

**DATE:** May 17, 2016

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** A Culture of Excellence and Accountability – Internal Dashboard

**ORIGINATOR:** Dr. Sandra Stoddard, Executive Director Governance, Strategic Services and Support for Schools, Corporate Secretary

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### **ISSUE**

As part of Administration's commitment to providing the Board of Trustees with ongoing updates on the District Strategic Plan, a presentation regarding the status of the Internal Dashboard Project, a high level overview of the tool, and information regarding how the dashboard will directly impact collaboration, classroom programming, school planning, and resource allocation will be provided.

### **BACKGROUND**

In the world of education, the production, dissemination, analysis and use of data is an area of interest across the education community. Edmonton Public Schools is leading the way in this work as it continues to explore systems and practices to support data usage in education.

Reliable and accessible performance data is foundational to the District's focus on continuous improvement. Providing school leaders with a common framework to consistently measure progress is key to this way of working. As such, in the 2014-2015 school year, the Superintendent committed to creating an online dashboard to help monitor progress on the District's Strategic Plan. The dashboard would support leaders in using evidence to better inform decision making and resource allocation. The following sections of the pending *Education Act* provided direction to the District and created a sense of urgency for moving forward:

- Section 33 (1) (h) *establish and maintain organizational structures that promote student well-being and success, and monitor and evaluate their effectiveness.*
- Section 33 (1) (i) *ensure effective stewardship of the Board's resources.*

Since November 2015, central staff in Governance and Strategic Support Services, Student Information and District Technology have been working alongside an external vendor to support the development of Phase 1 of the Internal Dashboard. In addition, a principal committee has been consulted to support the design and creation of the dashboard. Their input has helped to design an internal, online, interactive tool that:

- organizes, summarizes, consolidates and visually represents multiple data sets in one common location
- links student, school, catchment, District and provincial data, and presents it in one easy-to-use online source
- provides data that can be filtered (e.g. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit [FNMI], English Language Learners [ELL], gender, special needs, programs etc.)

- enables District leaders to monitor and measure student growth to inform practice and support action
- measures progress toward the achievement of the District Priorities and Strategic Plan
- improves efficiencies in the management and reporting of data ,i.e., timeliness of data, streamlining the way data is reported across the District

Additionally, it is important to highlight that the dashboard has been strategically built to support the following key initiatives in the District:

- integrates District Feedback Survey results with achievement data
- supports catchment strategic planning and Equity Fund planning
- informs Results Review planning and reporting process
- supports the District’s involvement in the Alberta Education Assurance Pilot and the completion of District reporting requirements, including Annual Education Results Report (AERR) and the Public Dashboard

## CURRENT SITUATION

Data tells us where we are and how far we need to go. Similar to the dashboard on a car, the first phase of the project has considered data specific to Priority 1 of the District Strategic Plan—*Foster growth and success for every student by supporting their journey from early learning through high school completion and beyond* and reflects initial data sets that are readily available across District schools and retained at a District level.

The data sets provided to date are meant to spur and inform conversations about how to improve school results, develop improvement plans and allocate resources accordingly. The dashboard can inform discussions around key questions such as:

- What are the positive and negative trends for important indicators of educational progress?
- How are we doing at eliminating achievement gaps?
- What are the areas where progress is slow, and where we may need to focus additional resources and strategies in order to achieve our goals?
- What are areas where growth is high and how can we share what is working more broadly throughout the system?
- Are there themes in our catchment data that we can focus on collectively?
- How are individual students doing and who might be at risk of not completing high school?

In its current form, the dashboard presents indicators in three areas that are critical to improving educational results and achieving Priority 1 in our Strategic Plan. These areas include:

### 1. Goal: An Excellent Start to Learning

Outcome: More children enter Grade 1 meeting emotional, social, intellectual and physical developmental milestones.

How the Dashboard Reports on Progress:

- Are more children accessing early years programming?
- When children enter Kindergarten, how are they doing relative to developmental milestones? What supports might they require?
- Have our interventions in Kindergarten increased the number of students entering Grade One meeting developmental milestones?

### 2. Goal: Success for Every Student

Outcome: More students demonstrate growth and achieve student learning outcomes with a specific focus on literacy and numeracy.

How the Dashboard Reports on Progress:

- Are we improving academic achievement for all students?
- Are we improving in literacy and numeracy?
- Are we eliminating the achievement gap for special needs students, FNMI students, and students in need of specialized supports and services as compared to their District peers?
- Are we improving achievement in our alternative programs?
- How are our students doing relative to achieving learning outcomes?
- What outcomes are we doing well in and which do we need to focus our instruction on?

### 3. Goal 3: Success Beyond Schooling

Outcome: More students complete high school and are connected to career pathways that support their transition to post-secondary studies or the world of work

How the Dashboard Reports on Progress:

- Are we improving our three, four and five year high school completion rates?
- Are more students transitioning from high school to post-secondary education?
- Are our drop-out rates reducing?
- Are the number of students eligible to receive a Rutherford Scholarship increasing?
- Who are the students demonstrating risk factors for not completing high school?
- Are the number of students at risk of not completing high school reducing?

#### KEY POINTS

It is important to highlight that this is the first version of the dashboard. The indicators chosen for the dashboard are select factors that are collected consistently across the District, accessible through a District level database (SIS) and are consistent and accurate. The District believes these factors will, if each school demonstrates progress, make significant contributions to systematically improving the achievement of our District.

Testing of the functionality and data integrity is underway. In addition, user guides and manuals are being developed to support school leaders in the use of the dashboard, in leading a culture of continuous improvement and in facilitating collaborative data conversations at their schools.

In July, a group of principals will be invited to test drive the dashboard. They will be asked to explore the dashboard's functionality and provide feedback related to its performance. Participants will also be asked to review supporting material (such as the user guide and data fact sheets) and provide feedback on the effectiveness of these resources. In addition, in alignment with go live date, there will be optional in-person training starting in August. The go live date will coincide with the release of new data and will facilitate school planning and results review processes.

The District plans to enhance the usability, measures, and data based on principal input. Work will continue in the next year to add additional metrics to Priority 1 based on need as identified by end users. Types of data that are currently under development, for addition to the dashboard include District Feedback and Accountability Pillar Survey results, Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI), Teacher Awarded Marks, Social Vulnerability Index and Lates. Also, work is under way to conceptualize the key performance indicators that will help to monitor progress related to Priorities 2 and 3 of the District Strategic Plan.

#### ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

N/A

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