

REPORT CARD

2022-2023



Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning



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In 2019, the board of education approved the strategic plan, which guides our work as a school division. In 2022, the board extended the plan for another two years.

The plan states unequivocally that students are at the heart of our work. School and division staff are committed to this plan, using it to lead their efforts in the classroom, with families and in their professional learning. The vision of the strategic plan – every student is known, valued, and believed in – remains constant in classrooms and in schools.

To propel a strategy forward, there needs to be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timely targets for all goals and objectives, and a method for evaluating progress. Saskatoon Public Schools provides reports throughout the year on the division's goals and objectives, and the work being done to reach our targets.

We are proud of our accomplishments as an organization and will continue to strive for excellence in all areas and aspects of our strategic plan.

Saskatoon Public Schools STRATEGIC PLAN



FULFILLING OUR COMMITMENT

- RELATIONSHIPS** We will
 - foster caring and supportive relationships
 - honour diversity
 - create welcoming and joyful spaces
 - develop and grow community partnerships
- EQUITY** We will
 - be open to all
 - maintain high expectations for all
 - enact anti-racist/anti-oppressive practices
 - pursue a representative workforce
- ACCOUNTABILITY** We will
 - respond to student needs through evidence-based practices
 - focus on Indigenous student success
 - pursue continuous improvement
 - ensure safe, caring, and accepting environments

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

At Saskatoon Public Schools we support our students' educational journeys from prekindergarten to graduation. It's our mission to create learning opportunities and environments where students can explore and thrive. We celebrate their achievements, successes and learning outcomes from start to finish.

Targets Met...

- ✓ A target 2% increase in kindergarten students leaving kindergarten "ready to learn" as indicated by division Early Years Evaluation (EYE) data.
- ✓ A target 2% increase in grades 1-8 students at or above grade levels in English language arts and mathematics report card indicators.
- ✓ A 2.3% increase in grades 10-12 students who attained eight or more credits.



Did You Know?

- The Early Years Evaluation data helps gauge a child's development, learning and readiness for Grade 1 through self awareness, awareness of their environment, cognitive skills, language and communication skills, fine and gross motor skills.
- Developing early literacy skills is directly connected to higher graduation rates. SPS will continue to focus on improving grades 1-3 reading results.

Moving Forward...

- ▶ Continued implementation of the Comprehensive Literacy Plan with a focus on dedicated literacy time and a target of improved oral language, reading and writing skills for prekindergarten to Grade 8 students.
- ▶ The focus will continue to be on equity through student assessment. Specific actions include having teachers reflect on equity work and focusing on Indigenous student success. Staff will continue to learn to identify, reduce and eliminate assessment practices that create barriers to student success.
- ▶ Focus on enhancing partnerships with families as a key component to student success.



The Journey to Graduation Starts with A-B-C

In the 2020-2021 school year, Saskatoon Public Schools implemented the *Comprehensive Literacy Plan*. This multi-year plan focuses on improving literacy outcomes by strengthening instructional practice in oral language, reading and writing. Saskatoon Public Schools is committed to improving literacy outcomes for all and continues to use the Comprehensive Literacy Plan to develop:

- Instructional guides for prekindergarten to Grade 3 and grades 4-8 teachers based on literary research.
- School-based data teams and literacy leads in each school to support professional learning and collect baseline data for future growth and planning.
- Early Learner Tutor Program, funded by the Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation, connects grades 1-3 students who require additional reading supports with literacy tutors, reaching 492 students in 38 schools.
- Page Turners (formerly the Early Learning Tutor Program), funded by the Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation, connects grades 1-3 students who require additional reading supports with literacy tutors, supporting 492 students in 38 schools.

High School Graduation Rates

- Since 2018, Saskatoon Public Schools' on time (meaning in three years, starting in Grade 10) graduation rates have kept a steady pace in line with provincial graduation rates, even through pandemic recovery.
- In 2022-2023, the on-time graduation rate for all students decreased slightly from 78.1% to 76.7%. However, the fact that many grades 10-12 students are attaining eight or more credits per year indicates potential increases to graduation rates in the future.

Next Steps to Improve Graduation Outcomes

- Create welcoming spaces to improve student engagement and well-being.
- Continue to improve communications with families and caregivers.
- Improve equitable opportunities for students, and reduce or remove any barriers to student success.



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The recipient of the Saskatoon Board of Education's 2022 Award of Excellence is Lauren Wright. Lauren graduated from Tommy Douglas with a 99% average and was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Saskatchewan. In high school, she organized Fridays for the Future climate rallies, stage managed musical and skit night performances, ran cross country and played ringette, was an active leader in the band program and volunteered in her school's library. In her senior year, she wrote her first publication for an international medical journal on climate impacts on mental health. Lauren has been a guest lecturer at multiple universities and a speaker for the Global Child Forum and other UN events on youth rights and climate change.

CHARACTER

Character is a defining quality for all students at Saskatoon Public Schools. The school division has a significant focus of working with staff, students and families in the area of character development. Teaching students to demonstrate values, such as respect, responsibility and perseverance, will develop our students' ability to not only exist in our world but thrive as action-oriented community members in the future. In considering our students' future, we want to acknowledge who they are now and the role they play as global citizens in their classrooms, schools and communities.

Targets Met...

- ✓ A target 2% increase in the frequency of grades 1-8 students showing perseverance and responsibility.
- ✓ A target 2% increase in consistent growth in the areas of respect, responsibility and perseverance.



Did you know?

There are seven learning skills and work habits included in kindergarten–Grade 8 report cards:

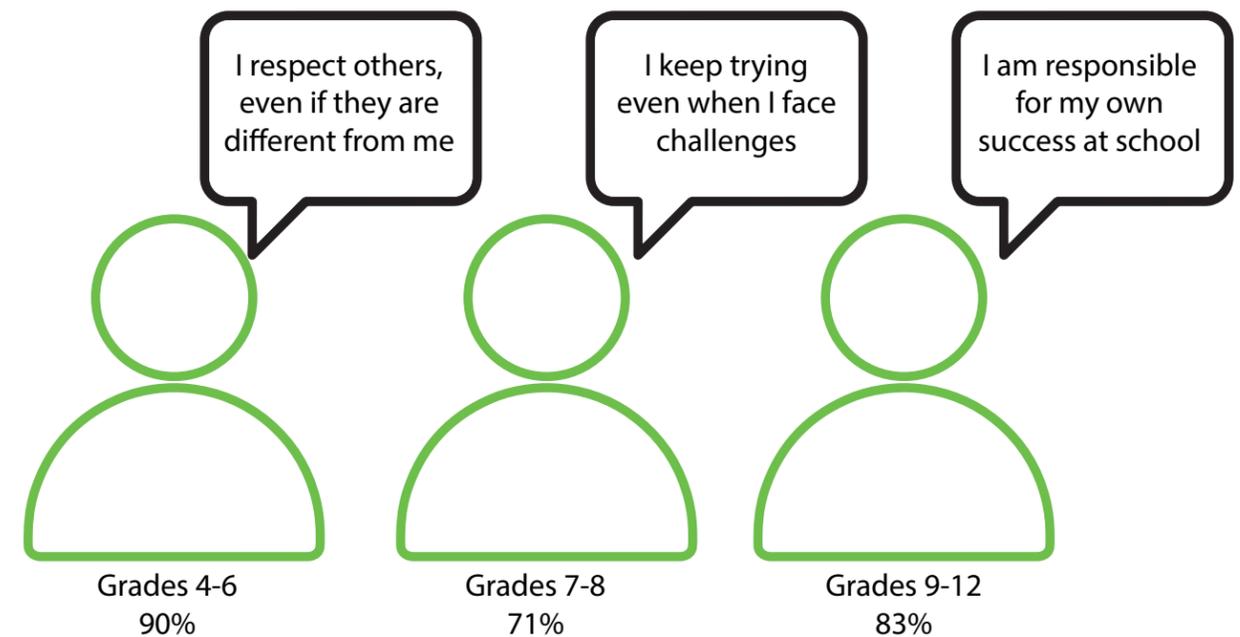
1. Responsibility
2. Independent work
3. Perseverance
4. Self-regulation
5. Collaboration
6. Thinking skills
7. Initiative

Learning skills and work habits help students to learn more effectively, develop their potential as independent learners and take ownership over their own learning.

What is the OurSCHOOL Survey?

The OurSCHOOL survey allows the school division to measure and understand the factors that are known to have direct and profound impacts on student learning and well-being. It also allows students to provide feedback on their experiences.

All schools administered the OurSCHOOL student survey to students from grades 4-12. To align with Saskatoon Public Schools' strategic plan, several custom questions were included to measure respect, responsibility and perseverance. Students were asked to agree or disagree to the following statements:



Moving Forward...

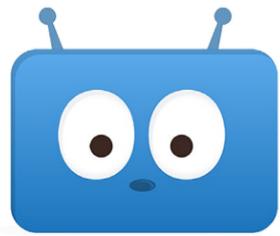
- ▶ Continue to explore and develop ways for students to show what they know and provide learning opportunities that include student voices.
- ▶ Continue to implement Citizenship Education to ensure students develop the essential skills and competencies of being enlightened, empathetic, ethical, empowered and engaged.
- ▶ Continue to provide anti-racist/anti-oppressive education to improve equitable opportunities for students.

ENGAGEMENT

Saskatoon Public Schools supports active participation for students in relevant and meaningful learning. Education is not one size fits all; lessons in the classroom should be collaborative, appealing and joyful. We are committed to adapting and innovating to engage and challenge students by offering a diverse collection of unique, academic, experiential, athletic, language and cultural programs.

Targets Met...

- ✓ Increase in OurSCHOOL Intellectual Engagement, Interested and Motivated measures for grades 7-12 by 2%.



What is Edsby?

Edsby is a communication platform used between teachers and parents and caregivers. It provides parents and caregivers with the opportunity to follow their child's progress at school, receive school updates, view report cards, photos from the classrooms and much more.

Moving Forward...

- ▶ Staff will continue to explore ways to engage students and provide relevant and meaningful learning experiences for all students.
- ▶ Continue to promote culture and language programs to improve student engagement and achievement, including Indigenous student success.
- ▶ Promote and develop unique programs that foster students' many diverse interests and learning styles.



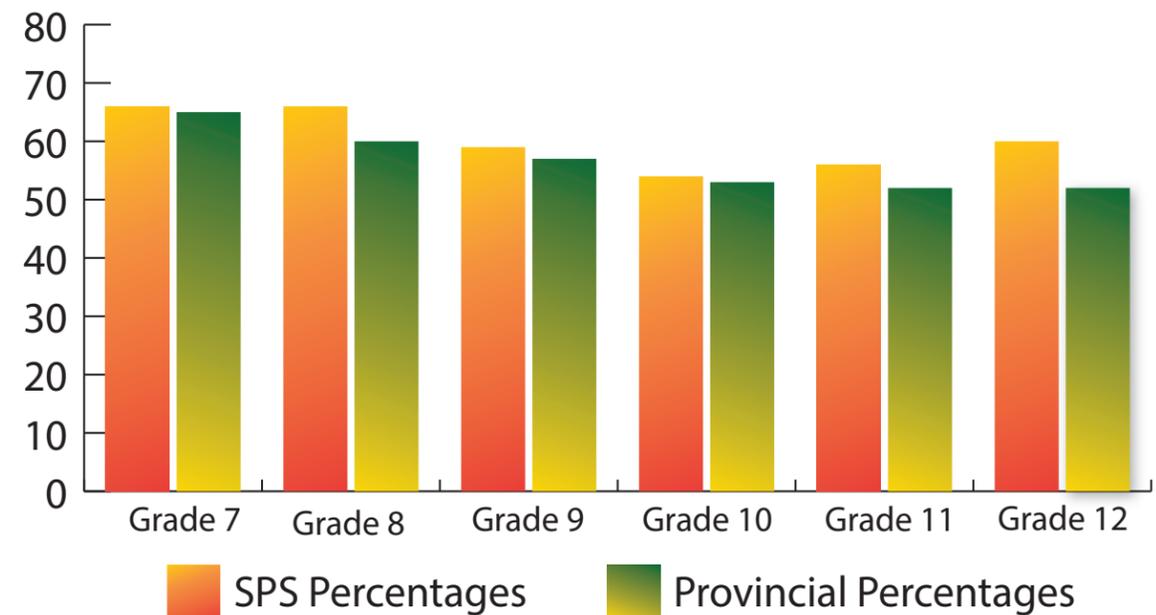
Are Students Interested? Motivated?

Elementary students were asked to rate their answers to the following statements on a scale of "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree":

- "I like learning new things at school."
- "I like working on class projects."
- "I look forward to Language Arts class."
- "I want to learn more about Math."

In secondary schools, student questions included:

- "I enjoy learning new concepts and ideas."
- "I enjoy our class projects so much that often I do not want to stop."
- "I find myself thinking about what we are learning even after the lesson is over."



Saskatoon Public Schools experienced an overall 1% decrease in this area but that only motivates us moving forward. Schools and teachers will continue to explore ways to engage students and provide relevant and meaningful learning experiences for all students.

WELL-BEING

Well-being is an essential part of Saskatoon Public Schools' strategic plan. We are committed to supporting students as they grow their skills so that they can make healthy choices for themselves. Knowing who you are physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually builds confidence which leads to better outcomes in and out of school.

Targets Met...

- ✓ Increase in OurSCHOOL student measures related to well-being:
 - A 2% decrease in anxiety and depression.
 - A 2% increase in hedonic well-being and eudaimonic well-being.
- ✓ A 3% increase in the number of staff trained in initiatives related to well-being.
- ✓ Completion of anti-racist/anti-oppressive administrative procedure and supporting documents.



Hedonic vs. Eudaimonic Learning

What does hedonic mean? Happiness is achieved through experiences of pleasure and enjoyment.

What does eudaimonic mean? Happiness is achieved through experiences of meaning and purpose.

MOVE 2 GROW

Move 2 Grow is a division-wide initiative aimed at increasing student well-being. Being active is good for our health but it also improves alertness, attention, concentration, engagement and motivation. Move 2 Grow supports SPS staff to promote healthy daily activity for students. There are five aspects of the Move to Grow initiative.

One recent initiative focused on improving access to bikes for students to participate in the learn-to-ride program. Teachers can now book the trailer that houses 30 bikes so that all students can participate.



Measuring the well-being of students can be difficult. Anxiety and depression are significant global public health concerns. Mental health and well-being are also important factors that can impact student learning. However, SPS is seeing some encouraging trends when it comes to the well-being of our students:



Anxiety has decreased in all grades except grades 4, 7 and 8 where it remained at the level it was in 2021- 2022.



Supports put in place and/or refocused at grade 9 have resulted in improved anxiety results in 2022-2023. The ability to engage in transitions rooted in relational, in-person meetings and visits is an important factor in student well-being.



A celebration is that students in grades 7-12 rated life satisfaction, positive school climate and participation in clubs quite high.



Moving Forward...

- ▶ Continue to work with Saskatoon Industry Education Council to develop and implement social-emotional learning supports for students.
- ▶ Work with Saskatoon Big Brothers and Big Sisters to implement the Ignite the Warrior Within program which teaches coping mechanisms to groups of children with mental health challenges.
- ▶ Work with partners such as Navera, Family Service Saskatoon, Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre, and Mental Health and Addictions Services to connect students and families to community resources.
- ▶ Continue to increase the number of staff trained in mental health first-aid. The training helps staff identify students that may be experiencing mental health concerns.
- ▶ Provide supports and resources to all SPS staff through the Staff Well-Being website, focused particularly on emotional and physical well-being.

FIND YOUR PLACE IN OUR UNIQUE PROGRAMS!

Saskatoon Public Schools offers a wide array of diverse learning and program options. Elementary schools and collegiates are home to several unique academies and programs for students with specific interests, from prekindergarten all the way to graduation.



Parlez-vous français? Students who have an interest in languages can choose from programs such as French Immersion, Métis and Michif Cultural Program and the Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program in elementary schools. Students in secondary schools can study Cree, German, Spanish and Japanese in addition to French Immersion. Along with language and cultural programs, our Flexible Schedule Blended Learning (FLEX) program supports engagement by providing students who are heavily involved in arts and athletics the ability to balance their education and training schedules.

Experiential programs can foster a sense of curiosity, community and character. These types of programs are a great fit for students who have interests in science, media, intergenerational learning, creative and collective action, carpentry or land and nature-based education. For example, Collective Voice is a Grade 9 program that uses themes of social studies to focus on historical and current causes of inequality and injustice in Canada and around the world.



Our academic programs offer enhanced learning opportunities for those seeking educational challenges. Advanced Placement courses are available in several subjects and the SPS Academically Gifted Education (SAGE) program is an option for gifted students. We also offer Montessori programs for our younger students and the International Baccalaureate Diploma program for secondary students.

Many of our programs provide students with the opportunity to help develop their sense of self, confidence and empowerment. Hands-on learning, combined with unique locations and studying topics such as social justice, climate change and sustainability helps build leadership and collaborative teamwork skills. Themes of wellness and healthy lifestyles are evident in all programs.



There is a learning experience to inspire every student to reach their potential. Find your place with us at Saskatoon Public Schools!

RELATIONSHIPS

EQUITY

At Saskatoon Public Schools, we understand that relationships are the foundation of all that happens in schools. We honour the relationships between families and school staff, and identify this partnership as vital to student growth and well-being. Saskatoon Public Schools looks for opportunities to engage and grow partnerships with parents and communities.

Targets Met...

- ✓ A 1% increase in student measures on advocacy at school throughout the division (OurSCHOOL).
- ✓ Student management—prioritize a 1% increase in positive student/teacher relations (OurSCHOOL).
- ✓ Continuation of community partnerships.



Did You Know?

Every year, Saskatoon Public Schools shares our Partners Report. It is a detailed account of most of the organizations and businesses that support our students' academic, physical, emotional and spiritual growth.

Through the generosity of our partners, we are able to broaden the capacity of public education and provide experiences, resources and services that enhance student engagement, character development, health and well-being.



Moving Forward...

- ➡ Create a focus on classroom environments that provide spaces where students find joy and feel inspired to learn every day.
- ➡ Update Administrative Procedure 367 on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying to more closely align and support Administrative Procedure 372 Anti-Racism and Response to Racism.
- ➡ Maintain and enhance community partnerships that support the academic, social, emotional and spiritual needs of students, staff and communities.



Saskatoon Public Schools is located on traditional Indigenous territory (Cree, Dakota, Dené, Lakota, Métis, Nakota, Saulteaux) and we exist to promote learning, growth and opportunity for all students. This includes enacting anti-racist and anti-oppressive practices, focusing on Indigenous student success, creating equitable opportunities for all and ensuring that our schools are safe, caring and accepting environments.

Understanding the parts we all play in reconciliation and healing is important for not only the school community but also the larger community and our students who will be future leaders within it.

Targets Met...

- ✓ Reviewed internal processes for the representative and culturally competent workforce strategy.



What is a Representative Workforce?

Having a representative workforce is a commitment to building an employee base that is represented by the students in schools, the province and society at all levels of the organization. This includes cultural competency, recruitment, retention, communication and partnerships.

Moving Forward...

- ➡ Continue to create professional development opportunities focused on leadership and equity.
- ➡ Enhance anti-racist/anti-oppressive practices and create a more representative and culturally competent employment strategy.



ACCOUNTABILITY

In the strategic plan, Saskatoon Public Schools commits to being accountable for responding to student needs through evidence-based practices and to reporting on the progress the school division is making in all areas of the plan.

Targets Met...

- ✓ Superintendents and administration submitted 13 accountability reports to the board during the 2022-2023 school year to demonstrate improvement in learning and business objectives.



What are School Community Councils?

School Community Councils (SCCs) are opportunities to engage as a parent, caregiver or community member. These councils, composed of parents and families in partnership with Saskatoon Public Schools board members, the director of education, deputy directors and superintendents meet on a regular basis to share information and discuss learning initiatives.

For parents looking to be more active in their children's schools, participating in your School Community Council is a great way to engage, communicate and foster advocacy and support for issues and improvements in education. If SCCs are too much of a commitment, staying connected through Edsby, and smaller parent groups will keep parents and families informed and engaged with their school communities.

"Engagement and being informed are critical to support education and to understand where parents can play a role in their child's success, not to mention a community's success."

Tanya Napper, SCC Co-Chair

Moving Forward...

- ➡ Continue to provide the board with accountability reports that highlight progress on targets and initiatives.
- ➡ Adjust measures and initiatives to reflect current progress towards the strategic plan goals.

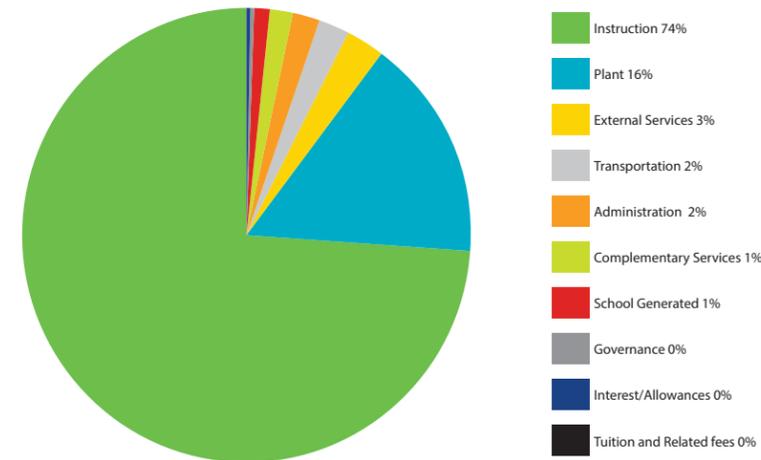


FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

As a publicly funded entity, Saskatoon Public Schools is required to be good financial stewards of the funding we receive, while providing the services and supports that our staff, families and students expect.

Targets Met...

- ✓ Actual expenditures at or below budget. This target was met with actual total expenses at \$276.4 million compared to budget of \$287.7 million.
- ✓ Instruction expenses at 74% of total budget. This target was met with actual instruction expenses at 74% of actual total expenses.
- ✓ Reserves at 5% of operating expenses. This target was met with total unrestricted and internally restricted reserves at \$19.3 million or 7% of operating expenses.



Did You Know?

90% of the budget goes directly to instruction in classrooms from kindergarten to Grade 12 and to the maintenance, upkeep and improvement of facilities.



Key highlights for the year include:

- 📄 Revenues were lower than budgeted mainly due to lower capital grant revenues related to the City Centre Project.
- ⬇ Expenses were lower than budgeted due to lower salary and benefit costs, and reduced transportation costs.
- 💰 Operating surplus for the year ended August 31, 2022 was \$1.5 million as compared to the budgeted deficit of \$6.2 million.

FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

Saskatoon Public Schools has a responsibility to ensure that our facilities, transportation and technological supports meets the needs of our students and staff.

Targets Met...

- ✓ Reduce the annual increase in our facility condition index based on prioritized infrastructure work and preventative maintenance and renewal (PMR) funding provided by the provincial government.



What is a Facility Condition Index?

A common industry standard that measures a facility's deferred maintenance backlog in relation to what it would cost to replace the facility. Regular preventative maintenance and renewal helps keep the school division's facility condition index low.



Did You Know?

Saskatoon Public Schools is undertaking a new energy efficient LED (light-emitting diode) project to replace fluorescent lighting in all existing schools. The work is expected to take three to five years. The school division is also upgrading all existing fire alarm and security systems over the next three years.

Technology

Our Information Services department is working to improve access to resources that support learning by increasing the number of student and staff devices. The school division has also been focused on enhancing our cyber security, upgrading our web and portal system, and enhancing our wireless network. With enrolment numbers growing, Saskatoon Public Schools is making sure our technology resources, supports and networks grow with our students and staff!

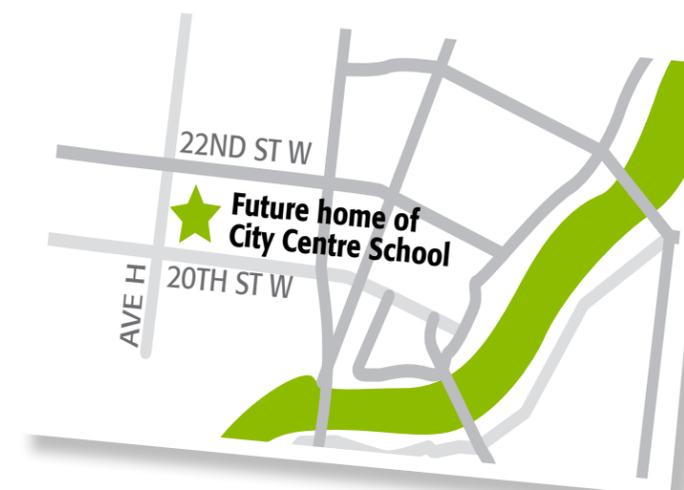


Saskatoon Public Schools approved \$1.3 million in its 2022-2023 budget for Wi-Fi network replacement in schools.

Planning for New Schools and the City Centre School Project

With the continued long-term growth of the City of Saskatoon, and the development and build-out of new residential neighbourhoods in the east, north-east and west parts of the city, a corresponding need for new schools and collegiates has been identified. Saskatoon Public Schools continues to work with the Ministry of Education on funding and development plans for new schools in Saskatoon.

The school division is currently focused on the City Centre School Project as we work towards completing Phase 2 of the process, which includes approvals of the schematic and design development report and contract document approvals. We also continue to build strong relationships with our community and program partner stakeholders.



Moving Forward...

- ➔ Continue work on addressing priority items listed in the preventative maintenance and renewal plan for all facilities.
- ➔ Continue preliminary planning work on two east side school projects – the Holmwood joint-use high schools project and the Brighton elementary school project.
- ➔ Continue design development work on the new City Centre Project.
- ➔ Complete a staff laptop refresh that will provide faster, modern technology to our teachers.
- ➔ Upgrade cybersecurity and backup technologies that modernize our proactive and reactive measures and align us with industry best practices.



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