

## Topic: Education Plan Quarterly Report

Presenter: Chad Erickson

Meeting Date: February 12, 2025

### Background

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This quarterly report provides a comprehensive overview of our progress and initiatives aligned with the Division Education Plan, which is grounded in the five domains of the Alberta Education Assurance Framework. The Assurance Framework is about building public trust and confidence that the education system is meeting the needs of students and enabling their success.

In this report, we will review our work across four of the five Assurance Domains:

- 1) **Student Growth and Achievement** – refers to the ongoing progress students make in their learning relative to identified provincial learning outcomes and consistent with their needs, interests, and aspirations.

#### Strategy Progress

- a) **Implement a comprehensive anti-bullying program to ensure that our students' safety and well-being are addressed.**

The WITS Program was introduced to students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 during Bully Prevention Week in November. So far, anecdotal reports show that the program is a positive addition.

- b) **Grow community, industry, and educational partnerships that provide student access to authentic, hands-on, experiential learning in the fields of interest to support readiness for careers and future next steps.**

Currently, we have 13 students enrolled in the Veterinary Tech Assistant Program at Olds College, with seven from Hunting Hills, five from Lindsay Thurber, and one from Outreach. Additionally, 14 students are registered in individual courses—two from Hunting Hills, 11 from Lindsay Thurber, and one from Outreach—taking either *Introduction to the Veterinary Profession* or *Accounting Principles 1*.

The Central Alberta Collegiate Institute hosted a one-day trades camp at Olds College for Grade 8 students from Red Deer Public School Division. One group of 15 students from Normandeu and Glendale attended this camp on January 21st. The second group of 15 students from Westpark Middle, Central Middle and G H Dawe will attend this camp on March 7th. These camps provided students with a tour of Olds College, a classroom session with a focus on planning ahead and encouraged students to start thinking about possible careers and careers in the trades as well as CAREERS presentation on what CAREERS can offer students when they are in high school.

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A Heavy Equipment instructor at Olds College led this day. He took the kids through the heavy equipment shop and demonstrated how to read gauges and operate some engine switches and a lesson on electrical circuits and how they work. The students did an electrical group activity and had the opportunity to build their own electrical circuit with a switch and a light bulb. They called this the "making a flashlight" activity. It was a great day to explore the college and get some hands-on experience.

The Collegiate is also hosting a similar camp at Red Deer Polytechnic for Grade 9 and 10 students from our division. This is a 3-day camp where the first group of 8 students will attend RDP on February 14th, 28th and March 7th. A second group of 4 students will participate on May 2, 28 and 30th. This interactive camp is designed to introduce students to potential career pathways in the trades through hands-on learning.

Participants will build a project incorporating threading, soldering, electrical, and design elements, offering a practical glimpse into trades-based careers and education.

- 2) **Teaching and Leading** – refers to teachers and leaders analyzing the learning context, attending to local and societal considerations, and applying the appropriate knowledge and abilities to make decisions resulting in quality teaching, leading, and optimum learning for all.

### Strategy Progress

- a) **Identify, develop, and implement high-leverage strategies, such as those identified by John Hattie and Robert Marzano, so that all teaching staff can infuse the most effective teaching strategies into their practice.**

We have invited four schools to present at the Board Meeting in relation to the conversations and professional development that has been occurring over the course of the first half of the school year in this area of our Education Plan.

- 3) **Learning Supports** – refers to the mobilization of resources (including expertise, facilities, human and community services) required to demonstrate shared, system-wide responsibility for all children and students, and the application of these resources to ensure quality teaching, leading and optimum learning for all.

### Strategy Progress

- a) **Engage in a comprehensive review of budgetary priorities in the area of student learning supports to ensure that the most essential initiatives are adequately resourced.**

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We have engaged in the first two budget conversations with administrators and our Teacher Voice committee. Further engagements will occur over the next six weeks to help inform future budget decisions.

- 4) **Governance** – refers to the processes by which policy leaders attend to local and societal contexts, determine strategic direction, evaluate policy implementation, and manage fiscal resources to ensure learning supports, quality teaching, leading and optimum learning for all.

### **Strategy Progress**

- a) **We continue to leverage a variety of tools and strategies to ensure that all educational stakeholders have the opportunity to provide valuable and strategic input to move the Division forward.**

We are currently working on an Engagement Plan that will survey our stakeholders about a variety of topics over the course of the school year (one engagement per month) that will provide the necessary feedback to support future planning. Topics of engagement will include questions about Career Preparation, Safe and Caring Schools, Policy revision, etc.

- b) **Establish a committee to develop and implement a comprehensive set of local performance measures to complement the Alberta Education Performance Measures already in place and gauge progress towards achieving the strategies within our Education Plan.**

A new Division Satisfaction Survey has been created and is in the final stages of review prior to administration with students, parents and staff later this school year.

In conclusion, this quarterly report illustrates our unwavering commitment to achieving the goals set out in the Division's Education Plan and the principles outlined in the Alberta Education Assurance Framework. We are excited to build on our progress and remain dedicated to addressing the challenges ahead. Together, we can ensure that every student is equipped for success in a rapidly changing world.

### **Reference Source:**

Red Deer Public Schools Three-Year Education Plan: 2024-2025 to 2026-27

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## **Leadership Quality Standard:**

### *School Authority Operations & Resources*

- Providing direction on fiscal and resource management in accordance with all statutory, regulatory and school authority requirements.
- Ensuring effective alignment of the school authority's human resources to achieve the school authority's education plan.
- Establishing data-informed strategic planning and decision-making processes that are responsive to change contexts.