

Vision 2025



Strategic Plan 2022



Our Vision

By 2025, Saskatchewan has a globally recognized education system that others wish to emulate.

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

Locally elected school boards have a vital role in serving Saskatchewan's publicly-funded education system. The longest lasting and most fundamental responsibility of schools boards has been to bring the voice of the public to publicly-funded education.

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 women and men who serve on Saskatchewan's boards of education are committed to serving children, youth, families and communities.

Guiding Principles

Public education is best governed by locally elected accountable boards of education who:

- Require valid and reliable information to guide the decisions they make in setting and monitoring the strategic direction.
- Receive the supports they require to ensure all students have the opportunity to learn.
- Have the autonomy to make decisions in the best interests of the students and communities they serve.
- Require sufficient, equitable, sustainable, predictable, transparent funding to fulfill their mandate of educating students.
- Value and respect the role of all education and community partners.

Our Mission

Provide leadership, coordination and services to member boards of education to support student achievement.

Our Values

- Personal integrity and courageous leadership - we take pride and responsibility for our work and our decisions.
- Honest relationships built through collaboration, open and transparent communication.
- An atmosphere of trust and mutual respect.



Strategic Intent

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association, as a democratic and voluntary organization, ensures advocacy, leadership and support for member boards of education by speaking as the voice of public education, offering opportunities for trustee development and providing information and services. We are committed to:

- Engagement at All Levels
- Alignment at All Levels
- Accountability for All
- Courageous Leadership

Goals for 2025

- Education is the highest priority social endeavor in the province.
- The Saskatchewan education system is globally recognized and emulated by others.
- Saskatchewan leads in innovative learning practices, curriculum and delivery.
- Saskatchewan has eliminated the education achievement gap for all students.
- All students are achieving their personal best – including our most vulnerable.
- Boards of education are accountable for improved student achievement.

SSBA 2022 Strategic Priorities

1. Emerging from the Pandemic

- a. Supporting engagement and connection at the local level (boards, public, families and parent engagement) as per recommendations in the Connections report – SCC Provincial Website and complete Home Visits project research
- b. Systemic approach to technology going forward – including connectivity
- c. Assessment and supports for education - data around impact on learning, skills, what has changed? Provincial exams (resolution) and accreditation, Committee on Class Size and Composition (research and report 2022/2023)
 - AGM-21-08 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association recommend to the Ministry of Education that provincial examinations be eliminated at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year for students in the provincial K-12 system.
- d. Reflection document post pandemic – pandemic continues (phased approach)

2. Board and Public Engagement - Board Development

- a. Ongoing professional development for trustees/boards – focus on connections and relationship building, balanced with options for use of technology and online (hybrid model).
- b. Hosting 2022 Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) Congress
- c. Provincial Education Plan – board engagement process - planning and facilitating and supporting the board governance role (implementation in 2023 for 2023/24 school year)
 - AGM-21-10 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association advocate with the Colleges of Education at both the University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina for a review of, and possible increase in, the literacy

instruction training provided to all preservice teachers in order to support literacy achievement for students at all grades.

- AGM-19-13 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association request that the Government of Saskatchewan provide guidance to school divisions as it relates to the accommodation of immune-compromised students, staff, and volunteers, as well as those who are electively unvaccinated.

3. Advocacy

- a. Local Voices Local Choices - importance of local voice and elected boards in education
- b. Education Investment – advocate for predictable, sustainable and adequate funding for education – including impact of pandemic
- c. Advocate for the establishment of a provincial youth mental health strategy (connect to the Provincial Youth at Risk Strategy?)

4. Services

- a. Implementation from Comprehensive SSBA Services Review in 2021 – Legal services reflection/planning, ongoing service delivery improvement opportunities GIP/EBP – cybersecurity.
- b. SSBA Building plans for future
- c. Accountability – transparency
 - AGM-21-09 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association publish a membership report identifying its expenditures with a reasonable amount of specificity, including the amount of remuneration paid to SSBA employees and board members.

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

- a. Code of Ethics review – Working Advisory Group
- b. Position Statement Renewal – through the Resolutions and Policy Development Committee the following Positions Statements will be reviewed:
 - Operations and Facilities - 3.3 Education Equity;
 - Human Resources - 4.1 Collective Bargaining; and,
 - Public Engagement and Partnerships - 5.2 Partnership Agreements.
- c. Legislation review/renewal – Prompt Payment Legislation (exemption), Accessibility Legislation, Local Improvement Act, SPTRB
 - AGM-19-07 WHEREAS some municipalities expect school divisions to cover the costs for local improvements near public schools (i.e., roadwork, infrastructure) and whereas the school division does not receive provincial funding for these unexpected costs, BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association ask the Minister of Education to work with other government departments, including the Minister of Government Relations, to develop a remedy to provide relief to school divisions regarding local improvement costs
- d. Policy Advisory – draft policies on running for higher office and social media, Inclusive Education Position Statement, Diversity definition, Whistleblower Policy

- AGM-21-06 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association research and draft a Whistleblower Policy/Procedure for the consideration of School Divisions.
- AGM-19-08 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association ratify a standing Advisory Committee on Inclusive and Special Education to provide advice and recommendations to the Executive on matters related to the funding and provision of programs and services to students requiring specialized supports in Saskatchewan.
- AGM-20-02 WHEREAS Board of Education trustees may choose to enter other areas of politics while serving as a school board trustee, BE IT RESOLVED that the SSBA Executive establish a Working Advisory Group (WAG) to create guidelines for Boards and trustees, and the SSBA Executive to follow so that they can continue to responsibly fulfill obligations and duties in this situation.
- AGM-20-04 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association work to create a common definition of 'diversity' that all school divisions can use to build their plans for addressing racism and discrimination.

6. First Nations and Métis Education

- a. Responsibility Framework implementation/action
 - AGM-21-07 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association work collaboratively with the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) and the Metis Nation Saskatchewan and/or other more specific First Nations and Metis entities to determine the need for any future advocacy for September 30th to be observed as a provincial statutory Day of Truth and Reconciliation.
- b. Local Government Elections Act
 - AGM-20-03 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association engage education sector partners and First Nations and Métis educational authorities, as appropriate, to call on the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Government Relations to review and renew the Local Government Elections Act and Regulations with the intent of creating more opportunities for the election and participation of Indigenous school board trustees.

7. Other Resolutions In-Progress or Prioritized in 2022: N/A