

Guiding Questions

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

*Financial literacy

- how to balance a cheque book
- learn about taking a loan or mortgages
- how to file an income tax return
- how to plan for retirement

*Life Skills

- time management
- how to write a resume
- communication skills
- how to live on your own after high school
- social skills
- being independent
- being self-sufficient
- good work ethic
- being accountable
- volunteering
- being respectful
- being responsible
- learning how to collaborate
- being safe

*Emotional intelligence

- how to handle stress

*Core Curriculum

- reading and writing
- math

*21st Century Competencies

- how to manage technology

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

*Challenges at Home

- unengaged families
- lack of parental involvement
- parents not valuing the education system
- parents completing assignments for their children

*Challenges at School

- learning at your own pace
- not being challenged
- large classroom sizes
- student/teacher ratio
- distance education instead of a teacher
- teachers teaching subjects they are comfortable teaching
- student success being dependent on other classmates

*Challenges with Society

- lack of food
- cellphones
- language barriers
- stress
- drugs/alcohol
- social media
- manners
- learning to fail

*Individual Challenges

- relationships
- not listening
- peer pressure
- bullying
- low self esteem
- lack of responsibility
- inability to handle disappointment
- setting expectations high

*Other

- long bus rides
- the closing of schools

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

*System/Program

- use of technology
- guidance councilors

*School

- career fairs
- post secondary schools open houses
- extracurricular activities
- CWEX

*Teacher

- working with students who have learning disabilities


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

*Increased level of supports

- increased computer training
- more teachers
- smaller class sizes
- increase instructor standard qualifications
- guidance councilors
- social workers
- have tutors available

*Other

- not everyone is equal because of age. Teach to the ability, not the age group
- make volunteering mandatory
- don't allow cellphones in schools
- allow students to fail
- focus on the fundamentals
- increase parental involvement
- additional bus routes



Guiding Questions

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

*Financial literacy

- budgeting
- how to do your taxes
- insurance
- understanding the value of money
- how to write a cheque, what to do with a pay cheque
- how to file income tax

*Conflict resolution & problem-solving skills

- coping skills
- resiliency
- compassion
- empathy

*Life Skills

- computer skills
- time management and reliability
- being a lifelong learner
- being responsible
- being an independent learner
- resume writing
- how to live on your own (buy groceries)
- work ethic

*Emotional intelligence

- being able to receive criticism (positive and negative)
- social skills
- how to deal with anxiety and stress
- being able to work with others
- being flexible
- confidence
- being kind
- self-respect
- adaptable
- the ability to value differences
- self advocacy
- patience

*Core Curriculum

- reading, writing, math skills
- ELA

*21st Century Competencies

- critical thinking
- collaboration – must be able to work with others
- media literacy
- how to use technology
- communication skills

*Mental health and Wellbeing

- forming good eating habits
- making good choices
- knowing that their life matters

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

*Challenges at Home

- lack of a supportive, engaged family
- finances
- family values
- lack of consequences
- too many organized activities (not enough time for school work)
- over parenting
- lack of parent understanding of school outcomes
- lack of sleep

*Challenges at School

- reading a grade level
- lack of understanding on how assessments work
- classroom configurations and size
- learning situations
- lack of educational assistants and human resources
- not enough hands on courses
- not enough counselors
- not enough resources to support post-secondary choices
- not enough teaching staff
- having to pay for online classes offered out of division
- delayed assessments for learning disabilities

*Challenges with Society

- drugs and alcohol
- cellphones
- online gaming

- mental health, wellness and anxiety
- social media
- basic needs not being met (hunger)
- need for instant gratitude
- different personalities
- less opportunities in smaller locations
- peer pressure
- peer groups
- lack of support systems
- lack of a voice
- discrimination

*Individual Challenges

- poor attitude
- physical needs not being met
- individualized learning needs
- peer pressures
- balance between work and school (time management)
- anxiety and the lack of skills to handle life challenges
- lack of organizational skills
- low self esteem
- learning disabilities, speech and language
- fear of failure
- mental health (anxiety, depression, cutting etc)
- lack of motivation
- boyfriend/girlfriend/peers
- lack of resilience
- fixed mindset
- procrastination

*Other

- lack of provincial funding
- challenges

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

*System/Program

- pre K programs
- Think Ag, Think IT, Think Construction, AET, Career Safety
- online/virtual learning
- networking between school divisions
- diverse curriculum
- inclusion
- more focus on diverse abilities
- access to specialized courses
- focus on reading, math, writing, LIPs and LITs
- incorporating technology

- 21st century skills
- SCCs bridging the gap between school and community
- Google online

*School

- CWEX
- PAA
- AP classes
- variety of option of clubs for students to join
- mental health awareness
- integration of technology for all ages
- opportunities to be involved
- accounting
- student voice/choice
- parent involvement and engagement
- outdoor classrooms
- incorporating physical activity
- career days
- preparing for post-secondary education, including trades
- post secondary credit options and information

*Teacher

- teachers are dedicated to student outcomes
- students understand why school is important
- open to talking about mental health
- mindful of when a student is struggling
- differentiation
- self-led learning
- focused and engaged
- teacher/parent communication
- acceptance of diversity
- strength of pastoral care
- student/teacher relationships

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

*Increased level of supports

- more programming to better prepare our students for real life
- equal class opportunities across the province
- updated curriculum to support financial literacy and life skills
- more resources to keep up with the ever-changing technology need
- funding at the classroom level
- more resources for mental health, counsellors
- fewer split and triple grades
- staffing based on student needs, not student numbers
- project based learning
- mental health training for all staff
- second and third language opportunities

- 21st century skills
- financial and life skills
- career guidance consultants

*Other

- push for the medical sector to take some responsibility
- use of video conferencing
- challenge students more
- implementation of Google Classroom for all high school students
- restructuring of math curriculum for grades K -8
- require student deadlines
- hold students accountable
- define consequences (academic and behavioral)
- problem solving
- instilling the love of learning
- accountability
- parents taking responsibility for their children
- more inquiry and problem-solving teaching rather than fact based
- trade opportunities and business training
- life skills