

Strategic Plan 2025-2030

Everyone has a stake in the success of education in our province. When schools and classrooms are healthy, supported, and students succeed - we all benefit. The more people who care about and get involved with their local schools, the stronger they become. Students, staff, parents and caregivers, 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.

Education is a shared responsibility in Saskatchewan. The education system serves students best when there is meaningful collaboration and engagement in decision-making regarding funding, investment, accountability processes, setting provincial priorities, and resolving issues.

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.

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, operating on treaty territories and the Métis homeland, 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, parents, families, and communities.

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) is a non-profit, nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization, offering board development opportunities, advocacy, and services. The SSBA provides leadership and support for our members as a unified voice of Saskatchewan's 27 democratically elected public, Catholic and Francophone school boards. For more information visit: www.saskschoolboards.ca

Our Vision

A strong publicly funded education system that supports, promotes, and provides opportunities for each student to achieve their full potential regardless of where they live in the province and their personal circumstances.

Our Mission

The SSBA represents and supports the collective voice of locally elected school boards by providing leadership in advocacy, board development and high-quality services.



Values

- **Evidence-based** – use of valid and reliable information.
- **Diversity** – reflect the unique local contexts and the communities represented.
- **Integrity** – responsible and professional actions.
- **Respect** – people, roles, and responsibilities.
- **Collaboration** – engagement with our members and partners in education.
- **Accountability** - regular and transparent communication and reporting.
- **Courageous Leadership** – seek innovation and solutions.

Strategic Priorities

Good Governance

- Goal #1 – Provide professional services and support most relevant and responsive to the needs of our member boards of education in their legislated role as the local governors and employers.
- Goal #2 – Provide professional development and learning resources for boards and trustees.

Importance and Impact of Locally Elected School Boards

- Goal #1 – Elevate the importance of school board autonomy to make decisions at the local level that are in the best interests of the students and communities they serve.
- Goal #2 – Advance member priorities through targeted advocacy and strong relationships with stakeholders.

Education as a Priority Investment in the Future of our Province

- Goal #1 – *Innovation* – Foster an environment for local innovation.
- Goal #2 – *Investment* – Advocate for sufficient, equitable, and sustainable funding to ensure we have fully resourced classrooms and schools for all students to have the opportunity to thrive and learn.
- Goal #3 – *Inclusion* – All students and staff are respected and valued in safe and welcoming schools.

Priorities and Plan for 2025

Guided by the overarching theme chosen for the year, *Relationships, Partnerships and Collaboration*, the following priorities have been identified for the 2025 plan in support of the SSBA Strategic Plan.

1. Sector and Inter-agency Collaboration:

- a. Innovation – foster partnerships, inter-agency collaboration and action to support school board and sector priorities – highlighting local innovations and opportunities.
- b. Inclusion – support boards in their efforts to create safe and welcoming school environments through EDIA initiatives and good governance.
- c. Investment – build on the funding advocacy that goes beyond principles to restore stability/capacity and achieve true investment in education:
 - i. Resolution 24-09 Relocatable Classrooms and Facilities Funding Analysis Working Advisory Group (WAG)
 - ii. Student Transportation Funding Analysis

2. Member and Public Engagement:

- a. Engage the membership in implementing and championing the new SSBA Vision and Strategic Plan 2025-2030 – focus on unity, working together towards a shared vision for the organization internally and externally.
- b. SSBA Councils – look at the SSBA council(s) in support boards of education in strengthening and amplifying the role and voice of parents, families, and students in education.
- c. Vision and plan for rural and remote education in Saskatchewan – engage members and public in creating a vision and plan for rural and remote education that maintains and promotes education and schools as part of vibrant and healthy communities.
- d. As per Resolution 24-08 – prepare, publish, and release the SSBA Payee Disclosure Report to all members in conjunction with annual audited financial statements.

3. Board Development:

- a. Post school board elections focus – School for New Trustees/Trustee Academy focus on governance basics, system information, introduction to the SSBA, engagement of new trustees, and governance support for boards experiencing turnover.
- b. Provide more opportunities for networking and sharing across boards through SSBA events and professional development opportunities.
- c. Board support and strategies to achieve a more representative workforce.
- d. Technology focus for professional development related to responsible use, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and cyber security.

4. Advocacy:

- a. Importance of local voice and elected boards in education – focus on raising awareness with members and partners about school boards and local democracy and governance systems.
- b. Student success initiatives – understanding and awareness of the impact of poverty – school food funding and programming in Saskatchewan, expansion of early learning opportunities and investment (phased-in) including full-time kindergarten – Resolutions 22-05, 23-05, 23-06.
- c. Technology – provincial connectivity through the Saskatchewan Broadband Action Coalition.

5. Services

- a. Services review – Communications and Strategic Services department.
- b. Post bargaining employer supports – provincial and local board planning related to inclusion and classroom supports, Multi-Year Funding Agreement (MYFA) Reporting Framework WAG, including staff and stakeholder engagement, accountability measures, alignment with Provincial Education Plan, legal and legislative requirements.

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

- a. Analysis of external and federal funding in the Saskatchewan education system.
- b. Legislative Review - Education Act and Regulations and Local Government Elections Act – identify boards' interests related to changes/modernization.

7. Indigenous Education – Truth and Reconciliation

- a. Inspiring Success – Provincial Education Plan (PEP) priority.
- b. De-colonization research as it pertains to school board policies – develop modules and/or policy samples.
- c. Support and strategies for boards to address teacher shortages and develop/update northern teacherages.

8. Resolutions Still In-Progress or Prioritized for 2025:

- **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-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.
- **24-08** BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Board Association prepare, publish, and release to all members in conjunction with annual audited financial statements, Public Accounts in the same form as School Division Public Accounts.
- **AGM-24-09** BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association create a Working Advisory Group (WAG) for the purpose of a cost analysis of relocatable classrooms.