



Our Vision

By 2025, Saskatchewan has a globally recognized education system that others wish to emulate.

Everyone has a stake in the success of education in our province. When schools are strong and students succeed, we all benefit. The more people who care about and get involved with their local schools, the stronger they become. Students and families, community members, social agencies and business people all have a role to play, whether it's in the classroom, the boardroom or at the ballot box at election time.

Locally elected school boards have a vital role in serving Saskatchewan's publicly funded education system. The longest lasting and most fundamental responsibility of school boards has been to bring the voice of the public to publicly-funded education.

The work of the SSBA and its member boards remains deeply rooted in the belief that every child in Saskatchewan, regardless of where they live or their personal circumstances, must have the resources and supports they need to achieve and succeed. Collectively, the people who serve on Saskatchewan's boards of education are committed to serving children, youth, families, and communities.

Guiding Principles

Publicly funded education is best governed by locally elected accountable boards of education who:

- Require valid and reliable information to guide the decisions they make in setting and monitoring the strategic direction.
- Receive the supports they require to ensure all students have the opportunity to learn.
- Have the autonomy to make decisions in the best interests of the students and communities they serve.
- Require sufficient, equitable, sustainable, predictable, transparent funding to fulfill their mandate of educating students.
- Value and respect the role of all education and community partners.

Our Mission

Provide leadership, coordination, and services to member boards of education to support student achievement.

Our Values

- Personal integrity and courageous leadership - we take pride and responsibility for our work and our decisions.
- Honest relationships built through collaboration, open and transparent communication.
- An atmosphere of trust and mutual respect.



Strategic Intent

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association, as a democratic and voluntary organization, ensures advocacy, leadership, and support for member boards of education by speaking as the voice of publicly funded education, offering opportunities for trustee development and providing information and services. We are committed to:

- Engagement at All Levels
- Alignment at All Levels
- Accountability for All
- Courageous Leadership

Goals for 2025

- Education is the highest priority social endeavor in the province.
- The Saskatchewan education system is globally recognized and emulated by others.
- Saskatchewan leads in innovative learning practices, curriculum, and delivery.
- Saskatchewan has eliminated the education achievement gap for all students.
- All students are achieving their personal best – including our most vulnerable.
- Boards of education are accountable for improved student achievement.

SSBA 2024 Strategic Priorities – Innovation, Inclusion, and Investment

1. Sector Priorities (Provincial Education Plan)

- a. Mental health and Wellbeing – continued advocacy for inter-agency collaboration and action to support Saskatchewan schools and students
- b. Stakeholder Relationships - supporting engagement and connection at the local level (boards, public, families and parent engagement) as per recommendations in the Connections Report
- c. Meaningful Assessment - strengthen the communication and engagement around student achievement by making student success reporting more meaningful and consistent for students, parents, and families as per the Connections Report and Resolution 21-08

2. Board and Public Engagement - Board Development

- a. SSBA Vision and Strategic Plan Renewal – engagement, feedback, and finalization for fall 2024
- b. Good Governance – school board election year introduction to the SSBA and New Trustee Orientation (SSBA AGM)
- c. Local Government Elections – information, readiness, engagement, and advocacy – local government partners (SUMA and SARM), increasing Indigenous trusteeship

3. Advocacy

- a. Local Voices Local Choices - importance of local voice and elected boards in education
- b. Issues Impacting Students - poverty – national school food program – full time kindergarten for all schools in SK– Resolutions 22-05, 23-05, 23-06

- c. Education Investment - Value and Importance of Publicly Funded Education- investment in education review and proposal to support continued advocacy for 2025-26 fiscal year - recommendations relative to the education mill rate - Resolution 22-06
- d. Provincial Election – profile education – engagement opportunities on issues and matters important to education sector and public/communities boards represent.
- e. Technology – continued focus on provincial connectivity, cyber security and look at evidence-based recommendations and leading practices for technology opportunities and appropriate use as per the Connections Report

4. Services

- a. Services Review – General Insurance Plan
- b. Legal Services – implications of increasing litigation
- c. Bargaining and Employer Supports - bargaining continues in 2024
 - i. Class Complexity - support boards in responding and developing complexity action plans
 - ii. Violence in the Workplace – establish committee and plan to research the issue and support boards in responding to the new legislation
- d. SSBA Membership criteria - Resolution 23-04, membership of First Nations Authorities

5. Research Policy that Supports and Builds Capacity for Evidence Based Decision Making

- a. Position Statement Renewal
 - 1.2 Local Governance of Education 2019
 - 2.1 Student Achievement 2019
 - 2.3 Digital Literacy and Citizenship 2019
- b. Position Statement Development – develop new statement on school community councils
- c. Assess implications of changing the SSBA fiscal year – Resolution 23-08
- d. Student Transportation – working advisory group (WAG) re-activated to support boards and divisions with the Transport Canada findings and next steps

6. Indigenous Education – Truth and Reconciliation

- a. Partnerships - tuition agreements and opportunities for language revitalization
- b. Indigenous Council – strategic priorities related to the promotion of anti-racist modules and opportunities for professional development – encourage and promote Indigenous trusteeship

7. Other Resolutions Still In-Progress or Prioritized in for 2024:

- **AGM-21-08** BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association recommend to the Ministry of Education that provincial examinations be eliminated at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year for students in the provincial K-12 system.
- **AGM-22-05** BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association bring awareness to the impacts poverty has on Saskatchewan students and prioritize poverty reduction advocacy in Saskatchewan schools.

- **AGM-22-06** BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Board Association Executive begin discussions with the Ministry of Education to make joint recommendations relative to the education mill rate.
- **AGM-23-03** BE IT RESOLVED that the SSBA create a working committee to engage member boards in drafting a position statement on School Community Councils, to be brought to the membership for adoption.
- **AGM-23-04** BE IT RESOLVED that all affiliate members be subject to membership criteria that maintain clearly established markers, providing a base expectation and accountability that align with the position statements of the SSBA. The criteria for affiliate membership will include:
 - Utilizing Saskatchewan curriculum,
 - A locally elected board of trustees to govern,
 - Public accountability and financial reporting,
 - Teachers certified by the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board,
 - Adherence to The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code as prescribed under the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- **AGM-23-05** BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association request that the Minister of Education commit to improving early learning outcomes in Saskatchewan by allocating sufficient resources to fund universal full time Kindergarten across Saskatchewan schools.
- **AGM-23-06** BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Board Association advocate provincially and nationally with the Canadian School Boards Association for the development of a healthy, universal, cost-shared school food program funded by the federal and provincial governments in consultation with all school boards.
- **AGM-23-08** BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Board Association assess the implications of changing its fiscal year-end from December 31st to August 31st.