

The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)

Centralized plan evident

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In his letter No policy to cut EAs (SP, June 17), Education Minister Ken Krawetz denies asking school divisions to trim 75 per cent of EA positions.

However, that is exactly what two documents, Enhancing Opportunities Through Full Service School Divisions and The Golden Rule of Providing Support in Classrooms recommend. The ministry distributed both documents to school divisions and they continue to be available on its website.

Whatever direction the ministry will admit, the effect is a reduction of full-time equivalent EAs. (An FTE can mean up to four persons.) There are cuts in the following school divisions: Chinook, 17; Good Spirit, 33; Prairie South, 17.5; North West, 20; Saskatoon Public, 35; SE Cornerstone, 17; Prairie Valley, 10; Prairie Spirit, 41; and Regina Public, 26.

There are the numbers that we are currently aware of. The true extent and nature of the cuts will not be seen until school resumes this fall. These reductions are all EAs, not teachers, caretaking/maintenance staff or clerical staff.

We are not seeing similar reductions in administrative staff. Does this not indicate the presence of a centralized plan or direction?

The ministry's continued denials in the face of the facts are simply not credible. Parents and all concerned citizens should contact Minister Krawetz, their MLAs and school trustees. The future of all students in Saskatchewan is at stake.

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CUPE education workers' steering committee