

Five Strategies

High school completion is a fundamental building block on which other educational and life goals are built; so when students do not complete high school, the toll on the quality of their individual lives is significant. To assist Alberta School Jurisdictions in successfully increasing their high school completion rates, Alberta Education has designed the High School Completion Strategic Framework around five areas for action: Student Engagement, Successful Transitions, Collaborative Partnerships, Positive Connections and Tracking Progress.

Strategy 1: Student Engagement

Student engagement occurs when students make a psychological investment in learning.

Student engagement is measured by the extent to which students identify with and value schooling outcomes, have a sense of belonging at school, participate in academic and nonacademic activities, strive to meet formal requirements of schooling and make serious personal investments in learning.

Strategy 2: Successful Transitions

Collaboration and coordination will help make school more relevant to students.

Off-campus education models, dual credits that allow students to participate in apprenticeship training and college courses, career-based opportunities and distributed learning environments are just a few of the options that can make school more relevant and accessible to students.

Strategy 3: Collaborative Partnerships

Approaches that are comprehensive, culturally sensitive, holistic and broadly-based are showing promise.

Providing access to a menu of activities and services in a safe environment helps improve student attainment, self-confidence, motivation and attendance. Examples of activities include study support opportunities, sport, music, art, special interest clubs, volunteering, and business activities.

Strategy 4: Positive Connections

Positive connections promote a sense of belonging and a motivation for students to learn.

Positive connections can be developed through a variety of avenues, including mentorship programs, career counseling, school liaison workers, student engagement projects, resource officers, or teachers who move with students from grades 10-12.

Strategy 5: Tracking Progress

Effective approaches will be identified using enhanced tracking of high school completion rates.

Tracking progress allows us to identify barriers and success factors related to high school completion.

Resources:

Managing School Transitions: Promises Practices in Alberta's Schools - English / Français

Your Key to Success: An Administrator's Guide to Raising Alberta's High School Completion Rate - English

To download copies of the resources, visit: www.education.alberta.ca/highschoolcompletion.

For additional information, please contact:

Pam Halverson, High School Completion Project Lead

9th Fl. 44 Capital Boulevard, 10044 - 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 5E6

Phone: 780-644-2282, toll-free by first dialing 310-0000. Deaf callers (with TTY equipment) 780-427-9999 in Edmonton or 1-800-232-7215 in other Alberta locations.

www.education.alberta.ca/highschoolcompletion

high SCHOOL COMPLETION strategic framework



High School Completion Strategic Framework

For links to the projects please visit: www.education.alberta.ca/highschoolcompletion/projects.aspx

Goal: To increase Alberta's High School Completion Rate					
Strategies	Student Engagement	Successful Transitions	Collaborative Partnerships	Positive Connections	Tracking Progress
Desired Outcomes	To ensure all learners are active contributors in what they learn, how they learn, and how they demonstrate their learning.	To support students as they progress through educational and personal changes.	To build integrated supports and services for students and their families.	To create a sense of belonging for students within the education system and the larger community.	To use a variety of information sources to remove barriers and identify strategies to improve student learning
Ongoing Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AISI Cycle 5 • Alberta Online Programs • English as a Second Language Programming • FNMI Collaborative Framework • Technology and High School Success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career and Technology Studies • Careers: The Next Generation • Green Certificate • Registered Apprenticeship Program • Skills Canada Alberta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Capacity Building Projects • Alberta's Approach to Collaborative Practices • Success in School for Children and Youth in Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta's Bullying Prevention Strategy • Health, Career and Life Management Curriculum • Speak Out –Alberta Student Engagement Initiative • Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability Pillar • Student Orientation to School Questionnaire
High School Completion Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging All Students • Learning for the 21st century Competencies • Advancing Adolescent Reading Initiative • High School Flexibility Enhancement Pilot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful Transitions for FNMI Youth • Dual Credit Options • Fast Forward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FNMI Parent Engagement • Strengthening Hope: Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Teens Completing High School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Mentoring Partnership: Integration into Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action on High School Success • Tell Them From Me Project: Measuring Student Engagement
Gaps Based on Jurisdiction Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase effective programming for English as a Second Language (ESL) English Language Learners (ELL, FNMI and Special Education students • Outreach Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve transitions from school to the workplace/post-secondary. • Expand student support and opportunities to experience the practical arts (CTS, K&E) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support drug prevention and intervention programs • Improve mental health supports • Expand opportunities to work with local business and community service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for students to increase intervention (counseling, resource workers, and success coaches). • Increase student engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring course completions • Support in-service to school leaders regarding general accountability

Alberta's High School Completion Progress Report

This Progress Report uses a variety of information sources to identify strategies that have a positive impact on high school completion rates.