

Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre Board Meeting Minutes

**March 5, 2026, 1:00 p.m.
Virtual Online Meeting**

Attendees: The Honourable Everett Hindley (Minister of Education), 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: 1:00 p.m.

1. Information Item – Mid-Year Student Enrollment Update

- a. As of March 1, 2026, Sask DLC is providing online education to 13,067 students, including:
 - 4,341 full-time online Kindergarten to Grade 12 students
 - 1,246 Kindergarten to Grade 9 students
 - 3,095 full-time online Grade 10 – 12 students
 - 8,265 part-time online Grade 10-12 students taking one or more courses online
 - 462 adults over the age of 22
- b. These students are taking approximately 41,402 online courses including:
 - 9,544 courses for Kindergarten to Grade 9 students (eight courses per grade)
 - 16,810 courses taken by part-time Grade 10-12 students
 - 13,674 courses taken by full-time Grade 10-12 students
 - 1,374 courses taken by adults over the age of 22
- c. Are there any themes we notice with enrollment growth?
 - The Kindergarten to Grade 6 age group is the most consistent with student enrolments.
 - For grade 7-9 we are noticing a lot of fluctuation, which begins in November or December and continues into March for a number of reasons including mental health, etc.
 - For grade 10-12 there is consistent growth throughout the school year.
 - The young adult age group (18-21 years old) is where we have the most influx, as they typically don't want to be in a brick-and-mortar school.
 - From September 30 on, we can have a growth of up to 1,500 students come in that are part of this age group.
 - This student group tends to have a variety of unique needs and tend to work on their courses outside of the regular school day.

2. Information Item – Work Placement Growth Update

- a. In the 2025-26 school year, more than 625 students are registered to take part in a work placement that will provide them hands-on learning opportunities at a local business. The interest in these work placement courses has grown significantly, growing by more than 160 registrations over last school year. We have also seen significant growth in the number of local businesses being willing to host placements.
- b. There are an additional 1,100 registrations in full online theory trades courses, demonstrating a keen interest in learning about these future career options.
- c. Sask DLC offers work placements to grade 10-12 students in 10 course pathways, including: Agriculture Equipment Technician, Autobody, Construction and Carpentry, Electrical, Energy and Mines - Oil & Gas, Mechanics and Automotive, Parts Technician, Precision Agriculture, Tourism and Welding.
- d. We are currently working on finalizing our February 28, 2026, enrolment numbers.

3. Discussion Item – 2026-27 School Calendar Update

- a. The Sask DLC 2025-26 school calendar meets all of the legislative and regulatory requirements and will be submitted to the Ministry of Education for review as required in the legislation.
- b. Current Status:
 - The first day of the 2026-27 school year for Sask DLC will take place Wednesday, September 2nd which is prior to Labour Day as it falls late in the calendar.
 - Professional Development days are scheduled for teaching staff.
 - Parent Teacher Student Conferences will take place over two evenings in each semester.
 - Semester two will start on February 1, 2027.
 - The last day of school will be on June 25, 2027.
 - Total instructional days are 182; total operational days are 195
 - Total teacher hours are 1023.75 which is below the maximum of 1044.
 - Total instructional hours are 955.5.
- c. Attachment provided (calendar)

4. Information Item - Sask Polytechnic MOU Update

- a. We have an MOU in process around aligning our programs with Saskatchewan Polytechnic (Sask Poly) and having additional experiences built in for students.
- b. The initial draft has been completed and will be sent to Sask Poly to review and suggest any revisions.
- c. Once Sask Poly has completed their revisions, it will need to go to the Board Chair for review.

- Next steps would be to prepare an announcement.

5. Information Item - Upcoming Events

a. Spring Events

- Health Careers 20L announcement will be March 24, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., with the location TBD.
- Oil & Gas Work Placement Event – hoping to do in May or June, which would align with the Oil & Gas Show in Weyburn
 - The plan would be to have a learning camp at the show for students who are able to attend.
- Sask Poly MOU – depending on timing of review from both parties, aiming for a spring announcement for agreement to be implemented in 2026-27 school year.
- Teacher Innovation Grant – as a follow up to the fall dry ice event held, the second part of the grant is STEM kits to be sent out to schools around the province, if they sign up (available for grades 2-8) Try A Trade Event – planning meeting coming up on March 12 to discuss the event logistics with the Industry and Education Council, but likely to be a 2026-27 event.

SASK DLC 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Aug 27 PD	Aug 28 PD	Aug 29
Aug 30	Aug 31 PD	1 PD	2 FD	3	4	5
6	7 S	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 PD			

OCTOBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 S	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 S	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 PD	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 NS	22 NS	23 NS	24 NS	25 S	26
27	28 NS	29 NS	30 NS	31 NS		

JANUARY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 S	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 PD	29 PD	30
31						

FEBRUARY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 S	16 NS	17 NS	18 NS	19 NS	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 PD	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 S	27
28	29 NS	30 NS	31 NS			

APRIL						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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16	17	18	19	20	21 PD	22
23	24 S	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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6	7	8	9	10	11 Grad	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 LD	26
27	28 PD	29 PD	30			

JULY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 S	2 FDSS	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 LDSS	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

LEGEND

FD/LD Student First / Last Day
PD Staff Only PD

NS No School
FDSS / LDSS First day / Last day of Summer School

S Stat Holidays
Grad Graduation Day