



Public Section Strategic Plan November, 2022

Introduction

Public Schools of Saskatchewan, the Public Section of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, is comprised of 15 public school boards across the province responsible for the education of more than 130,000 students. The Public Section is committed to advocating for and advancing public education in Saskatchewan.

Vision

Public schools are open to all students and are valued for providing an education that meets the challenges of a complex and changing world.

Mission

The Public Section will be a leading advocate for public education and public school divisions in Saskatchewan. The Public Section will champion public education that reflects our inclusive, diverse and democratic society.

Belief Statements

As an advocacy body for public education in Saskatchewan, the Public Section believes:

- That public schools reflect our diverse, inclusive and democratic society;
- That public schools welcome all students, regardless of religious belief, race, gender identity or expression, ability, economic status, location or other circumstances;
- That public schools are the first schools built in any new community;
- That public schools are best governed by democratically elected trustees, accountable to their community and the government;
- That public schools require sufficient, sustainable and predictable funding; and
- That government funding of private, independent or charter schools creates an inequitable education system.

Goals

- to advocate on behalf of public education
- to communicate the fundamental worth of public education in a democratic society

- to protect the rights of inclusive public education where all students are accepted and valued
- to provide leadership for the good of public education
- to advocate for adequate and equitable funding for public education

Public Section 2024-2025 Annual Work Plan

Goal: To advocate on behalf of public education

Strategic Actions

1. The Public Section will pursue meetings with the Minister of Education, the Education critic, the Deputy Minister, the SSBA Executive and other key leaders in the education sector to share information and discuss issues affecting public school divisions. The Public Section will ensure education partners understand the importance of public education.
2. The Public Section will support member boards in advocating for public education.

Outcomes:

- Minimum of one formal meeting with each of the minister, deputy minister, the education critic, the SSBA executive and the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta.
- Completed meetings with education partners.
- Greater Public Section input on the SSBA executive.
- Provide materials, including the promotional video, to divisions to promote public education.

Goal: To communicate the fundamental worth of public education in a democratic society

Strategic Actions

1. The Public Section will maintain a presence on Facebook and X advancing the accomplishments of public schools and highlighting important issues.
2. The Public Section will continue its Student Citizenship Awards Program with awards to be presented in June of 2025.
3. The Public Section will advocate for effective usage of its updated promotional video.
4. The Public Section will explore the benefits of an advertising program to advocate for public schools.

Outcomes:

- Increased engagement of Section members and the public on social media.

- Award nominations from an expanded number of member school divisions.
- General use of the public schools promotional video by member boards.
- Increased awareness of the Student Citizenship Awards by the general public.
- Report results of exploration of advertising program.

Goal: to protect the rights of inclusive public education where all students are accepted and valued

Strategic Actions

1. The Public Section will ensure the position of the Public Section is expressed within the SSBA and in conversations with the Catholic Section of the SSBA.
2. The Public Section will look for opportunities to advance inclusive public education in Saskatchewan and in Canada.
3. The Public Section will advocate against the further stratification of education in Saskatchewan.

Outcomes:

- Conclusion of an agreement between the SSBA and the section.
- Meetings between the Public Section Table Officers and the Catholic Section Executive to discuss issues of common interest.
- Communication with public school organizations in other provinces and with others advancing the cause of public education.
- Continued discussion with senior leaders in Saskatchewan education to advocate against further public funding of independent schools and against public funding for the introduction of charter schools.

Goal: To provide leadership for the good of public education

Strategic Actions

1. The Public Section Chair and Executive Director will meet with as many public boards as requested and as is practicable.
2. The Public Section will offer support to public boards as requested.
3. The Public Section will communicate on issues/items of interest with Public Section Executive members, board chairs and directors, and provide information as requested.
4. The Public Section will offer professional development for Public Section members at its June general meeting and on other occasions where practicable.
5. The Public Section will conduct regular general meetings and Executive meetings.

Outcomes

- Meetings with Public Section boards as requested.
- Emails to Executive, board chairs and directors as issues/items of interest come up.

- Bi-monthly *Public Section Update* for member divisions.
- Executive meetings (see calendar).
- General meetings in November and June.