

Business Plan

2025-26

Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre

saskDLC.ca



Statement from the Minister



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

As Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre, I am pleased to present the organization's 2025–26 Business Plan.

Saskatchewan's vision is to be the best place in Canada to live, work, learn and build a fulfilling life. Realizing this vision requires a strong commitment to ensuring that every student—regardless of their location, background or personal circumstance—has equitable access to learning opportunities. Sask DLC plays an important role in achieving this goal by delivering high-quality, flexible and inclusive online education to students across every region of the province.

Since beginning its first school year in September 2023, Sask DLC has continued to grow and evolve to meet the diverse needs of Saskatchewan students. With a focus on personalized learning, the development of practical skills and meaningful career exploration, Sask DLC supports the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to educational excellence and lifelong learning for all students.

Sask DLC's efforts ensure that students not only achieve academic success but also gain the confidence and necessary skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

This business plan outlines the organization's key strategic priorities for the coming year, including the continued support of student success, supporting the needs of Saskatchewan students who are learning English as an Additional Language and building and strengthening partnerships with school divisions and industry partners to expand 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 its support of Sask DLC's mandate to ensure that all students can achieve their full potential—wherever they live and however they choose to learn. I commend the leadership, staff and partners of Sask DLC for their dedication to supporting the foundational pillars of Saskatchewan's *Provincial Education Plan 2030* by promoting strong academic success and increasing student engagement.

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 2025-26 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 lifelong 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.

Value Statement

Sask DLC is committed 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 Statements

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: Foster data-driven culture to enable continuous improvement and informed decision-making

Expanding data-driven culture at Sask DLC will guide decision-making, enhance organizational performance and inform improvement efforts to achieve our mission and vision. This work enables Sask DLC to deliver on its mandate and meet quality assurance standards and responsibilities prescribed in the legislation and the provincial quality assurance framework.

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

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

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

- Continue to implement a data governance framework to standardize how data is collected, stored and reported.
- Continue to offer security awareness training and campaigns to advance maturity of the information security system.
- Leverage course development data to support financial planning, ensuring public investments in online education are efficient, sustainable and aligned with student learning needs.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Staff Security Awareness Training Completion Rate

- Measure the percentage of staff who have successfully completed remediation training and demonstrated the ability to recognize simulated threat or attack emails (e.g., phishing tests). Target: 100 per cent staff participation in the awareness campaign.

Increase System Integrations

- Track percentage of core applications integrated with secure single sign-on technology, to ensure employee data remains accurate and protected and to enforce access controls during employee transitions. Target: 95 per cent core applications are integrated to single sign-on.

Course Development Cost Analysis

- Analyze course development data and set benchmarks to ensure courses are valuable and meaningful to students, efficient and sustainable. Target: Complete analysis and set course development benchmarks.

Goal 2: Develop English as an Additional Language Resources

Sask DLC is committed to supporting the needs of all Saskatchewan students who are learning English as an Additional Language (EAL). Sask DLC is working to develop EAL resources for students and school divisions. This work will contribute to supporting students in achieving their language and learning goals. Provision of EAL supports is a foundational block towards students' achieving strong academic success, increasing engagement and supporting students in reaching their overall graduation plans as outlined in Saskatchewan's *Provincial Education Plan 2030*.

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

Increase the availability of EAL supports for teachers and students across the province.

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

- Collaborate with partner school divisions and community-based organizations to curate a collection of EAL resources and ensure province-wide access at no cost through Sask DLC's Resource Bank.
- Establish a process to identify Sask DLC EAL learners and evaluate their language proficiency.
- Support Sask DLC teachers with instruction, adaptations and assessment to support EAL learners.

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

Provide students with opportunities to develop language skills through new and enhanced programming.

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

- Design online elective credit courses to develop English language proficiency for students in grades 10-12.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Availability of EAL Resources and Credit Courses

- Measure the number and types of supporting resources developed for teachers and students. Target: Increase availability of resources for teachers and students by August 31, 2026.

Number of EAL Students Completing Assessments

- Measure the number of full-time online Sask DLC EAL students who complete EAL assessments and have a learning plan. The target is to increase number of EAL students who completed assessments and have a learning plan. Currently, Sask DLC is establishing the baseline.

Goal 3: Increase course completion rates

Ensuring more students complete Sask DLC courses supports increases in credit attainment and in overall graduation rates. More students graduating contributes to a stronger Saskatchewan through an educated and engaged population. It also supports economic growth through the availability of a skilled workforce.

This work aligns with Saskatchewan's *Provincial Education Plan 2030*, which emphasizes student engagement, academic success and graduation outcomes. It also contributes to the *Saskatchewan Growth Plan 2030* by strengthening the province's labour force and preparing students for post-secondary education and employment.

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

Enhance student engagement and tailored student supports.

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

- Implement Guided Learning framework for Kindergarten and high school core courses (math, science, social studies and English Language Arts) to support student achievement.
- Require Professional Learning Networks (PLNs), made up of subject or grade specific teachers, to set measurable engagement goals aligned with supporting student success.
- Ensure each Sask DLC campus sets specific engagement goals to support increased course completion.

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

Expand professional development opportunities and student learning supports.

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

- Deliver Collaborative Learning Cycle professional development series for campus administrators and PLN Leads on setting and achieving student engagement and success goals.
- Deliver student sessions focusing on learning in a digital environment, career readiness and post-secondary success.
- Explore options to responsibly leverage AI tools to enhance instructional design, support professional development and create personalized learning opportunities for students.

Performance Measure: *What success looks like*

Course Completion Rate

- Recognizing the unique needs of each student group, Sask DLC established course completion rate targets based on student learning groups and mode of learning. Completion rate measures the percentage of students who remain enrolled after the initial 30-day grace drop period. This metric accounts for all students who complete the course, irrespective of whether they pass or fail. Target: Maintain and/or increase 2024-25 course completion rates for each student group.

Educator Skills Enhancement

- Tracks professional development (PD) opportunities that strengthen teacher skills to support student learning, including completion of professional growth plans (PGPs) and implementation of the *Leader in Me* Program. Target: All teachers have completed their PGPs. Sask DLC continued to offer diverse PD opportunities and to implement the *Leader in Me* Program.

Number of Student Engagement/ Learning Activities

- Tracks the number of student field trips and excursions organized in 2025-26 school year. Target: Establish a centralized committee to guide and promote student learning events across Sask DLC, with the goal of increasing the number and diversity of student learning and engagement activities.

Course Development and Renewal Rates

- Measures the percentage of planned new courses that are fully developed and ready for delivery within the reporting period. Target: 90 per cent of planned new courses are fully developed and ready for delivery by August 31, 2026.
- Measures the number of existing courses that have undergone content updates, accessibility improvements and redesigns to maintain quality and relevance. Target: Increase the number of renewed courses by 10 per cent compared to 2024–25, with a focus on accessibility and relevance.

Goal 4: Build and strengthen partnerships with school divisions and industry to expand student opportunities

Sask DLC plays a pivotal role in delivering flexible, innovative online education that meets the diverse needs of students across the province, regardless of their location. Through strategic partnerships with school divisions, post-secondary institutions, training providers, community organizations, government, business and industry, Sask DLC helps students prepare for a wide range of career and life pathways.

This work aligns with *The Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy*, which emphasizes responsive education and training to support workforce development. Sask DLC helps build a skilled and agile labour force by connecting students to career exploration and real-world experiences, supporting them in making informed decisions about their future. These efforts also support the *Saskatchewan Growth Plan 2030* goal of creating an agile, integrated education and training system.

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*

- Foster strong stakeholder relationships to increase awareness of Sask DLC's educational offerings, priorities and impact across the province.
- Cultivate partnerships and develop programming to support Saskatchewan's workforce development priorities, specifically in healthcare, mining, energy production and trades.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Education to advance the Provincial Education Plan focusing on student transition through education and into career pathways.
- Continue to partner with education, government, businesses and workforce development stakeholders to strengthen student transitions and career development through accessible, clear pathways and collaborative resources within each career pathway.
- Expand hands-on learning and work placement offerings for students, enabling exploration of career pathways, post-secondary options and future employment 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 and schools across the province, fostering open dialogue, addressing questions or concerns and promoting the opportunities online learning provides for students.
- Build strong relationships with Indigenous communities and partners to ensure Indigenous students in the province have seamless access to online courses offered by Sask DLC.

- Leverage partnerships with stakeholders to expand flexible and inclusive online high school learning opportunities, while supporting equitable digital access for students experiencing barriers.

Performance Measure: *What success looks like*

Increased Stakeholder Engagement and Awareness

- Track number of stakeholder engagement activities conducted and level of awareness of Sask DLC offerings. Target: Sustain and expand engagement efforts to enhance visibility and understanding of Sask DLC programming.
- Measure number of formalized partnerships, including ongoing, renewed and newly established agreements. Target: Maintain existing relationships while actively pursuing new partnerships that support additional opportunities for students.

Enhanced Online Learning Access

- Improved access to online learning education for students across Saskatchewan, particularly for underserved communities, including adult learners and those facing economic barriers.
- Measure number of students enrolled with Sask DLC by student groups (i.e., full-time online, grade 10-12 part-time online, young adult and adult learners) and the number of online courses taken. Target: Sustain or increase 2024–25 enrolment and course registration levels, specifically more than 13,000 students taking over 44,000 courses. Ensure equal access to learning opportunities across Saskatchewan, with a focus on meeting the diverse needs of students, families and communities.
- Measure number of students who received technological hardware (i.e., laptops). Target: Ensure timely and equitable access to online learning by reviewing student support requests promptly and providing appropriate devices to eligible students, with a focus on reducing barriers to online education.
- Measure number of Online Learning Facilitators (OLFs) and number of schools with an OLF. Target: Continue to provide in-person support to students by expanding access to OLFs across the province.

Enrolment in Career Pathway Programs and Activities

- Measure student participation in career readiness programs and other career development activities. Target: A 10 per cent increase in student enrolment in Practical and Applied Arts courses, including those with work placements and other experiential learning opportunities, by the end of the 2025-26 school year.

Link to Learn More Information: [Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre \(Sask DLC\)](#)