

Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre Board Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
Sask DLC Saskatoon High School Campus

Attendees: The Honourable Minister Everett Hindley, Darren Gasper (Sask DLC Chief Executive Officer), Michelle Miller (Sask DLC Vice President of Corporate Services), Stephanie Ali (Sask DLC Executive Director of Communications), Courtney Ouellette (Sask DLC Executive Assistant)

Other attendees: N/A

Meeting called to order at: 10:40 a.m.

1. Information Item – Operational Changes Update

- a. Sask DLC is planning to implement a number of operational changes for the 2026-27 school year. These new operational changes have been shared with school divisions, in which we have had a lot of positive feedback, as well as good stakeholder feedback.
- b. New Operational Changes:
 - To have registration deadlines for part-time students about a month into the school year.
 - Common pacing for all courses (pacing to be on a week-by-week basis).
 - We are removing ability for students to transfer from a Semester 1 course into a Yearlong course to help students with staying on pace with their graduation planner.
 - Making an adjustment to our Levelling process to freeze students who are beyond level 3 which is six-weeks or more behind in effort to have them reach out and re-engage with their teacher to make a plan to get back on track. School divisions are in favour of this change.
 - We are building in a formal orientation period for the 2026-27 school year. The student will have to complete an orientation course to help set the student up for success and allows families to see if online learning is a good fit for the student.
 - Invoicing of Course Re-takes - The student has the opportunity to complete the course within the semester registered, but would need division approval to take a second time if necessary and the division would be invoiced for the re-take.

2. Decision Item – Guided Learning Expansion to Grade 2-6

- a. Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre (Sask DLC) recommends the continuation and phased expansion of the Kindergarten and Grade 1 guided

learning model into Grades 2–6 to improve student engagement, achievement, and instructional quality while ensuring a sustainable and fiscally responsible delivery model.

- Sask DLC is committed to continuous improvement to enhance student learning, engagement, and achievement across all grade levels.
 - Expanding guided learning into Grades 2–6 builds directly on the successful implementation in Kindergarten (2025–26) and upcoming Grade 1 (2026–27), creating a coherent K–6 pathway.
 - Guided learning combines the strengths of synchronous and asynchronous models, providing structured, teacher-led instruction while maintaining flexibility for families.
 - This shift aligns with provincial priorities in literacy and numeracy, Sask DLC’s mandate, and increasing family demand for structured, relational, teacher-supported learning focused on synchronous teaching of literacy skills.
- b. Current Learning Model (Synch/Asynch):
- Grades 2–6 currently operates through both asynchronous courses or synchronous live instruction.
 - Many courses were originally designed over 15 years ago and are not aligned with current instructional best practices or learner needs.
 - Asynchronous models provide flexibility but result in:
 - inconsistent student engagement and participation;
 - limited real-time instructional support;
 - increased reliance on families for instructional delivery;
 - challenges in monitoring student progress and ensuring accountability.
 - Teacher and student support data show significantly higher engagement, attendance, and achievement when students participate in live, structured **learning opportunities**.
- c. Recommendation:
- Implement a phased expansion of guided learning for Grades 2–6 from 2026–2029, ensuring quality, stability, and sustainability. Transition from multiple delivery models to a cohesive guided learning approach that includes: regular live instruction focused on literacy and numeracy;
 - structured routines and consistent teacher interaction;
 - flexible asynchronous supports and recorded sessions;
 - cross-curricular, project-based learning opportunities.
 - Align instructional delivery, assessment, and resource development to support:
 - Outcome-Based Assessment and reporting;
 - Dynamic Content Development;
 - Stronger alignment with the Assessment, Grading, and Communication Framework

- d. K–6 Guided Learning Rollout Timeline:
 - 2025–2026: Kindergarten
 - 2026–2027: Grade 1
 - 2027–2028: Grades 2–3
 - 2028–2029: Grades 4–6

- **Approved by Board Chair**

3. Information Item – Course Development Plan for 2026-27

- a. Sask DLC is initiating its 2026-27 development cycle to expand high demand workforce development related courses and renew online course offerings to adhere to our value of continuous improvement. These ensure students have access to industry-aligned, high-quality learning opportunities that support K-Career pathways.
- b. Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre (Sask DLC) continues to prioritize the development of K-Career Pathways, which provide students with clear, progressive routes from foundational 10-level courses to specialized 30-level certifications.
- c. For the 2026-27 development cycle (targeting delivery in 2027-28), Sask DLC has approved 13 new course developments and 9 course renewals.
- d. Strategic focus remains on aligning education with Saskatchewan's economic sectors, including Health, Energy and Mines, Building Trades, Transport, Fabrication and Manufacturing.
- e. Development is also focusing on earlier grades with the expansion of Practical and Applied Arts Pathway modules (Grades 7-9) to introduce career concepts before students enter high school.
- f. Current Status:
 - The 2026-27 development cycle focuses on bridging student engagement with industry-standard skills.
 - Energy and Mines 10
 - Fabrication and Manufacturing B10
 - Business B10
 - Electrical 30
 - Construction 30
 - Nursing and Patient Care 30
 - Emergency Services 20
 - AGRC 111
- g. Strategic Course Renewals
 - To ensure fiscal responsibility and maintain high quality, the following high-demand courses are slated for renewal
 - Pre-Calculus 20 & 30,
 - Calculus 30, and
 - Math 11,
 - Computer Science 20 & 30

- Photography 20
 - Welding 20
 - Exercise Science 30L
 - Mental Wellness 30L
 - ELA 20 & 30
 - ELA 11
 - ELA 20 and 30
- h. The course list may expand in the mining sector but this would be funding dependent.
 - i. Building Trades 10 courses – we are trying to expose students to these courses earlier on so would be able to specialize their specific pathway for their Grade 12 year and would be able to move onto Sask Poly more cohesively.
 - j. The same process will happen for the Business 10 course, followed by Business 20 and eventually Business 30.
 - k. We will also be beginning to work on the expansion of electrical and construction courses.
 - l. Healthcare programs – we are moving ahead with Nursing and Patient Care 30 and Emergency Services curriculums.
 - m. Introduction to Plans and Soil Sciences 30L course – students will receive a high school course credit as well as a University of Saskatchewan credit.
 - The cost will be covered by the school division, so families won't be out of pocket paying for the course, which is a huge win for students.
 - n. Photography 10 – the course is based on using iPhone or digital camera and the software around that.

4. Information Item – AI Project Update

- a. We submitted a request for proposals for an AI vendor and went through a scoring and selection process to pick the proponent, as well as focusing on staying within our budget.
- b. CGI was the forerunner and we looked at spending more time on the needs assessment side of things.
- c. We will be signing an agreement and will be starting to do the work in the fall, which will roughly take 3 – 6 months. This will help with building in Dynamic Content, help the teachers with assessment and will provide a student tool to help students interact within their assignments.
 - CGI will have with interviews with teachers to see what will work best for both teachers and students and come back with some recommendations.
- d. CGI has a Regina office and does do a lot of work within the Province of Saskatchewan.

5. Decision Item – Campus Name Change and Facilities Update

- a. Northwest School Division – the original location picked for our Sask DLC campus was Neilburg (main campus) and Meadow Lake (satellite location), both of which

are small campuses. We are looking at flipping these centers and having Meadow Lake as the main campus and Neilburg as the satellite location.

- Satellite campuses are not shown on our campus map.
- This change would happen in time for the new school year, have no staffing impact, have no impact to school divisions, or require any operational changes. Making these changes would give better alignment and create less confusion for students.
- Neilburg currently has 3-5 staff members.

6. Information Item – MOU Updates

- a. Meadow Lake Tribal Council
 - Renewal – They signed an MOU with to provide their high school students and adult learners easier access to taking online courses with us
- b. Virtual Health Hub
- c. Agreement has been signed to support rollout of Health Careers 20L and future health care course developments. Will highlight partnership further in the fall. Foundations Learning
- d. Signed a renewed agreement to support literacy and learning opportunities for children, youth and adults. We will highlight partnership on social media this spring. Sask Poly
 - Held event to announce partnership earlier today. This work will get going to align programs and expand student learning opportunities in 2026-27.
- e. Oil and Gas
 - We are in process of renewing agreements to continue providing industry supported work placements, now that development of both the 20 and 30 level courses is complete. Once agreement draft finalized, it will be shared with the Board.
- f. Tourism
- g. Confirmed that it will agreement with Tourism Saskatchewan in support of our Tourism 10,20 and 30 level courses will be renewed. Once agreement draft is finalized it will be shared with the Board. Autobody
 - The Saskatchewan Association of Automotive Repairers have confirmed their interest in renewing our MOU to continue supporting Autobody work placements for students. Once agreement draft is finalized it will be shared with the Board.

We will aim to set up next board meeting in August 2026.