

Educational Governance Advisory Panel Review and Government Response

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS | MARCH 2017

In December 2016, the Government of Saskatchewan released an Educational Governance Review Report: Kindergarten to Grade 12 that contained three main options for change in the governance of the province's public education system. The government subsequently established an Advisory Panel to hear public input regarding the report.

On January 24, 2017, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation presented the views of teachers to the Advisory Panel. The government released the Educational Governance Advisory Panel Review: Kindergarten to Grade 12 and its response on March 22, 2017.

TOGETHER WE TEACH AND LEARN

How You Can Help

- Share your perspective on educational governance with colleagues, parents and the Federation.
- Become familiar with the Federation's official submission to the consultation panel and the Federation's response to proposed educational governance changes.
- Become familiar with the K-12 Education Governance Advisory Panel Review report.
- Advocate for students and teachers by reminding others that teaching and learning remains at the heart of education.

Panel Key Messages

- After weeks of public consultations, the Educational Governance Review Advisory Panel reported that:
 - Local, democratic voice is a core value of educational governance in Saskatchewan.
 - Improvements to educational service delivery in Saskatchewan should occur within the existing governance framework.
 - Meaningful improvements to education can be achieved through clear strategic direction, legislative changes, well-defined accountability and engagement of all educational stakeholders.
- In its report, the Panel stressed several principles advanced by teachers and the Federation during consultations, notably that:
 - Students and the teaching and learning relationship remain at the heart of education.
 - Teachers want to be more involved in educational decision making.
 - Boards of education and all stakeholders "highly value the commitment and knowledge of their professional staff."
 - Any savings found through greater efficiencies must not impact the classroom.
 - Community participation and community voice in education are important in meeting the needs of students.
 - Changes to teacher collective bargaining should only occur after a separate consultation process.
- The Panel also noted educational stakeholders' support for shifts in governance that would be beneficial, in particular:
 - Standardized expectations and greater accountability for school boards and trustees with regard to government and the public.
 - Standardization of governance costs.
 - Increased participation and consultation of First Nations and Métis communities and students in all levels of educational governance.
 - Increased participation and consultation of students, parents, teachers and communities in educational planning and policy making.

The provincial government accepted the findings in the report, including:

- Keeping elected boards and no major school division boundary changes.
- Keeping the focus on the Education Sector Strategic Plan.
- Making legislative changes to clarify roles within the sector and creating efficiencies.
- Improving engagement with First Nations and Métis residents.



Next Steps

- In the coming weeks, the Government of Saskatchewan will be introducing legislative amendments that will implement its response to the Advisory Panel's report.
- The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation will continue to monitor the government's response and will strongly advocate on behalf of students, teachers and publicly funded public education.
- The Federation will continue to advocate with the provincial government and the other partners in education for the principles outlined in its submission to the consultation panel.
- The Federation will continue to put forward these key messages:
 - Teachers are not against change, but any changes must improve teaching and learning.
 - The teaching and learning relationship is enduring. It will always be the most important part of education.
 - The school should be recognized as the central hub of community activity and support to students, families and communities.
 - Local voice must continue to determine the character of education in each community. Education must remain democratic and accountable to the people who are served directly by it.

For more information

www.stf.sk.ca/education-today/educational-change-saskatchewan

www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations/k-12-education-governance-review

Questions about the Federation's perspective on educational governance?

Contact STF Member Support by email at administrative.staff@stf.sk.ca.

