

# Business Plan

2024-25

Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre

*Saskatchewan!* 

# Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Everett Hindley  
Minister of Education and Minister Responsible for Sask DLC*

As Minister of Education, I am pleased to present the 2024–25 Business Plan for Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre (Sask DLC).

Saskatchewan’s vision is to be the best place in Canada to live, work, get an education and build a life. Achieving this vision means ensuring every student—regardless of location, background, or circumstance—has access to high-quality, flexible and inclusive learning opportunities. Sask DLC plays a critical role in realizing this goal by delivering responsive, innovative and effective online education to Saskatchewan’s students.

Since its establishment in December 2022, Sask DLC has been meeting the uniquely diverse and evolving needs of Saskatchewan students. With a focus on personalized learning, real-world skills and career exploration, Sask DLC supports the government’s commitment to educational excellence and lifelong learning.

This business plan outlines Sask DLC’s strategic priorities, including improving reading proficiency in early grades, increasing high school credit achievement and expanding relationships with education sector partners to create new opportunities for students. These goals reflect a shared responsibility to ensure that every student is supported on their learning path from Kindergarten-to-career.

The Government of Saskatchewan remains committed to working with Sask DLC to ensure that all students can achieve their full potential—wherever they live and however they learn. I commend the leadership, staff and partners of Sask DLC for their dedication to continuous improvement, fiscal responsibility and preparing Saskatchewan students for their future.

# Government Vision and Goals

## Saskatchewan's Vision

**"...to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."**

>> Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2024-25 annual reports.

## Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre Overview

### Mandate

Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre (Sask DLC) was established in December 2022 to provide consistent, high-quality Kindergarten to Grade 12 online learning opportunities for Saskatchewan students of all ages and backgrounds.

### Mission

Sask DLC is dedicated to promoting life-long learning and contributing to a growing skilled labour force through providing Saskatchewan students, families and adults with high-quality online Kindergarten-to-career education.

### Vision

To be the best provider of Kindergarten to Grade 12 choice driven, flexible online learning in Canada, enabling students to be prepared for their future.

## Values

Sask DLC is dedicated to providing learning opportunities that are responsive to our students, families and communities to meet the needs of our growing and diverse province. We strive for educational excellence, leadership at all levels and a strong and inclusive work and learning culture that is accomplished through continuous improvement and growth in all aspects of our organization.

## Purpose Statement

The future of education is evolving to meet the diverse needs of students in an ever-changing world. These purpose statements describe a future where learning is inclusive, personalized and meaningful, fostering student success through innovation, connection and opportunity.

- **The future of learning is personalized** - it meets students where they are, offers equitable access to content and instruction suited to each student's strengths and interests and is focused on mastery of content and skills. It provides students with voice and choice in their learning.
- **The future of learning is limitless** - it empowers students to thrive in ways that align with their unique lives, aspirations and needs. With guidance and encouragement, students gain the tools and confidence to navigate their learning journey with purpose and success.
- **The future of learning is real-world** - students have a variety of course options that provide hands-on experiences that help students explore their areas of passion. Students will learn and develop skills that allow them to be successful in any path they choose.
- **The future of learning builds community** - students, no matter where they live in the province, feel part of a community in their learning and have opportunities to share their gifts, talents and culture through curricular and extracurricular opportunities.
- **The future of learning offers pathways** - students have opportunities to explore future career options starting in the elementary grades and through their high school education to support them in making informed decisions about their future.
- **The future of learning fosters belonging** - students are at the center of all decisions and programs so they feel connected and supported as they take risks, learn and pursue a future that matters to them.

## Strategic Priorities

Sask DLC has identified six key strategic priorities that drive its long-term success and alignment with its mission. These priorities are:

- **Continuous Improvement:** Fostering an organizational culture that encourages all employees to identify opportunities and make incremental changes to processes to enhance all aspects of the organization.
- **Educational Excellence:** Sask DLC is dedicated to educational excellence that is accomplished through providing learning opportunities that are responsive to students, families and communities to meet the needs of our growing and diverse province.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Sask DLC is dedicated to responsibly managing public funds to ensure Saskatchewan students receive exceptional, effective and sustainable online learning from Kindergarten through to Grade 12. This investment in online education is a strategic move towards securing a brighter future for all.
- **Leadership:** Sask DLC embraces the concept of *leadership at all levels* by fostering a culture that encourages every individual in the organization to share commitment to and align with the direction and goals of the organization through collaboration and teamwork.

- **Strategic Partnerships:** Sask DLC is committed to fostering and expanding partnerships with school divisions, post-secondary institutions, businesses and industries to help Saskatchewan students explore potential career opportunities that support our growing province.
- **Workplace Excellence:** Sask DLC provides its employees with a safe environment and the resources they need to be motivated, engaged and empowered to provide quality services to the people of Saskatchewan.

## Goal 1: Build a data-driven culture at Sask DLC

Build a data-driven culture at Sask DLC to guide decision-making, enhance organizational performance and support the achievement of our mission and vision.

**Strategy:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Develop and implement a data governance framework to ensure accurate, secure and reliable student and staff data.

**Key Actions:** *What we will do to get there*

- Establish a data governance framework to standardize how data is collected, stored and reported.
- Provide data literacy training to staff to help them analyze and use data insights effectively.
- Conduct regular data audits and quality assessments to ensure data accuracy and reliability.
- Provide consistent and clear data to school divisions and schools on invoicing, student registration and achievements to best support our shared students.

**Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

### **Implementation of a data governance framework**

Successful implementation of a data governance framework that aligns with best practices and regulatory standards.

### **Reduction in data inconsistencies and errors**

Reduction in data inconsistencies and errors, confirmed through internal audit reports.

### **Target**

Achieve a 95 per cent data accuracy in internal audits.

## Goal 2: Reading proficiency for Grade 1 to Grade 3 students

Improve reading proficiency for Grade 1 to Grade 3 students to read at grade level or above.

**Strategy:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Use evidence-based teaching practices.

**Key Actions:** *What we will do to get there*

- Develop and implement a Structured Literacy Framework to improve reading skills through explicit, systematic and evidence-based instruction.
- Conduct regular reading assessments with students to track their progress and provide targeted intervention.

**Strategy:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Strengthen family engagement to support literacy development at home.

**Key Actions:** *What we will do to get there*

- Acquire resources and supports to help families promote literacy at home.

**Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

### **Reading improvement**

More students in Grade 1 to Grade 3 reading at or above grade level.

### **Reading assessment scores**

Improved reading assessment scores, measured through benchmark assessments.

### **Family participation**

Increased family participation in literacy support activities.

### **Target**

A five per cent increase in the number of Grade 1 to Grade 3 students reading at or above grade level by August 2025.

### Goal 3: High school credit achievement

Ensure more high school students earn the credits needed for graduation.

**Strategy:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Improve student engagement.

**Key Actions:** *What we will do to get there*

- Launch a structured homeroom program for full-time online students to encourage engagement, track progress and provide support.
- Require Professional Learning Networks (PLNs), made up of subject or grade specific teachers, to set measurable engagement goals aligned with student success.
- Ensure each Sask DLC Campus sets specific engagement goals to support increased course completion.
- Ensure students receive the targeted supports and resources needed for success.

**Strategy:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Implement tailored support programs to meet the needs of different types of learners.

**Key Actions:** *What we will do to get there*

- Assign dedicated teachers to support adult learners in completing their online courses.

**Strategy:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Offer professional development opportunities for teachers.

**Key Actions:** *What we will do to get there*

- Offer a Collaborative Learning Cycle professional development series for campus administrators and PLN Leads to use data to set and achieve goals related to student engagement and success.



**Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

**Student success improvement**

Improved student success, including more credits earned and course completed.

**Educator skill enhancement**

Strengthened teacher skills to better support student learning through professional development.

**Adult learner success**

More adult learner successfully completing the credit they need.

**Target**

A two per cent increase in overall credit attainment by August 2025.

## Goal 4: Build and strengthen partnerships

Build and strengthen partnerships with educational institutions, government, businesses, community organizations, to improve student learning and success.

**Strategy:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Enhance career awareness and readiness through strategic partnerships

**Key Actions:** *What we will do to get there*

- Develop a strategic partnership plan that will identify key strategic partnerships that align with the 10 career pathway areas that define Sask DLC high school programming.
- Engage and partner with post-secondary institutions, businesses, government and workforce development organizations within each career pathway to explore collaborative resources and opportunities that support student career development and exploration.
- Foster partnerships that enable students to participate in hands-on learning and work placements that allow them to explore future career paths, post-secondary training and workforce opportunities.

**Strategy:** *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Expand equitable access to online learning opportunities through strategic partnerships.

**Key Actions:** *What we will do to get there*

- Work closely with school divisions across the province, fostering open dialogue, addressing questions or concerns and promoting the opportunities online learning provides for students.
- Build strong relationships with Indigenous education organizations to ensure Indigenous students in the province have seamless access to online courses offered by Sask DLC.
- Collaborate with post-secondary institutions to create clear and accessible pathways for students transitioning from high school to further education or workforce training, ensuring students can easily navigate their next steps.
- Partner with community organizations and educational institutions to create initiatives that provide flexible and inclusive access to online high school courses, ensuring all students, including those facing barriers, have the support they need to succeed.
- Leverage technology partnerships to improve digital accessibility, enhance course delivery and equip students with the tools necessary for effective online learning, including devices and internet access where needed.

**Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

**Increased Stakeholder Satisfaction**

Positive feedback from stakeholders, including educational institutions, community organizations, businesses and government partners, on the effectiveness and impact of our partnerships.

**Enhanced Online Learning Access**

Improved access to online learning education for students across Saskatchewan, particularly for underserved communities, including adult students and those facing economic barriers.

**Engagement in Career Pathway Programs and Activities**

Increased student participation in career readiness programs and other career development activities.

**Target**

A 10 per cent increase in student engagement in career pathways programs by the end of the 2024-25 school year.