

Education Re-Imagined:

12 Actions for Education

Advocacy Guide

If you or your community has an idea you'd like to make a reality, sharing your idea with decision makers, influential local leaders and creating champions for your project can help take your idea from concept to reality.

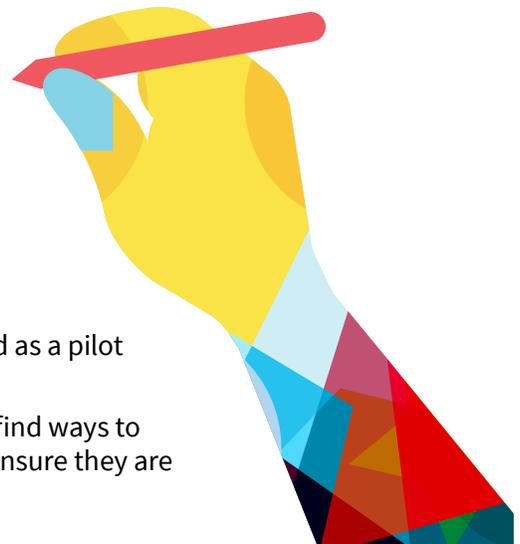
Saskatchewan's education sector has many partners who have authority and responsibility for different components of the system. Understanding who can make the change, who has influence over the decision and creating public support are all important components.

Below are some ways to help your idea come to life:

- Identify who the decision-making authority is and present your idea. Be ready to answer and ask questions and understand potential barriers so you can help find solutions.
- Talk to other sector partners to gain their support and champion your idea.
- Continue to share your idea with your community to raise awareness and understanding of the problem you are trying to solve and how your proposed solution would work.
- Create champions by providing vocal and supportive community members with information to speak to the idea.

Policy and system changes don't always happen quickly. When presenting your idea, consider:

- How your idea aligns with or supports existing government strategies and visions.
- The social and economic benefits and costs.
- What the risks could be and how to reduce them.
- How it could be scaled, implemented in phases, or introduced as a pilot project.
- What groups or individuals may be opposed, and why. Try to find ways to address their concerns and incorporate their ideas to either ensure they are neutral or supportive, rather than opposed.



Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education

Delivering public education is the responsibility of the Government of Saskatchewan. The Ministry of Education is an arm of government that is responsible for the sector. It is responsible for all legislation, funding and policy related to education. The Ministry of Education sets goals and priorities for education.

MLAs

Whether a member of government or the Opposition, your local MLA was elected to serve and represent you and your community.

You can find your MLA's contact information here: <https://www.legassembly.sk.ca/mlas/>.

If you're not sure who your MLA is, check your constituency here: <https://www.elections.sk.ca/voters/gis/>.

School Board Trustees, Conseil Scolaire, and Francophone Education Areas

School divisions are led by locally elected boards. As an elected representative, school board trustees have an obligation to hear from voters and represent their interests. Divisions cannot generate or raise their own money; rather they determine how to budget the funding provided by the government which is then approved by the Ministry of Education. Some of the divisions' responsibilities include:

- Hire staff.
- Provide and maintain facilities.
- Provide and manage student transportation.
- Set enrolment ages for kindergarten and grade.
- Provide the services needed for assessment and inclusion required of students with intensive needs.

School Community Council

School community councils are made up of people elected or appointed by community members. Divisions must establish a school community council for every school in the division. Councils facilitate community participation in school planning. They provide advice to the board, school staff and other agencies involved in the learning and development of students.

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation is the professional organization for teachers. Local associations, which are elected by members, are a subset of the Federation. The Federation:

- Represents and supports teachers.
- Establishes and maintains standards of professional ethics and practice for teachers.
- Represents teachers in collective bargaining.
- Provides resources for teachers and professional learning opportunities.

Saskatchewan League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents

LEADS provides leadership support to directors of education, deputy directors, superintendents and supervisors. Its role is to:

- Promote the interests of its members, and make it possible for members to provide the best service.
- Foster ethical behaviour and take disciplinary action when warranted.
- Provide advice, assistance and legal protection to members.

