

COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Background

Saskatchewan Community Schools are centres of learning and hope for their families and communities. The diverse learning needs of children and youth are met by incorporating a comprehensive range of effective educational practices.

Community Schools are responsive, inclusive, culturally affirming and academically challenging. The learning program and environment effectively build on strengths to address the needs of the communities they serve. As hubs for the delivery of an array of services and supports, they use collaborative approaches to achieve learning excellence and well-being for the entire community.

Community Schools are founded upon the principles of community education, which in turn have roots in community development. Community Schools build strong relationships with families, community members, and organizations.

Community Education is a unique education concept that embraces these beliefs:

- Education is a lifelong process;
- Everyone in the community - individuals, businesses, public and private agencies - shares responsibility for the mission of educating all members of the community; and
- Citizens have a right and a responsibility to be involved in determining community needs, identifying community resources, and linking those needs and resources to improve their community.

The four key components of the Saskatchewan Community Schools framework are:

1. The Learning Program,
2. Family and Community Partnerships,
3. Integrated Services, and
4. Community Development.

These four components work together to provide the comprehensive range of supports required for the education and well-being of children, youth, and their families. While the learning program is at the forefront of Community Schools, its success depends on the effectiveness of the other three components, which together provide the foundation for critical supports to its effectiveness and to the success of the students in the school.