

Memorandum

Ministry of Education



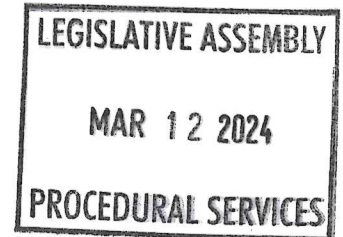
From: Clint Repski
Deputy Minister

Date: March 11, 2024

Phone: 306-787-2471

To: Trent Wotherspoon, Chair
Public Accounts Committee

Re: **Public Accounts Committee February 7, 2024 – Responses for Follow-up**



Further to the Ministry of Education's appearance at the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on February 7, 2024, please find attached responses related to the following audits:

- 2023 Volume 1, Chapter 3 – Improving Educational Outcomes for Indigenous students
- 2022 Volume 1, Chapter 8 – Sun West School Division No. 207 (Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation) – Supporting Student's Completion of Grades 10 to 12 Distance Education Courses
- 2023 Volume 1, Chapter 16 – Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 - English as an Additional Language

The responses related to the 2022 Volume 1, Chapter 23 – Supporting Students with Intensive Needs and 2023 Volume 1, Chapter 23 – Readiness to learn from the Saskatoon School Division No. 13, will follow on or before March 20, 2024.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clint Repski".

Clint Repski
Deputy Minister of Education

Attachment

cc: Jason Pirlot, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education
Rhiannon Shaw, Executive Director, Corporate Services

2023 Report, Volume 1, Chapter 3. Improving Educational Outcomes for Indigenous Students

Question #1 :

What are the satisfaction rates from teachers, division and students regarding Following Their Voices (FTV) for each of the last five years as reported through FTV surveys.?

Following Their Voices does not have a satisfaction survey. The surveys used in Following Their Voices are customized, holistic perceptual surveys that:

- provide a snapshot of Following Their Voices implementation;
- provide an opportunity for participants to share their perceptions; and
- assist with planning and implementation at the school level.

Surveys ask questions about the degree to which teachers:

- care for and believe in First Nations, Métis and Inuit students and their cultures (Culture);
- have high expectations that First Nations, Métis and Inuit students can succeed (Expectations);
- create secure, well-managed learning environments (Environment);
- engage in teaching and learning interactions that are responsive to students (Interactions);
- use a range of effective teaching strategies (Strategies); and,
- use data from First Nations, Métis and Inuit student outcomes to plan (Evidence).

Surveys are completed by school-based participants three times a year. Parents complete the survey twice a year. The reporting below shows results and the change in perceptions from the beginning of the year to the end:

FTV Teachers' Survey Data											
Indicator		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
		Responded Positively		Responded Positively		Responded Positively		Responded Positively		Responded Positively	
Culture	Start	70%	2%↑	No Data due to Covid	71%	3%↑	70%	11%↑	70%	8%↑	
	End	71%			74%		78%		76%		
Expectations	Start	97%	0%	No Data due to Covid	97%	0%	97%	1%↑	96%	2%↑	
	End	97%			98%		98%		98%		
Environment	Start	92%	2%↑	No Data due to Covid	94%	0%	94%	1%↑	94%	2%↑	
	End	95%			94%		95%		96%		
Interactions	Start	79%	5%↑	No Data due to Covid	80%	5%↑	80%	4%↑	79%	5%↑	
	End	82%			84%		84%		83%		
Strategies	Start	76%	11%↑	No Data due to Covid	80%	6%↑	78%	7%↑	76%	10%↑	
	End	84%			84%		83%		83%		
Evidence	Start	86%	3%↑	No Data due to Covid	88%	2%↑	87%	3%↑	87%	3%↑	
	End	89%			90%		89%		90%		

FTV Students' (Grades 6-12) Survey Data											
Indicator		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
		Responded Positively		Responded Positively		Responded Positively		Responded Positively		Responded Positively	
Culture	Start	51%	5%↑	No Data due to Covid	56%	4%↑	53%	5%↑	53%	2%↑	
	End	54%			58%		55%		54%		
Expectations	Start	82%	2%↓	No Data due to Covid	85%	1%↓	82%	1%↓	81%	4%↓	
	End	80%			84%		81%		78%		
Environment	Start	75%	4%	No Data due to Covid	80%	2%↓	76%	4%↓	75%	7%↓	
	End	72%			78%		73%		70%		
Interactions	Start	66%	3%↓	No Data due to Covid	70%	3%↓	65%	0%	64%	5%↓	
	End	64%			68%		66%		60%		
Strategies	Start	70%	1%↓	No Data due to Covid	74%	2%↓	70%	1%↑	69%	4%↓	
	End	69%			73%		71%		66%		
Evidence	Start	68%	4%↓	No Data due to Covid	72%	0%	68%	1%↓	67%	8%↓	
	End	66%			72%		67%		62%		

Question #2:

Background:

Is the Ministry of Education working on the root cause issues through Ministry of Education programming related to Indigenous student outcomes?

Question #2: are all those partnerships inter-ministerial or any of those with external third-party organizations?

Please see the table below for a listing of partnerships and committees/initiatives:

Committee/Initiative	Purpose/Area of Focus	Ministries and Organizations Involved
Provincial Education Plan	<p>The Provincial Education Plan establishes a path forward for the education sector to support student well-being, development and achievement in an inclusive and culturally affirming manner. This plan is developed in alignment with the Province's <i>Growth Plan</i>.</p> <p>The four priority actions of the Provincial Education Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve student outcomes through effective assessment practices that guide and strengthen responsive instruction;• Enhance opportunities for learners and their families and support transitions as learners enter and progress through school to graduation and determine a life pathway;• Enrich and enhance mental health and well-being capacity in students; and,• Actualize the vision and goals of <i>Inspiring Success: PreK-12 First Nations and Métis Education Policy Framework</i>.	<p>Lead: Education</p> <p>Other Organizations: school divisions, First Nations education organizations</p> <p>Collaboration with other agencies, such as the Ministry of Health and the Saskatchewan Health Authority is included in some specific actions.</p>
Following their Voices	<p>Following Their Voices (FTV) is a made-in-Saskatchewan education initiative designed to improve First Nations, Métis and Inuit student outcomes, including graduation rates. The initiative partners with provincial and First Nation school communities to</p>	<p>Lead: Education</p> <p>Third Party Organizations:</p>

Committee/Initiative	Purpose/Area of Focus	Ministries and Organizations Involved
	provide ongoing training and support to school-based teams and teachers to increase student engagement.	Provincial and First Nation school communities
Curriculum	<p>Curriculum development is guided by the principles of collaboration and meeting the needs of all Saskatchewan students.</p> <p>All renewed Saskatchewan curricula are infused with First Nations and Métis content, perspectives and ways of knowing, including treaty education.</p> <p>Consultation groups Following is a list of groups with which the Curriculum Unit works to develop and implement curriculum projects. The scope of each engagement and the groups involved are dependent on the nature of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School divisions, First Nations education authorities and the Conseil des écoles fransaskoises; • Elders and Knowledge Keepers; • Postsecondary institutions • Other provincial education sector partners • Provincial organizations; • Local community organizations • Other Saskatchewan ministries; • Other provincial or territorial ministries of education; • Trade and industry experts; and, • Subject area specialists. 	<p>Lead: Education</p> <p>The plan to renew and develop future provincial curricula was informed by the Curriculum Advisory Committee which included representatives from the following groups: Teachers, School Divisions, First Nations Education, Post-secondary, Workforce (including the Chamber of Commerce), and Parents.</p>
Children and Youth Strategy	The focus of <i>Saskatchewan's Children and Youth Strategy</i> (Strategy) is to ensure Saskatchewan children get the best start in life and grow into strong, healthy, thriving citizens. This Strategy responds to a recommendation made by the Saskatchewan Child and Youth Advocate in the <i>Desperately Waiting</i> report.	<p>Lead: Health</p> <p>Other ministries/agencies: Education; Social Services; Justice and Attorney General; Corrections, Policing and Public Safety;</p>

Committee/Initiative	Purpose/Area of Focus	Ministries and Organizations Involved
	<p>The Strategy outlines five theme areas that contribute to healthy children, youth and families throughout their stages of development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong start for children; • Growing knowledge and abilities; • Fostering inclusivity and respect; • Supporting health children, youth and families; and, • Building safer communities. <p>A fulsome overview of the strategy, including relevant initiatives and partnerships is found at the following link:</p> <p>https://www.saskatchewan.ca/children-youth-strategy</p>	<p>Advanced Education; Government Relations</p> <p>Third Party Organizations: Saskatchewan Health Authority, Athabasca Health Authority, school divisions, post-secondary institutions, First Nations, RCMP, police services and CBOs</p>
<p>Saskatchewan Poverty Reduction Strategy</p>	<p>The <i>Saskatchewan Poverty Reduction Strategy</i> (Strategy) outlines a structure for implementing actions that will reduce poverty in communities, improve the quality of life for our citizens, and provide better beginnings for vulnerable children.</p> <p>The Strategy outlines six priority areas for focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income security; • Housing and homelessness; • Early childhood development and child care; • Education, skills training and employment; • Health and food security; and, • Vulnerable families and individuals. 	<p>Lead: Ministry of Social Services</p> <p>Other ministries/agencies: Education, Health, Advanced Education, Justice</p>
<p>Saskatchewan Disability Strategy</p>	<p>The <i>Saskatchewan Disability Strategy</i> was developed in consultation with the disability community in Saskatchewan and provides a framework to address barriers to programs,</p>	<p>Lead: Ministry of Social Services</p>

Committee/Initiative	Purpose/Area of Focus	Ministries and Organizations Involved
	<p>services, quality of life and opportunities for people with disabilities.</p> <p>The Strategy outlines six broad priority outcome areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting people before systems; • Safeguarding rights and safety; • Increasing economic and social inclusion; • Building personal and community capacity; • Creating accessible communities; and, • Becoming an inclusive province. 	<p>Other ministries/agencies: Advanced Education, Trade and Export Development, Education, Government Relations, Health, Justice, and Corrections, Policing and Public Safety.</p>
<p>Integrated Youth Services</p>	<p>Government continues to invest in the development, implementation and operations of an Integrated Youth Services model for Saskatchewan.</p> <p>Integrated Youth Services offers rapid access to evidence-based, integrated, culturally safe and youth-targeted services and supports, with a focus on prevention and early intervention, for youth aged 12 to 25.</p> <p>Integrated Youth Services include a range of core services and supports, typically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mental health and addictions services; • physical health services; • education, employment and training supports; • social and community services; • youth and caregiver peer supports; • cultural and traditional supports; and, • other services as identified by community need. 	<p>Ministries: Health; Education; Social Services; Justice and Attorney General; Corrections, Policing and Public Safety; Advanced Education; Government Relations</p> <p>Provincial leadership is provided by the John Howard Society of Saskatchewan</p>
<p>Mental Health Capacity Building</p>	<p>This initiative addresses recommendations outlined in the Saskatchewan Mental Health</p>	<p>Lead: Saskatchewan Health Authority</p>

Committee/Initiative	Purpose/Area of Focus	Ministries and Organizations Involved
	<p>and Addictions Action Plan. This school-based prevention and promotion program was recommended by the Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth, and helps build resilience in youth, families and communities.</p> <p>Selected schools serve as resource hubs, giving students access to a range of mental health promotion and programming through collaboration between schools, communities and health care providers.</p> <p>School divisions receive funding from the Saskatchewan Health Authority to hire Mental Health Capacity Building staff, including a school coordinator and wellness promoter, to work in the schools. Staff members are responsible for delivering mental health promotion and prevention programming, building capacity in others who work with children, youth and families, and supporting students through connection to community resources and supports.</p>	<p>Other ministries/agencies: Health, Education</p> <p>Third Party Organizations: School divisions</p>
Northern Alcohol Strategy	<p>Strategy to empower and inspire communities to have important conversations about the unhealthy uses of alcohol. The Northern Alcohol Strategy promotes community collaboration while using evidence and healing-centered approaches in order to reduce alcohol-related harms.</p>	<p>Lead: Corrections, Policing and Public Safety and Justice and Attorney General</p> <p>Other ministries/agencies: Education</p>
The Drug Task Force	<p>The Drug Task Force is an inter-sectoral group of leaders who are concerned with problematic substance use in Saskatchewan. The root causes of substance use and addictions are complex, touch all sectors of government, and require a multi-sectoral response as well as community engagement and partnerships</p>	<p>Lead: Corrections, Policing and Public Safety</p> <p>Other ministries/agencies: Health, Social Services, Education</p>

Committee/Initiative	Purpose/Area of Focus	Ministries and Organizations Involved
		Third Party Organizations: Provincial Coroner, police organizations, Saskatchewan Health Authority, Saskatoon Tribal Council.
Embracing Life Initiative	The Embracing Life Initiative is a call for action to reduce suicide by sharing the strengths of northern communities and working together through healthy life promotion, suicide prevention, intervention and post-vention.	Ministries of Government Relations, Education, Health and Justice and Attorney General, Athabasca Health Authority, Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, Health Canada(Indigenous Services Canada) , Northern Lights School Division, First Nations – Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Prince Albert Grand Council, Meadow Lake Tribal Council and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, Thunderchild First Nation, Metis Nation, Northern Victim Services, Population Health Unit of Northern Saskatchewan, RCMP, Saskatchewan Health Authority, Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth, Saskatchewan Prevention Institute

Committee/Initiative	Purpose/Area of Focus	Ministries and Organizations Involved
Saskatchewan Prevention Institute	<p>The Saskatchewan Prevention Institute is a non-profit organization, founded in 1980 with a focus to reduce the occurrence of disabling conditions in children using primary prevention methods. The institute raises awareness by providing training, information, and resources based on current best evidence.</p> <p>Topics for Programming include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol/FASD; • Domestic Violence; • Mental Health; • Pregnancy; • Sexual Health; and, • Tobacco and other drugs. 	<p>Lead – Saskatchewan Prevention Institute</p> <p>Other Ministries/agencies SGI, Education, SLGA</p> <p>Third Party Organizations: Community At-Large, TeleMiracle, Public Health Agency of Canada, SaskAbilities, University of Saskatchewan, Acquired Brain Injury Partnership Project.</p>
Child Nutrition Program	<p>Provides funding to school divisions and community-based organizations to help them address child hunger, offer nutrition education and provide skill building opportunities like cooking classes.</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, school divisions, community-based organizations.</p>
KidsFirst Targeted	<p>KidsFirst Targeted is a voluntary program that helps families in vulnerable situations become the best parents they can be and to have the healthiest children possible.</p> <p>A free, voluntary, home-based early childhood development program to help families in areas that have an impact on child health/development and family wellbeing. Families agree to weekly home visits and are provided support from a team of professionals.</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, school divisions, Saskatchewan Health Authority, First Nations, community-based organizations</p>
KidsFirst Regional	<p>Offers free programming for groups of families with young children in rural communities and small cities not served by the KidsFirst Targeted program. The program also builds awareness of early</p>	<p>Ministries of Education and Health, school divisions, Saskatchewan Health Authority, First</p>

Committee/Initiative	Purpose/Area of Focus	Ministries and Organizations Involved
	childhood and parenting topics through social media, community directories and posters.	Nations, libraries, community-based organizations
Cognitive Disability Strategy	Consultation is available through Cognitive Disability Consultants, who provide guidance to those who support individuals with cognitive disabilities, such as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Acquired Brain Injury, Autism Spectrum Disorder, developmental and intellectual disabilities, and those who have significant behavioural and developmental challenges. The flexible funding option may assist to address the unmet needs of individuals with cognitive disabilities and their families, whose needs are not being met through existing services and support.	Ministries of Social Services, Health, Justice, Education, Saskatchewan Health Authority, local school divisions and community-based organizations
Early Childhood Intervention Program	A home visiting program for children experiencing or at-risk of developmental disabilities or delays. They work with the child to provide developmental assessment and curriculum-based intervention to increase the developmental skill level of the child, as well as help increase the family's parenting skills, connect families to community resources, and transition children successfully to school or other community-based supports as necessary.	Ministry of Education, two school divisions, 12 community-based organizations, parents
Early Years Family Resource Centres	A single trusted location within the community to make it easy for families to access a variety of programs and services. Services are open to families with young children aged prenatal to five and include early literacies, parenting support and stay and play. They can also access information and visit professionals like public health nurses, speech language pathologists or physical therapists in a welcoming environment.	Ministries of Health, Education, Social Services, school divisions, Saskatchewan Health Authority, community-based organizations, Indigenous organizations, libraries, municipal government, service organizations, licensed child care, parents

Committee/Initiative	Purpose/Area of Focus	Ministries and Organizations Involved
<p>Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Prevention, Education and Training Programs</p>	<p>The Saskatchewan Prevention Institute focuses on increasing public and professional education and awareness, with the overall goal to decrease the prevalence of FASD in Saskatchewan.</p> <p>The Saskatchewan Health Authority delivers FASD prevention programs in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert targeted to pregnant women who are at high risk for having a child with FASD until the child reaches two years of age.</p> <p>The FASD Network of Saskatchewan Family Support Program assists affected families with parenting skills and accessing services, as well as providing training to service providers across the province on how to support individuals who have FASD.</p> <p>The Northern Lights School Division (KidsFirst North) is an FASD Prevention initiative that focuses on prenatal women who have consumed alcohol during pregnancy.</p> <p>The University of Saskatchewan, College of Medicine Clinical Teratology Program focuses primarily on enhancing diagnostic and assessment services for children and youth suspected of FASD, including the La Ronge Outreach Traveling Clinics.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health, Saskatchewan Health Authority, Saskatchewan Prevention Institute, FASD Network of Saskatchewan, Northern Lights School Division (KidsFirst North), University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine (Clinical Teratology)</p>
<p>Early Learning Intensive Support Program</p>	<p>For children who have significant developmental delays and require intensive support to meet their potential. The program provides additional spaces in a Prekindergarten program to provide opportunities for children to engage in inclusive learning with other children their age. Support is provided through a collaborative team approach to meet the</p>	<p>Ministry of Education and school divisions and participating First Nations</p>

Committee/Initiative	Purpose/Area of Focus	Ministries and Organizations Involved
	individual needs and promote strengths through learning and participation.	
Family Literacy Hub Program	Family Literacy Hubs (FLHs) are designated service providers within a region that work with libraries, schools, and community partners to provide family literacy programs, services, and supports for families. FLHs seek to improve the literacy abilities of both children and parents with a focus on reaching families with children pre-natal to age 6 to support literacy development prior to formal schooling. The Saskatchewan Literacy Network (SLN) provides provincial support to the FLHs.	The Ministry of Education provides funding support to one school division, two post-secondary institutions, five community-based organizations, and the Saskatchewan Literacy Network (SLN) through the Family Literacy Hub

Question #3:

What initiatives (for ISSI) have been undertaken with land-based initiatives?

For Invitational Shares Services Initiatives:

- in 2021-22, 10 out of 19 Partnerships involved land-based programming;
- in 2022-23, 9 out of 22 Partnerships involved land-based programming.

2022 Report, Volume 1, Chapter 8 – Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation (formerly Sun West School Division No. 207)

Question #1:

How many FTEs are employed within the DLC?

There are 263.18 FTEs employed with the Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation.

Question #2:

Provide an organizational chart for DLC and a staff listing / organization chart for the 10 locations.

Please see Appendix A and B

Question #3:

Provide a report regarding the breakdown by school division for DLC students.

Please see Appendix C

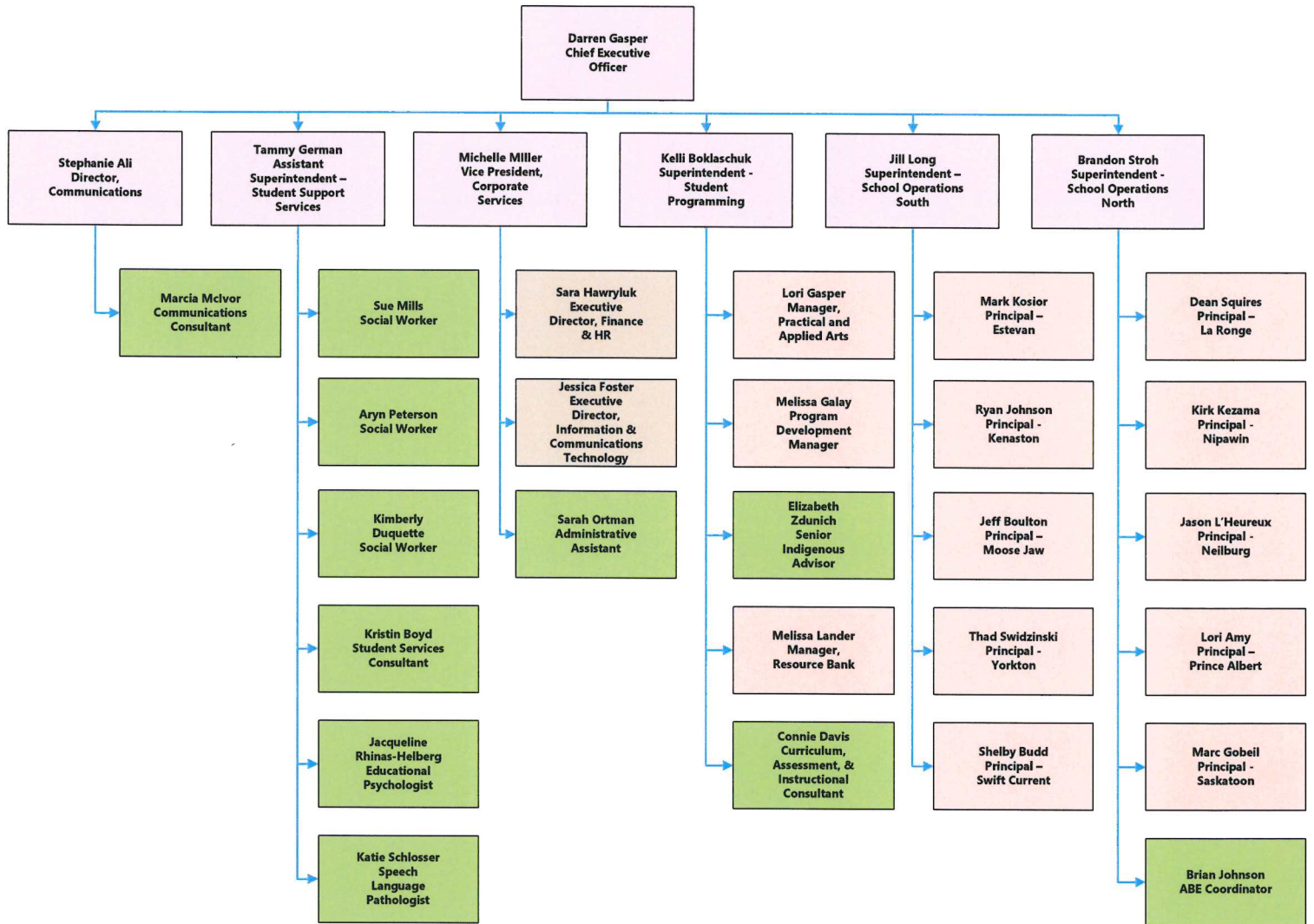
2023 Report, Volume 1, Chapter 16 – Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 – English as an Additional Language.

Responses provide by the Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division’s (RCSD).

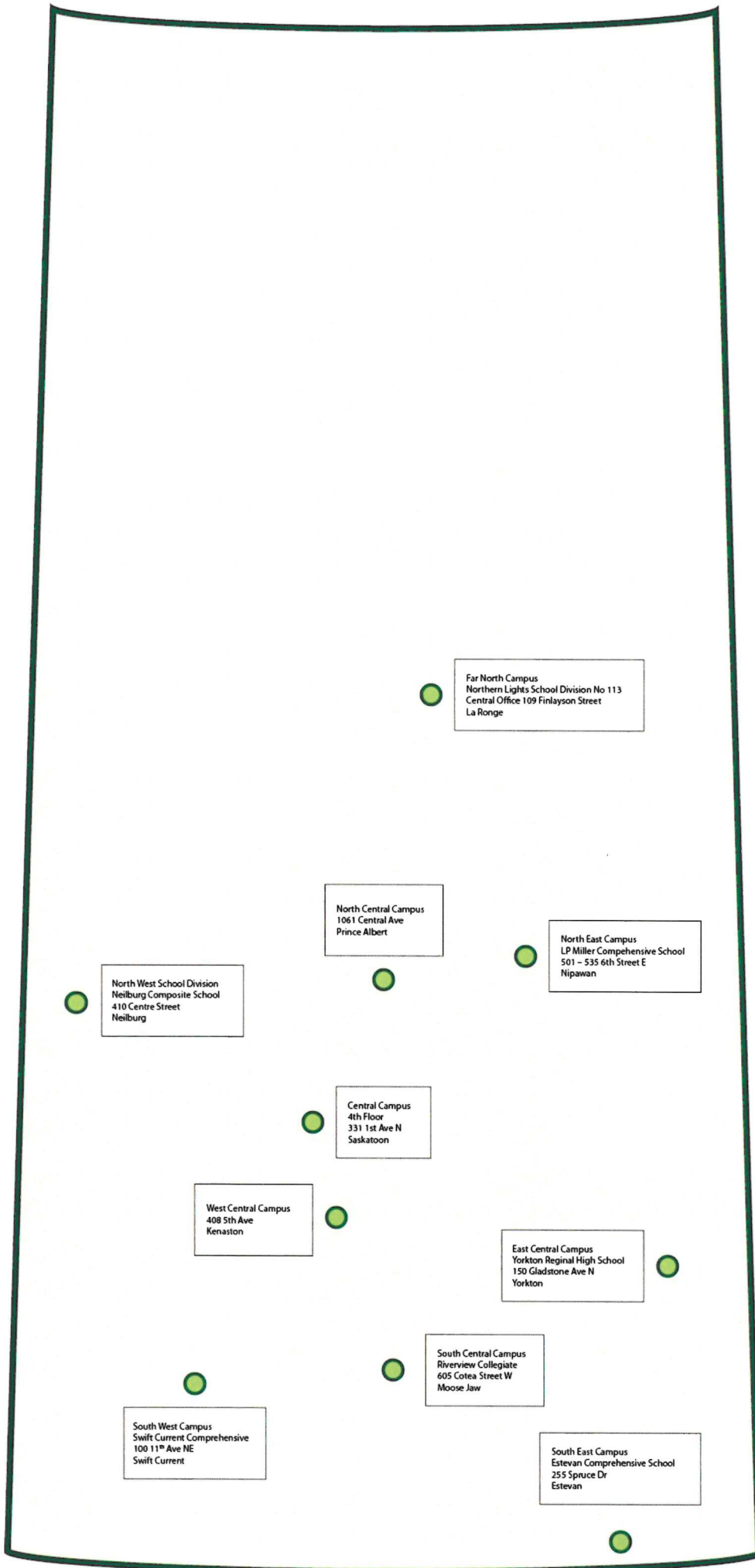
Background: The Division reported in its annual report that, in the 2021-2022 school year, 74.8% of the Division’s EAL students with a global Common Framework of Reference (CFR) level of A1.1 to A2.2 increased at least one global CFR level (2020-21: 79%)

What has the trend looked like over the past five years by year regarding common framework of reference levels?

- In the school year 2018-2019, 74% of RCSD students with a global CFR level of A1.1 to A2.2 increased at least one global CFR level.
- In the school year 2019-2020, 67% of RCSD students with a global CFR level of A1.1 to A2.2 increased at least one global CFR level (Due to the school closures as a result of the measures taken because of COVID-19, EAL teachers were not able to teach/assess all of the items on the CFR Scale for this school year).
- In the school year 2020-2021, 79% of RCSD students with a global CFR level of A1.1 to A2.2 increased at least one global CFR level.
- In the school year 2021-2022, 75% of RCSD students with a global CFR level of A1.1 to A2.2 increased at least one global CFR level.
- In the school year 2022-2023, 77% of RCSD students with a global CFR level of A1.1 to A2.2 increased at least one global CFR level.
- We do not have data for the 2023-2024 school year since our goal includes only students who have been in our division for an entire school year. This data will be gathered at the end of this year in June.



Appendix B



Appendix C

Part Time Students Nov 30 2023

Athol Murray College of Notre Dame (Office)	1
Briercrest	8
Chinook School Division	382
Christ the Teacher RCSSD	1
Cornerstone Christian	2
Creighton School Division	8
Good Spirit School Division 204	221
Great Plains College	7
Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division	7
Holy Trinity RCSSD	1
Horizon School Division	224
Ile-a-la-Crosse School Division	10
Lac LaRonge Indian Band	3
Living Sky School Division	53
Lloydminster Catholic	3
Lloydminster Public School Division #99	88
Luther College High School Division	2
Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute	7
Meadow Lake Tribal Council	28
North East School Division	102
North West School Division #203	159
Northeast Christ Academy	1
Northern Lights School Division 113.	105
Northlands College	4
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation	3
Prairie South School Division	271
Prairie Spirit School Division	189
Prairie Valley School Division #208	152
Regina Catholic	3
Regina Public	107
Saskatchewan Rivers School Division	35
Saskatoon Christian Schools	5
Saskatoon Public	447
South East Cornerstone School Division	318
Sun West School Division	563
Total Affiliate Students	3520

Primary/Full time Students Nov 30, 2023

Chinook SD	89
Creighton SD	3
Good Spirit SD	100
Horizon SD	57
Ile a la Crosse SD	6

Living Sky SD	100
Lloydminster SD	16
North East SD	80
Northern Lights SD	59
Northwest SD	57
Prairie South SD	113
Prairie Spirit SD	155
Prairie Valley SD	116
Regina SD	304
Saskatchewan Rivers SD	142
Saskatoon SD	387
South East Cornerstone SD	173
Sun West SD	58

Total Primary Students 2015

Adults Nov 30, 2023 (by Division they Reside)

Chinook SD	6
Creighton SD	1
Good Spirit SD	13
Horizon SD	4
Ile a la Crosse SD	2

Living Sky SD	6
Lloydminster SD	1
North East SD	1
Northern Lights SD	20
Northwest SD	2
Prairie South SD	7
Prairie Spirit SD	4
Prairie Valley SD	3
Regina SD	13
Saskatchewan Rivers SD	11
Saskatoon SD	40
South East Cornerstone SD	3
Sun West SD	8

Total Adults 145

Adults Nov 30, 2023 (by Affiliation)

Carlton Trail College	1
Great Plains College	1
Ile-a-la-Crosse School Division	1
Lakeland College	1
Northern Lights School Division 11	1
Northlands College	18
Sask Adult	117
Sask DLC	3
Sask. Polytech	1
Saskatoon Public	1

Total Adults 145

Adults Nov 30, 2023

145

Reserve Primary/Full Time Students Nov 30, 2023

5

**Corrections Students included in Primary Student
Counts, these totals are from Sept 29 data and won't
change throughout the 2023 -2024 school year**

359 (97 not included in division primary student numbers, 262 adults not included in adult student numbers above)