

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 2026

The following priorities and supporting actions have been identified for 2026:

Good Governance

1. Board Development

- CSBA Congress Committee – Planning for 2027
- Professional Development: Trustee Academy – Assemblies – Partner Events - SSBA Workshop Series (year 2 of trusteeship)
- Code of Conduct & Ethics

2. Services

- Comprehensive Organizational Services Review
- Legal Services Needs Assessment
- Executive Composition – Check-in/Review

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

- PEP Priorities – reflection, monitoring and response
- Legislation and Regulatory Changes – ongoing input and support for boards interests – Education Act, LGEA, Building Schools Faster Act, The Saskatchewan Employment Act: Labour Relations Provisions
- Working Advisory Groups: Multi-Year Funding Agreement, Relocatable Classroom Cost Analysis, and Artificial Intelligence
- Position Statement Renewal:
 - 2.2 Student Achievement
 - 2.4 Indigenous Education
 - 3.2 Infrastructure Funding
 - 4.2 Teacher Education and Certification
 - 5.1 Public Engagement

Importance and Impact of Locally Elected School Boards

1. Member and Public Engagement

- Bargaining planning and preparations – member engagement and communications to support:
 - 2026 PCBA Bargaining Committee
 - PCBA Bargaining Advisory Committee
- Collective voice of publicly funded education in SK
 - Highlight and profile the role and impact of local boards
 - Strengthening and building confidence in publicly funded education
- Strategy for rural, northern and remote education in Saskatchewan – engage members and public/stakeholders 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.
 - SELU research project to inform and support the development of a northern/rural/remote education strategy.
 - Resolution 25-10

2. Advocacy & Awareness

- Student success initiatives – continued school food programming in Saskatchewan, expansion of early learning opportunities and investment, increase pre-service teacher education support in the areas of curriculum delivery, literacy instruction, differentiated instruction and assessment – Resolutions 23-05, 25-02
- Student safety initiatives – leverage partnerships to create awareness and reminders of the importance of student safety (school zones and traffic safety, responsible use of technology and protection from online harms) Resolution: 25-08

3. Indigenous Education – Truth and Reconciliation

- Indigenous Council – building and strengthening partnerships
- Inspiring Success (PEP Priority)
 - Research Project to study the impact of the IERF on Indigenous education implementation and change management.

Education as a Priority Investment in the Future of our Province

1. Innovation

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) - create a comprehensive Policy Framework Advisory Document on Artificial Intelligence in Education
 - Resolution 25-04: AI Working Advisory Group

2. Inclusion

- Student supports – awareness and advocacy for properly resourced inclusive classrooms
 - Resolution 25-03: dedicated funding to support each school division in meeting the requirements of The Accessible Saskatchewan Act

3. Investment

- Sufficient, predictable and sustainable funding – plus investment - build on the funding advocacy that goes beyond principles to restore stability/capacity and achieve true investment in education as per the education funding discussion paper:
 - Supports for Learning funding analysis through the work of the MYFA WAG
 - Resolutions 25-07: federal funding (Section 16 tuition funding)

Resolutions Still In-Progress or Prioritized in for 2026:

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.

25-02 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Saskatchewan School Boards Association advocate to the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina and the First Nations University of Canada to increase pre-service teacher education support in the areas of curriculum delivery, literacy instruction, differentiated instruction and assessment; ensuring that future educators are equipped with the foundational skills and pedagogical strategies necessary to meet the diverse learning needs of Saskatchewan students.

25-03 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Saskatchewan School Boards Association advocate to the Government of Saskatchewan for dedicated funding to use at the discretion of each school division and to support each school division in meeting the requirements of The Accessible Saskatchewan Act and commitment made in each school division's respective accessibility plan.

25-04 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Saskatchewan School Boards Association direct the appropriate committee or working advisory group to create a comprehensive Policy Framework Advisory Document on Artificial Intelligence in Education, which will include but will not be limited to: • Set guiding policy considerations for ethical and effective use of AI in education • Define policy considerations related to equity, access and student data privacy. • Provide framework for member boards to adapt and apply AI policy within their local contexts. • Include a review process so the document remains current as technologies evolve.

25-06 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association advocate with the Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials to the SAO and the Ministries of Education and Social Services for the development of regulations grandfathering the Boards' aged infrastructure until the Province of Saskatchewan provides adequate and dedicated funding for accessible infrastructure renewal that is separate and apart from the Ministry's 3- year Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) Plan and funding for Ongoing Operation and Maintenance.

25-07 BE IT RESOLVED the Saskatchewan School Boards Association advocate to the Government of Saskatchewan to: • Provide full transparency on the allocation and redistribution of Section 16 tuition funding amounts withheld from school divisions; and • Ensure the federal funding amounts remain with and are reinvested in First Nations and Métis students enrolled in publicly funded school divisions, in order to support equity of opportunity and success for all students.

25-08 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association advocate to the federal government to enact legislation focused specifically on protecting children from online harms, by requiring online platforms to manage and mitigate harmful content, while respecting the rights and freedoms of all Canadians.

25-10 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association advocate to the Government of Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Education to develop and implement a Northern Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy, in collaboration with northern school divisions, to include but not be limited to: • Increased funding for northern and remote living allowances; • Support for developing and maintaining teacher housing; • Incentives for post-secondary teacher education students to complete internships and practicum placements in northern schools; • Expanded professional learning, mentorship, and wellness supports for teachers in northern communities; and • Partnerships to promote northern teaching careers and improve long-term retention.