

## Provincial Education Plan Feedback from NWSD Engagement Sessions

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

- Academics: Reading and Writing
- Social Skills
- Communication Skills
- Critical Thinking
- Learning how to love learning
- Problem Solving
- Experiential learning
- Executive functioning skills, coping skills
- Basic technology skills
- Mental health
- Relationship building skills, conflict resolution
- Independence and responsibilities
- More First Nation and Metis content and perspective in the classroom, land-based learning
- More focus on wellness learnings and teachings
- Resilience, grit, independence
- Growth mindset
- Accountability
- Initiative
- Life Skills
- Job readiness, employability skills
- More advanced technology skills
- Design thinking
- Environmental stewardship
- Self-care

## **What gets in the way of student success and well-being?**

- Rising increase in chronic absenteeism
- Breakdowns in communication between parents and students
- Overall wellness in families and students (diet, wellness, sleep deprivation)
- Rising increases in speech and language deficits
- Issues due to poverty
- Unresponsive parents to schooling or too much
- Overuse of technology
- Addictions
- Family trauma
- Lack of accountability
- Bullying/self-esteem
- Distractions
- Decreases in staff, funding cuts
- Over-structure in the school day
- Outdated materials
- Disruptive behaviour of other students
- Food security
- Mental Health - supports for students, staff, families

## **What is working well now in SK schools that prepares students for their future?**

- Strong educational staff (teachers, EA, support staff)
- Inclusion of special needs students
- Healthy collaboration between teachers and educational teams
- Learning supports for teachers
- A focus on early learning in Saskatchewan
- A better understanding of poverty, trauma on learning
- Knowing our students where they are academically, socially, and behaviorally
- Class sizes
- More pathways in high school, experiential learning
- Integrations of First Nations, new-comers, different cultures
- Community involvement, SCCs
- Focus on relationships between staff and students
- New focus on mental health and wellness, continued addition of counsellors in schools
- Breadth of extra-curricular opportunities
- Credit Recovery opportunities
- Leadership opportunities within a school, older students modelling for younger
- Culture of Professional Development

## **What needs to change in SK schools to better prepare students for their future?**

- Open and constructive collaboration with outside support agencies
- A change in the overall culture of the education sector in Saskatchewan to draw more interest in the employment of all positions involved in the education of our students (teachers, EAs, bus drivers, Ed Psych, SLP, school administration)
- Let students take ownership in their learning
- Changes to the curriculum to be more skill based and less open to interpretation. Simplify the outcomes so students, parents and teachers have clarity in its intent and impact.
- Pathways and adjustments to curricular expectations for students who are university bound, technical colleges, and the workforce.
- Availability of classes, more work experience opportunities
- Consistent Funding
- More reliable access to technology
- Financial training
- Additional Life Skills opportunities
- More opportunities for rural students
- Increase in Parent, Family and Community Engagement
- Smaller class sizes
- Flexible scheduling to meet student needs
- Re-examine graduation requirements