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For Immediate Release

## **Significant Increases Demonstrated - School District No. 57 (Prince George) Grade 12 Graduation Rates – 2017/18**

*School District No. 57 (Prince George) is gratified as the Grade 12 Graduation Rates – 2017/18 are published to school districts!*

**The Six-Year Graduation Rates for all School District No. 57 students increased from 73.2% in 2016/17 to 79.7% in 2017-18. This represents an increase of 6.5 percentage points. A truly remarkable gain over one year!**

"Over the past few years school district staff have worked to improve the educational experience for our students and ensure our students are successful. The Board is excited by these results but also recognize that the work is not done. We need to keep striving for not only parity with the provincial average but for 100% completion. We also need to ensure that this is not a blip on our chart but the new baseline", said Board Chair, Tim Bennett.

**The SD57 Aboriginal Student Six-Year Graduation Rate increased from 57.3% in 2016/17 to 65.8% in 2017/18, representing a one-year percentage point increase of 8.5.**

**SD57 English Language Learners also enjoyed a remarkable one-year percentage increase in Six-Year Graduation Rates from 56.4% in 2016-17 to 64.3 % in 2017-18, an increase of 7.9%.**

**The greatest gain in Six-Year Graduation Rates was noted for students identified with Special Needs. Here, SD57 students climbed from 44.5% graduation with a Dogwood Certificate in 2016-17 to 57.8% in 2017-18.**

School District No. 57 has been actively pursuing the goal of increased student success through the implementation of ***School District No. 57 (Prince George) Strategic Plan 2016-2021, INSPIRING LEARNING ANYWHERE***. The plan is structured around four main goals: Learning, Engagement of the Community, Opportunity and Sustainability. The plan, approved by the Board of Education, outlines overall and specific goals, including *Graduation rates will meet or exceed those of the province of BC*. The 2017-18 results indicate that SD57 is well on its way to achieving this goal.

Superintendent Marilyn Marquis-Forster believes this dramatic improvement represents the work of every SD57 staff member, the Corporate Board of Education, parents/guardians and the larger community.

“Each person has a role to play toward improving learning outcomes for students. The School District has been diligently refocusing attention to success for each learner. Fully implementing the new BC Curriculum, infusing Indigenous knowledge and creating safe and caring environments are central to our work. These results seem to indicate that implementing the goals and strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan are beginning to have a positive effect.”

The Superintendent is quick to point out that the School District has only just begun.

“We will need to continue our focus over the next few years to keep up this momentum, says Marquis-Forster. We have wonderful students, a staff committed to ongoing professional learning, a newly elected Board of Education dedicated to supporting student learning and an engaged community. These results support staying the course as we move through the remaining years of **INSPIRING LEARNING ANYWHERE.**”

Further information regarding the ***School District No. 57 (Prince George) Strategic Plan 2016-2021, INSPIRING LEARNING ANYWHERE,*** and ***FRAMEWORK FOR ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING*** can be found at [www.sd57.bc.ca](http://www.sd57.bc.ca).

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