

Part One: Please respond to the following the following four questions by identifying three to five thoughts/ideas you see as important for students in the next five to ten years.

1. What knowledge, skills and abilities do students need to be prepared for their future life and learning? Why are these important?

- ❖ Reading, writing, and math still important.
- ❖ Provincial Data show NESD is getting top marks.
- ❖ (2) Social skills
- ❖ Resilience
- ❖ (2) Respect
- ❖ (3) Skills with money; budgeting
- ❖ Positive attitude will take them farther in life.
- ❖ (2) - Problem solving skills.
- ❖ Life Skills.
- ❖ Technology – important because that’s how they will be taught.
- ❖ Conflict resolution
- ❖ Self management/time management/accountability

2. What gets in the way of student success and well-being?

- ❖ struggle creates chaos
- ❖ Chaos in classroom – lack of respect for adults; respect needs to be earned not out of fear.
- ❖ Lack of communication between parents and teachers
- ❖ Lack of support due to cuts – seeing it in the classroom; staff are thinned out.
- ❖ Communication in general – too much technology should be more voice.
- ❖ Cell phone usage as a barrier.
- ❖ Problem solving has become harder for kids, maybe due to technology
- ❖ Kids that end up having to attend schools in other communities, for various reasons, end up struggling to fit in to a community they don’t belong to.
- ❖ Not getting to school.
- ❖ Good breakfast.
- ❖ Challenges at home.
- ❖ Social media.
- ❖ Parents not having respect for schools and teachers.
- ❖ (2) Mental Health
- ❖ Addictions – no money for food, clothes, pay the bills.
- ❖ Parental issues/keep kids at home
- ❖ Stigma of being poor.
- ❖ Parents not being able to help with homework or not able to be engaged.
- ❖ Perceived pressure to be perfect.
- ❖ Home environment.
- ❖ Distractions (technology)
- ❖ Substance abuse

3. What is working well now in Saskatchewan’s school system that prepares students for their future?

- ❖ NESD data shows division is doing well.
- ❖ Small School [REDACTED] shared story about “Project based Learning” – more hands on learning and creating different learning opportunities.
- ❖ Opportunity for principals of schools to try new learning and now seeing parents buying into it.
- ❖ (2) - Focus on reading and math.
- ❖ Good school facilities
- ❖ NECIP
- ❖ (3) Technology
- ❖ Good teachers
- ❖ Parent Engagement.
- ❖ Inclusiveness – especially in sports, etc.
- ❖ Focus on trades and access to them.
- ❖ Work place programs.
- ❖ Schools are much nicer
- ❖ Kids in Pre-K starting earlier.
- ❖ Good relationships with school staff
- ❖ Nutrition programs
- ❖ Extra curricular programs

4. What needs to change in Saskatchewan’s school system to better prepare students for their future?

- ❖ Need more support, especially for the EAL students, more support financially to bring more people in to help.
- ❖ Maybe more streamlining at younger ages – 9/10?
- ❖ Yet expose kids to as many different classes that you can.
- ❖ Challenge – How do you get kids to take classes they have no interest in that they may need later in life.
- ❖ Sometimes change comes when change isn’t needed. (Ie. Why were schools amalgamated, kids were learning well before amalgamation occurred.)
- ❖ (2) School buildings need more money to be kept up. Funding to do maintenance on all these buildings is grossly under-funded; Facility upgrades.
- ❖ (2) Attendance; parents pulling kids out for holidays/family situations
- ❖ (3) More funding for teaching and support staff.
- ❖ Remove phones from classrooms.
- ❖ More life skills – finances, budgeting, work ethic.
- ❖ Children don’t have a responsibility to have to do their work, there are no consequences for not doing work, or for talking in class.
- ❖ Not enough exposure to different situations – poor; older; different.
- ❖ Accountability
- ❖ Evaluation/Grading system – ie. Pass/fail
- ❖ Class sizes are too large.

5. What gets in the way of student success and well-being?

- ❖ Literacy reading level and the fact that those who struggle usually continue to struggle and then become disengaged.
- ❖ At one point during the curriculum do you let kids start a path towards different trades/University/College?
- ❖ Concern expressed with desensitization of violence.

Part Two: At the October 11-12, 2018 Provincial Education Summit the following eight themes emerged:

- 1) Graduation requirements are current and flexible, preparing students for their futures;*
- 2) The education system is equitable and sustainable;*
- 3) Early learning and literacy are foundational to future learning and success;*
- 4) Indigenous languages, cultures and identities are affirmed and reconciliation is advanced through education;*
- 5) Inclusive and safe school environments support diversity;*
- 6) Strength-based approaches support mental health and well-being;*
- 7) Curriculum, instructions and assessment are relevant, engaging and culturally affirming; and,*
- 8) Students, parents, teachers and communities are engaged in respectful relationships.*

1. Of the eight themes noted above, what themes do you think are most important for student success and well-being, and why?

- ❖ #6 – (2) Strength base approaches support mental health and well-being.
- ❖ #1 – Definitely flexible. Need to keep graduating.
- ❖ #2 – Not enough money in education to be equitable or sustainable. Especially special needs.
- ❖ #3 - Spending money on early years pays off.
 - Early learning/literacy
- ❖ #4 – Working on it, still a ways to go. More good stories.
- ❖ #5 – Needs work, support, and start young.
 - Misdiagnosis, recognize it, and support them.
 - Mental health help.
- ❖ #7 – Challenge is communicating to parents but kids understand where they are and where they need to be.
- ❖ #8 – Needs improvement. Parents need to help at home.
 - Give report cards at Student Led Conferences to get parents involved. Events to engage community; the better the administrator the more involved the community will be; the North East supports the schools well.
 - Respectful relationships

2. Are there other themes that can have a positive impact on preparing students for their future life and learning? If so, what are those, and why are they important?

- ❖ Positive parenting programs – supporting positive home environments.