
COMBINED ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT 2019-2020 & 3 YEAR EDUCATION PLAN 2020-2023



NorthStar
A C A D E M Y
Any Time. Any Place.



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Combined May 2020 Accountability Pillar Overall Summary

Measure Category	Measure	NorthStar Academy			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
		Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Safe and Caring Schools	Safe and Caring	100.0	100.0	97.7	89.4	89.0	89.2	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Student Learning Opportunities	Program of Studies	96.6	98.0	96.2	82.4	82.2	82.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	Education Quality	100.0	100.0	98.9	90.3	90.2	90.1	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	Drop Out Rate	5.9	4.2	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.7	Intermediate	n/a	n/a
	High School Completion Rate (3 yr)	47.8	53.9	50.5	79.7	79.1	78.4	Very Low	Maintained	Concern
Student Learning Achievement (Grades K-9)	PAT: Acceptable	n/a	1.7	2.2	n/a	73.8	73.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
	PAT: Excellence	n/a	0.9	0.9	n/a	20.6	20.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Student Learning Achievement (Grades 10-12)	Diploma: Acceptable	n/a	78.2	81.2	n/a	83.6	83.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Diploma: Excellence	n/a	20.4	21.9	n/a	24.0	23.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams)	26.1	29.4	32.4	56.4	56.3	55.6	Very Low	Maintained	Concern
	Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	83.3	91.5	84.3	66.6	64.8	63.5	Very High	n/a	n/a
Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship	Transition Rate (6 yr)	47.6	41.5	41.2	60.1	59.0	58.5	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable
	Work Preparation	100.0	100.0	100.0	84.1	83.0	82.7	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	Citizenship	93.3	97.1	96.8	83.3	82.9	83.2	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Parental Involvement	Parental Involvement	97.3	100.0	100.0	81.8	81.3	81.2	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Continuous Improvement	School Improvement	100.0	100.0	95.6	81.5	81.0	80.9	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

Notes:

- Data values have been suppressed where the number of respondents/students is fewer than 6. Suppression is marked with an asterisk (*).
- Overall evaluations can only be calculated if both improvement and achievement evaluations are available.
- Student participation in the survey was impacted between 2014 and 2017 due to the number of students responding through the OurSCHOOL/TTFM (Tell Them From Me) survey tool.
- Aggregated PAT results are based upon a weighted average of percent meeting standards (Acceptable, Excellence). The weights are the number of students enrolled in each course. Courses included: English Language Arts (Grades 6, 9, 9 KAE); Français (6e et 9e année); French Language Arts (6e et 9e année); Mathematics (Grades 6, 9, 9 KAE); Science (Grades 6, 9, 9 KAE); and Social Studies (Grades 6, 9, 9 KAE).
- Participation in Provincial Achievement Tests was impacted by the fires in May to June 2016 and May to June 2019. Caution should be used when interpreting trends over time for the province and those school authorities affected by these events.
- Aggregated Diploma results are a weighted average of percent meeting standards (Acceptable, Excellence) on Diploma Examinations. The weights are the number of students writing the Diploma Examination for each course. Courses included: English Language Arts 30-1; English Language Arts 30-2; French Language Arts 30-1; Français 30-1; Mathematics 30-1; Mathematics 30-2; Chemistry 30; Physics 30; Biology 30; Science 30; Social Studies 30-1; and Social Studies 30-2.
- Participation in Diploma Examinations was impacted by the fires in May to June 2016 and May to June 2019. Caution should be used when interpreting trends over time for the province and those school authorities affected by these events.
- Weighting of school-awarded marks in diploma courses increased from 50% to 70% in the 2015/16 school year. Caution should be used when interpreting trends over time.
- 2016 results for the 3-year High School Completion and Diploma Examination Participation Rates have been adjusted to reflect the correction of the Grade 10 cohort.
- Improvement evaluations are not calculated for school and school authority Drop Out and Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility rates. Starting in 2019, an updated methodology was applied to more accurately attribute results in cases where students receive programming from more than one provider within a school year. Caution should be used when interpreting school and school authority results over time.



Mission

NorthStar Academy provides exemplary Christian education for students at home and abroad.

Vision Statement

NorthStar Academy utilizes both traditional learning and innovative technology to deliver excellent Christian education experiences. We partner with families to guide students in the development of a Biblical worldview that will forever shape their lives.

Slogan

Connected by Christ, Committed to Learning

NorthStar Academy is an Education from Home Specialist!

NorthStar Academy offers an online program, a paper-based resource program, a shared responsibility (blended) program, and a parent-directed home schooling program, all of which are customized to meet the needs of each student. With these four choices to help support Christian Education, NorthStar Academy is meeting the individual needs of its students.

Online

Our Alberta accredited education for grades 1 to 12 provides students with the highest quality online education which we deliver in an asynchronous mode. NorthStar Academy has a history of excellent Evangelical Christian Education and has developed our online school to be effective, while ensuring a dynamic learning environment for our students around the world.

Print Based Resource Program

God has given each child unique gifts and with NorthStar's Print Based Resource Program, students learn with education that is tailored to their interests, abilities and needs.

Shared Responsibility (Blended) Program

In this program students do part of their schooling using the online and/or print based resource model and part using a home education (parent-directed) model.

Parent Directed Home Schooling

NorthStar Academy is an education from home specialist and we encourage and support families who desire to meet the individual needs and abilities of their children through traditional home schooling.



Plans for 2020-2021

NorthStar Academy continues to experience growth. Over the last five years we more than doubled our student population and this year we have increased by 250%. We are now providing anywhere learning to 1850 students! With this explosive growth comes the challenge of finding enough teachers and support staff to take on the work. God has blessed us by sending us 14 new teachers and 5 new support staff who are an excellent fit for our school. With so many new students the staff are exploring a variety of mechanisms to engage with their students such as: Google Hangouts for weekly face to face time, class newsletters, discussion forum check-ins in Moodle, and weekly progress updates.

The number of students with identified learning needs has increased in recent years. We have introduced Learning Support Team meetings for our elementary, junior high, and senior high students and added a support staff member who is working directly with students to encourage and support them.

Our Activity Days program has been refined to offer COVID-19 friendly opportunities to our students. Most activities now involve small groups who follow the safety protocols of the school and the venue we are visiting. Some of our “regular” events have been adapted or cancelled but students are still getting the opportunity to learn and to connect through this program.

We recognized a need to bring our senior high students together to strengthen the sense of community amongst them. “Limitless” has proven to be a successful tool for allowing students to get to know each other and build community. The focus of activities this year has shifted to include service projects such as volunteering at Samaritan’s Purse.





Summary of Accomplishments

The NorthStar graduating class of 2020 experienced grad differently this year. COVID-19 prevented us from gathering as a group but students were recognized individually and all received grad gifts to assist them in their post-secondary adventures.

COVID-19 impacted our second semester diploma exams and provincial achievement tests so we do not have information on these two academic sign posts. Historically, our parents clearly appreciate the NSA program as our accountability pillar measures of Safe and Caring, Program of Studies, Education Quality, Work Preparation, Citizenship, Parental Involvement and School Improvement are in the excellent category with all ratings in the high 90's or 100%.

The fall was a particularly busy time for NorthStar as we processed over 1800 registrations, hired additional staff, and wrestled with publishers to get resources out to our students. 2020-2021 has been and looks to continue to be a most interesting year!

Outcome One: Alberta's students are successful



Outcome One: Alberta's students are successful (continued)

Performance Measure	Results (in percentages)					Target 2020	Evaluation			Targets		
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		Achievement	Improvement	Overall	2021	2022	2023
High School Completion Rate – Percentage of students who completed high school within three years of entering Grade 10.	43.1	57.1	40.6	53.9	47.8	50.0	Very Low	Maintained	Concern	50.0	50.0	50.0
Percentage of students writing four or more diploma exams within three years of entering Grade 10.	31.6	39.5	28.4	29.4	26.1	30.0	Very Low	Maintained	Concern	30.0	30.0	30.0
Drop Out Rate - annual dropout rate of students aged 14 to 18	5.1	5.1	0.0	4.2	5.9	3.0	High	Maintained	Good	3.0	3.0	3.0
High school to post-secondary transition rate of students within six years of entering Grade 10.	43.7	48.3	33.6	41.5	47.6	45.0	Low	Maintained	Issue	45.0	45.0	45.0
Percentage of Grade 12 students eligible for a Rutherford Scholarship.	56.8	72.5	88.9	91.5	83.3	80.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent	80.0	80.0	80.0

Comment on Results

- NSA's diploma exam results have historically been strong for both the acceptable standard and for the standard of excellence for all subjects. The data on high school completion rate varies widely, as does the drop-out rate. This data is not reliable, likely due to the number of part-time students enrolled at NSA.
- The six year transition to post-secondary is lower than the provincial value but many of our students are involved in non-traditional post-secondary experiences such as YWAM, Capernwray, and other service/leadership programs.
- The percentage of students writing four or more diploma exams is greatly impacted by our high number of part-time students. As well, many home education families are supportive of their children choosing a narrower focus for their secondary education than other families.

Strategies

- We will continue to develop our school's social presence (from the Community of Inquiry framework) by intentionally building student engagement opportunities and strategies into our online courses and by fostering a sense of community and belonging throughout our school as a whole.
- During our monthly PD workshops, we will focus on Powerful Learning by exploring how some specific instructional strategies can be employed within our teaching context.
- All our grade 1-9 teachers will develop their knowledge and skills to foster the implementation of meaningful synchronous online instruction, as mandated by Alberta Education's Online Learning Authority for the 2021-2022 school year.





Outcome One: Alberta’s students are successful (continued)

Performance Measure	Results (in percentages)					Target	Evaluation			Targets		
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019	Achievement	Improvement	Overall	2020	2021	2022
Percentage of teachers, parents and students who are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship.	91.9	97.5	94.6	98.6	97.1	92.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent	92.0	92.0	92.0

Comment on Results
 Historically, NSA’s results on these measures are second to none. This continues to be the trend.

Strategies
 NSA will continue to share with parents the work we are doing to promote Christian character in our students.

Outcome Two: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in Alberta are successful

Performance Measure	Results (in percentages)					Target	Evaluation			Targets		
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Achievement	Improvement	Overall	2020	2021	2022
High School Completion Rate – Percentage of self-identified FNMI students who completed high school within three years of entering Grade 10.	*	n/a	n/a	*	*		*	*	*			
Percentage of self-identified FNMI students writing four or more diploma exams within three years of entering Grade 10.	*	n/a	n/a	*	*		*	*	*			
Drop Out Rate - annual dropout rate of self-identified FNMI students aged 14 to 18	*	*	*	0.0	0.0		Very High	Maintained	Excellent			
High school to post-secondary transition rate of self-identified FNMI students within six years of entering Grade 10.	*	n/a	n/a	*	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a			
Percentage of Grade 12 self-identified FNMI students eligible for a Rutherford Scholarship.	n/a	*	*	*	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a			

Comment on Results

NorthStar Academy has too few FNMI students to receive any data on these measures.

Strategies

Our Activity Days have been expanded to include opportunities for students to learn about indigenous peoples and issues. A field study to Blackfoot Crossing Interpretive Center and day of indigenous studies (using a giant map) and soap stone carving have been planned. Staff are also engaging in PD to increase their awareness of the history of FNMI education in the province and its impacts upon students today.

A review of our online resources has identified a paucity of FNMI references and images. Finding and reviewing appropriate resources is a challenging task as most of our staff lack the context for this work. Division office will hopefully be able to provide some advice on how to proceed.

Outcome Three: Alberta has excellent teachers, school leaders, and school authority leaders

Performance Measure	Results (in percentages)					Target	Evaluation			Targets		
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Achievement	Improvement	Overall	2021	2022	2023
Percentage of teachers, parents and students satisfied with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies including fine arts, career, technology, and health and physical education.	90.9	92.4	98.3	98.0	96.6	90.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent	90.0	90.0	90.0

Comment on Results
 The satisfaction of teachers, parents, and students remains very high with the breadth of the program offered at NSA.

Strategies
 NSA will continue to seek feedback from parents as to what they desire to see as course offerings for their children. This has proven to be an effective strategy for promoting satisfaction among parents.



Outcome Four: Alberta's education system is well governed and managed

Performance Measure	Results (in percentages)					Target	Evaluation			Targets		
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020	Achievement	Improvement	Overall	2021	2022	2023
Percentage of teacher, parent and student agreement that: students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others and are treated fairly in school.	97.3	94.5	98.6	100.0	100.0	92.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent	92.0	92.0	92.0
Percentage of teachers, parents and students satisfied with the overall quality of basic education.	100.0	98.9	97.8	100.0	100.0	92.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent	92.0	92.0	92.0
Percentage of teachers and parents who agree that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school.	92.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	92.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent	92.0	92.0	92.0
Percentage of teachers, parents, and students satisfied with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies including fine arts, career, technology, and health and physical education.	90.9	92.4	98.3	98.0	96.6	92.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent	92.0	92.0	92.0
Percentage of teachers and parents satisfied with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education.	96.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	97.3	92.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent	92.0	92.0	92.0
Percentage of teachers, parents and students indicating that their school and schools in their jurisdiction have improved or stayed the same the last three years.	100.0	100.0	86.7	100.0	100.0	92.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent	92.0	92.0	92.0

Comment on Results

A 100.0% satisfaction rate is indicative of stakeholders who believe NSA is a caring community.

Strategies

NSA will continue to seek feedback from parents as to what they desire their child's education to look like. This has proven to be an effective strategy for promoting satisfaction among parents.

Our teachers and support staff will continue to connect with students and parents on a personal level through all of our communication channels. We will continue to model caring and respectful attitudes to our school community through all of our interactions but particularly through how we lead our Activity Days and Activity Clusters.

Budgeted Operating Expense 2020-2021			
			%
Allocation (includes prior year carry-over)		\$5,359,181.00	
Staffing	Certificated (Substitutes & Certificated Staffing)	\$2,817,828.00	52%
	Non-Certificated (Support & Other Staffing)	\$495,876.00	9%
Supplies & Services		\$2,045,477.00	39%