outdoor Pursuits sessions were offered this summer, with a total of **49 students** participating.

Outdoor Skills for Students in Grades 10 to 11

Outdoor Skills is a 16-day program based at the Gould Lake Conservation Area and includes a nine-day sea kayaking trip in Georgian Bay and a four-day moving-water course at Palmer Rapids. Students have the opportunity to earn a full PAD405 credit.

Two Outdoor Skills sessions were offered this summer, with a total of **37 students** participating.

Wilderness Instructor Course for Students in Grades 11 to 12

The Wilderness Instructor Course (WIC) is a 16-day cooperative education program based at the Gould Lake Conservation Area and includes 13 days in Algonquin Provincial Park, including travel on the Petawawa River.

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A total of **26 students** participated in the program. Students had the opportunity to earn a full GWL30 credit and a full GWL30C co-operative education credit through successful completion of the program.

Kayak Instructor Course Students in Grades 11 to 12

This 32-day co-op program is conducted at Gould Lake Conservation Area, including 29 days kayaking the coast of Anticosti Island in Quebec. Ten students participated in this program, each earning a full GPP30 credit and a full GPP30C credit.

Next Steps and Communication Plan

Summer Literacy and Math Program

Pre- and post-assessment data was collected for the program. Progress reports were also completed for each student, and sent to their home school, for review by the school team. A copy of the progress report was also sent home to families. The leadership team met at the end of August to compile feedback for future consideration.

Gould Lake Outdoor Education

The Outdoor Education Team plans to offer both summer credit and non-credit courses at Gould Lake Outdoor Education Centre in the summer of 2027 and continue to explore ways to enhance student programs and experiences, including adding additional programming based on demand, as well as restructuring identified camps to facilitate age groupings.

For all summer programs, we will continue to refine delivery and programming based on needs, feedback, and provincial funding.

Recommendations

That this report be received for information purposes.

Prepared by: Michael Blackburn, Superintendent of Education
Patty Gollogly, Superintendent of Education
Susan McWilliams, Superintendent of Human Resources
Stephanie Sartor, Superintendent of Education

Reviewed by: Krishna Burra, CEO/CEDO/Director of Education

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