

Equity and Inclusion in Education



WHAT IS THE ISSUE AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SASKATCHEWAN?

Education in Saskatchewan is founded on a principle of respect for diversity. It is through conversations with students and families that educators, administration, staff, and boards of education develop a growing awareness and understanding of the diversity in their schools and communities. SSBA Position Statements on Equity and Inclusion: <https://saskschoolboards.ca/about-us/position-statements/>

Inclusive education is education for all students. It is about finding ways to maximize every child's sense of belonging and participation.

Education equity is a fundamental principle of publicly funded education. It is about taking steps to achieve equity of opportunity and of outcomes for students regardless of students' individual or family circumstances.

“ Ultimately, the goal of inclusive education is to presume the competence and strength of the learner, reduce exclusion by eliminating barriers to one's school success, and enhance participation and sense of belonging in one's community. ”

SOLUTIONS:

Strengthen or build a culture in schools and communities of inclusionary and equity practices by:

- Having fair distribution and inter-agency/ministerial collaboration, to provide the necessary resources – recognizing the diversity in this province where boards of education operate with very different circumstances and situations.
- Ensuring students have access to school programs, facilities and services (classroom supports) to achieve to their full potential.
- Having clear policies in place: <https://saskschoolboards.ca/publications/policy-advisories>
- Monitoring and advocating for funding adequacy, equity, and publicly reporting on outcomes.
- Listening and learning from people - diversity enriches school culture and increases knowledge and understanding of similarities and differences.

BENEFITS:



Equity and inclusion benefits all students and supports better outcomes.



Learning together helps students feel better about themselves and have more positive attitudes towards people who are different from them.