EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Recommendation Report

Date	November 24, 2026
To	Board of Trustees
From	Ron Thompson, Superintendent of Schools
Subject	Confirmation of Compliance with the *Provincial Strategic Priorities for Education Regulation*
Originator	Kelsey Duebel, Director Board and Superintendent Relations
Resource Staff	Nancy Petersen, Wanas Radwan
Reference	*An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms and Amend the Education Act, 2026 (formerly Bill 25)* 2026-30 Four-Year Education Plan - Year 1 (2026-27) *Provincial Strategic Priorities for Education Regulation*

ISSUE

As part of the implementation for the Alberta *Provincial Strategic Priorities for Education Regulation*, school authorities must provide an accountability statement for compliance with the *Provincial Strategies Priorities for Education Regulation* to the Ministry of Education and Childcare by December 1, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That the accountability statement for compliance with the *Provincial Strategic Priorities for Education Regulation* be approved.

BACKGROUND

On October 31, 2026, the *Provincial Strategic Priorities for Education Regulation* (the Regulation) came into force. This regulation supports new requirements set out in *An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms and Amend the Education Act, 2026* (formerly Bill 25).

In the first year of the Regulation's implementation (2026/27), school authorities must provide confirmation to the Ministry of Education and Childcare using an accountability statement for compliance with the Regulation (see Attachment I). The accountability statement includes the following requirements:

- That a review of the Board of Trustees' (the Board) 2026/27 Education Plan is completed in accordance with the requirements of the Regulation.
- The Board confirms the Education Plan aligns with the provincial strategic priorities of Strong Foundations, Academic Mastery, and Engaged and Responsible Members of Society and includes outcomes, measures, and strategies that will enable the school authority to report results related to each priority in its 2026/27 Annual Education Results Report (AERR).

- Where necessary, update the Education Plan or identify actions that will be taken to achieve alignment with the provincial strategic priorities and improve student learning and results.

RELATED FACTS

- In the 2027/28 year of implementation and beyond, the Ministry of Education and Childcare will incorporate the provincial strategic priorities into the Funding Manual for School Authorities.
- The 2026-30 Four-Year Education Plan: Year One was approved at the May 26, 2026, Board meeting.
- The Division's accountability to the provincial priorities will be reflected starting in the 2026/27 AERR.

CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

A mapping exercise has been completed to identify and confirm broad alignment of the priorities and goals in the 2026-30 Four-Year Education Plan with the provincial strategic priorities of Strong Foundations, Academic Mastery, and Engaged and Responsible Members of Society (see Attachment II). Details and rationale for the findings of this mapping are outlined below.

Provincial Strategic Priority: Strong Foundations

- EPSB Priority 1 | Goals 1 & 2: The Division's first priority of expanding impactful and innovative learning for all students supports the province's priority of strong foundations in reading, writing and mathematics for academic success. In particular, the Division's goals of supporting engaging and evidence-based learning opportunities and professional learning to support the diverse learning needs of all students are critical for the development of foundational skills and appropriate interventions for students.

Provincial Strategic Priority: Academic Mastery

- EPSB Priority 1 | Goals 1, 2 & 3: The Division's primary focus on expanding impactful and innovative learning for all students is directly in alignment with the provincial priority for students to demonstrate academic mastery in environments where striving for improvement and excellence is valued, and students are provided with high-quality and academically challenging instruction. In particular, the Division's goals of supporting engaging and evidence-based learning opportunities, professional learning to support the diverse learning needs of all students and equipping students for our changing contexts are critical for academic mastery.
- EPSB Priority 2 | Goals 1 & 2: The Division's second priority of advancing anti-racism, Truth and Reconciliation, and inclusion to support student learning, and particularly the goal of addressing systemic barriers to students' academic success, contributes to the provincial priority of high-quality and rigorous education programs and a continuum of supports and services that enable students to reach their full potential. In addition, the goal of recognizing and celebrating every student on their learning journey aligns with the provincial priority of providing an environment where striving for improvement and excellence is valued.
- EPSB Priority 3 | Goals 1 & 2: The Division's third priority of centering good relationships to enhance belonging, safety and well-being for students and staff, and particularly the goal to strengthen trusting relationships among students, staff, families, and communities is a critical component of providing rigorous education programs and an effective continuum of supports and services that enables students to reach their full potential, as outlined in the provincial strategic priority.

Provincial Strategic Priority: Engaged and Responsible Members of Society

- EPSB Priority 1 | Goal 3: The Division's goal to equip students to meet the needs of a changing society, workforce, and climate is directly supportive of the provincial priority for students to be engaged and responsible members of society and specifically to develop a comprehensive understanding of their rights and responsibilities as members of society, support active citizenship, and contribute to the common good.
- EPSB Priority 2 | Goals 1 & 2: The Division's second priority of advancing anti-racism, Truth and Reconciliation, and inclusion to support student learning is aligned with the provincial priority for students to develop a strong appreciation and understanding of our shared history and democratic institutions, thereby contributing to a sense of civic pride and responsible citizenship. In addition, this EPSB priority and its goals are important aspects for students developing the habits of mind that support active citizenship, including critical inquiry, respectful dialogue and an understanding of their personal and community responsibilities in contributing to the common good.
- EPSB Priority 3 | Goals 1 & 2: The Division's third priority of centering good relationships to enhance belonging, safety and well-being for students and staff, and its corresponding goals of strengthening relationships and deepening understanding of, connection to, and respect for the land are aligned with the provincial priority for students to be engaged and responsible members of society, for responsible citizenship, and supporting an understanding of personal and community responsibilities in contributing to the common good.

The outcomes, strategies, and measures in the Division's Four Year Education Plan support the delivery and measurement of its priorities and goals and thereby further support the Division's ability to report results on the provincial strategic priorities.

The Board is required to submit an accountability statement for compliance with the Regulation by December 1, 2026. Approval of this recommendation will support meeting this deadline.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval, the Accountability Statement for Compliance with the Regulation will be shared with the Ministry of Education and Childcare by December 1, 2026.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I	Accountability Statement for Compliance with the Provincial Strategic Priorities for Education Regulation
ATTACHMENT II	Strategic Priorities High-Level Alignment Mapping

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ATTACHMENT I

Accountability Statement for Compliance with the Provincial Strategic Priorities for Education Regulation

The Board of Trustees (Board) of Edmonton School Division has reviewed its 2026/27 Education Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Provincial Strategic Priorities for Education Regulation. The Board confirms that the Education Plan aligns with the provincial strategic priorities of Strong Foundations, Academic Mastery, and Engaged and Responsible Members of Society and includes outcomes, measures, and strategies that will enable the school authority to report results related to each priority in its 2026/27 Annual Education Results Report (AERR).

Where necessary, the school authority updated its Education Plan or identified actions that will be taken to achieve alignment with the provincial strategic priorities and improve student learning and results.

The Board approved this statement and confirmed the school authority's compliance with the Provincial Strategic Priorities for Education Regulation on November 24, 2026.

ATTACHMENT II

Provincial Strategic Priorities

a) strong foundations, where

i) students will develop strong foundations in reading, writing and mathematics to enable future academic and life success, and

ii) literacy and numeracy screenings will support monitoring students' development of foundational skills and enable early identification to support appropriate interventions for students;

b) academic mastery, where

i) students will demonstrate mastery in reading, writing and mathematics within an environment where striving for improvement and excellence is valued, and

ii) students are provided with high-quality and academically challenging instruction, rigorous education programs and a continuum of supports and services that enables students to reach their full potential;

c) engaged and responsible members of society, where students will develop

i) a comprehensive understanding of their rights and responsibilities as Canadians, Albertans and members of society,

ii) a strong appreciation and understanding of our shared history and democratic institutions, thereby contributing to a sense of civic pride and responsible citizenship, and

iii) the habits of mind that support active citizenship, including critical inquiry, respectful dialogue and an understanding of their personal and community responsibilities in contributing to the common good.

EPSB Four Year Education Plan: Priorities and Goals

Priority 1: Expand impactful and innovative learning for all students

- Goal 1. Support all students to grow and learn through engaging, evidence-based learning opportunities.
- Goal 2. Promote professional learning and resources to support the diverse learning needs of all students.
- Goal 3. Equip students to meet the needs of a changing society, workforce and climate.

Priority 2: Advance anti-racism, Truth and Reconciliation, and inclusion to support student learning

- Goal 1. Take individual and collective action to address systemic barriers to students' academic success.
- Goal 2. Recognize and celebrate every student on their learning journey.

Priority 3: Centre good relationships to enhance belonging, safety and well-being for students and staff

- Goal 1. Strengthen trusting relationships among students, staff, families and communities.
- Goal 2. Deepen student and staff understanding of, connection to and respect for the land and environment.