

SWIS in Rural & Small Centres

Best Practices

Background: Schools

- Prairie South School Division (PSSD)
 - Moose Jaw and surrounding rural area
 - 24 rural schools in 18 communities
 - 2 elementary schools in town
 - Of these serves rural students exclusively
- Holy Trinity Catholic School Division (HTCSD)
 - Moose Jaw
 - 5 Elementary Schools

Background: PSSD

- 40 schools located within 19 rural and urban communities
- The Division encompasses 32, 747 square kilometres (12, 643 square miles) of southern Saskatchewan
- Source: <https://www.prairiesouth.ca/about-us/>

Background

- 3 different health regions within the PSSD area
 - Sun Country, Five Hills, Cypress
- Over 400 EAL students within the PSSD
- 4 SWIS in Moose Jaw
 - 2 Elementary (6 schools total)
 - 1 High School (4 schools total)
 - 1 Rural/Elementary/Catholic

Benefits: Rural SWIS

- Direct connection with the whole family
- Welcoming communities
- Smaller schools
- More participation in school activities & community
- No child left behind
- SWIS services are requested
- More room to get creative with services
- Access to varying funding options

Benefits: Small Centre SWIS

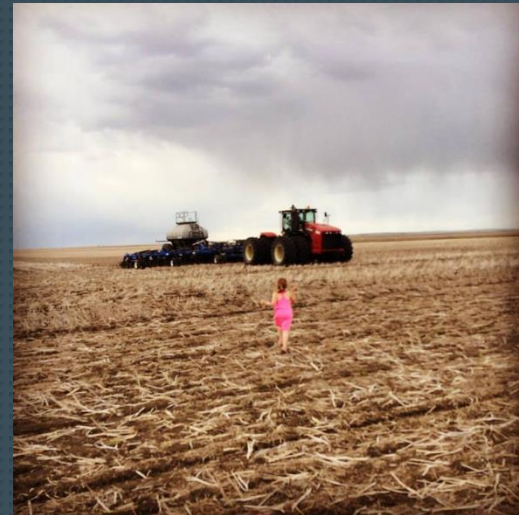
- Low SWIS Staff to School/student ratio
 - Specific to Moose Jaw
- Increase in programming options
 - SWIS Summer Program
 - Holidays/Celebrations
 - OWN
- Increased time for relationship/rapport building
 - School staff
 - Children
 - Agencies
 - Community

Challenges: Rural/Small Centre SWIS

- Large catchment areas
 - Increase in travel/costs
- Transient population
 - Seasonal work
 - Go home in the winter
 - Availability of jobs
- Interpretation/ Translation not accessible
- Lack of services
 - School division (resources, consultants, etc.)
 - Community (health, dental, mental health, etc.)
- Budget

Challenges: Rural/Small Centre SWIS

- Access to religion of choice
 - Private schools
 - Home Schooling
- Seclusion
 - One parent at home
 - Away from groups, language, resources, etc.
- Varying use of technology
 - Do not use/believe in the use of computers/cell phone/email



The SWIS Role in Rural/Small Centres

- Medical, dental, eye examinations
- Agency referrals
- Participation in school activities
- Community integration
- Sports, culture and recreation
- Liaison between home, school and community
- SWIS Role
 - Grey areas
 - What you assisted with is different
 - Willingness to wear many hats

Cultural Considerations

- Farming/ranching communities
- Mexican Mennonite population
- Varying values on the importance of education vs. responsibilities at home/community

Best Practices

- Fall & Spring site visits
- Use of technology to communicate
- Partnership with EAL consultant in school division
 - CFR testing, scale and report card
- Resource collection development
- Relationship building with parents and school communities
- Connection with employers
- Connection with daycare centres

Creating Connections

Rural Communities

- Library
- GUS BUS
- Community College
- Medical/Health Centres
- Daycares
- Pop up play groups
- Volunteer Groups
 - Church groups, Community halls/centres

Creating Connections

- Small City Centres
 - Principals/ Vice Principals
 - Admin assistants
 - SST Teachers
 - EAL Consultants
 - Mental Health
 - Youth Centres

Discussion / Questions

