



FAQ – School Development Plans

What is a school development plan?

A school development plan is an action plan for a school that outlines how student learning will be improved over time. These plans are supported by school data and are connected to the CBE's [Education Plan](#).

A school development plan outlines the following:

- a school goal connected to Learning Excellence
- outcomes related to that goal
- a list of outcome measures
- a list of data sets used for tracking and monitoring progress

A school development plan also includes a list of actions in each of the following areas:

- Learning Excellence
- Well-Being
- Truth & Reconciliation, Diversity and Inclusion

Additionally, a school development plan includes a list of professional learning, structures and processes, and resources in support of the identified actions.

Based on their context and school data, a school may choose to include an additional goal connected to Well-Being or Truth & Reconciliation, Diversity and Inclusion.

Why does the school have a school development plan?

A school development plan communicates to staff, students and parents key actions a school takes to address learning gaps and improve student learning.

School authorities are accountable for using results to improve student learning and achievement, as outlined in the Alberta Education [Assurance Framework](#).

What is the Education Plan?

The [Education Plan](#) guides our work in alignment with our [Mission](#), [Values](#) and [Results Policies](#). This coherent plan supports schools and service units in helping students achieve success.

How do you develop a school development plan?

Developing a school development plan begins with staff working together to examine and analyze school data, including achievement results, in order to tell a school's story. By looking closely at different data sources, staff work together to uncover areas of strength, achievement gaps and trends over time.

When the data story reveals an area for improvement, school staff create an action plan to improve student learning in a targeted area. This is the school development plan. The plan is shared with parents and school councils for input and feedback. The final school development plan is posted in November each year.



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What data sources inform the development of a school development plan?

Data can be drawn from:

- Report cards – formally communicate student achievement of learning outcomes to students and parents.
- Standardized tests – early literacy and numeracy assessments for students in Grades 1 to 3, provincial assessments for students in Grades 6 and 9, and Diploma Exams for students in Grade 12.
- CBE Student Survey – administered in Grades 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12; students reflect and report on themselves, their own abilities and their accomplishments.
- Alberta Education Assurance Survey – administered in Grades 4, 7 and 10; data from the Assurance Survey (perception data), provincial assessments (learning data) and student demographic data.
- OurSCHOOL Survey – administered by the CBE to students in Grades 4 to 12; students provide feedback on sense of belonging, positive relationships, mental health, safety and self-esteem.
- School-developed local measures of achievement from previous school development plans.
- Other achievement data collected by teachers throughout the year.

My child needs help in other areas of learning? How will my child's learning needs be accommodated?

A school development plan works along with other foundational aspects of our work including:

- The Alberta Education [Programs of Study](#) (curriculum), which every school follows regardless of school jurisdiction—public, separate, private or charter.
- CBE frameworks are embedded within the [Education Plan](#) and in the work of every school. Our system frameworks include Indigenous Education Holistic Lifelong Learning, Literacy, Mathematics, and Well-Being Frameworks.
- Personalized learning is actioned at a school in many ways, such as Individualized Program Plans (IPPs), specialized services and in-school supports (e.g., education assistants in classrooms).

How does the school work as a whole to achieve the goals within the school development plan?

The school development plan is developed as a school community. Schools use many methods to achieve the goals of a school development plan including professional learning communities (PLCs), staff meetings, professional development, and one-on-one conversations and assessments.

How can I see what is happening with the school development plan throughout the year?

Any time throughout the year, you can speak with your principal or your child's teacher. Each school may also share activities related to the school development plan in other ways, such as school council updates.



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How does the school development plan affect the school budget?

Most aspects of a school development plan are independent of the school budget. However, budget may affect how we implement a school development plan. For instance, if a school development plan identifies English language learning as the focus, the school could elect to allocate part of their budget to hiring a teacher to support English language learners and build teacher capacity in this area. In other cases, schools may also consider parent fundraising to enrich supports currently available (e.g., expand the collection of dual language books in the school's learning commons).

How can parents and school councils help the school realize the goals of the school development plan?

Support your child's teachers. Ask questions. Share your learnings and perspectives with others who do not attend meetings. Encourage others to attend meetings to hear about our work. Raise funds, seek donations and volunteer in support of specific initiatives related to the school development plan.