



Accreditation FAQ for School Division Leaders

What's the difference between Accreditation and the Accreditation Seminar?

Accreditation is the process teachers of Saskatchewan must complete in order to be granted the responsibility of determining the final mark or standing of the students in a specified Grade 12 (30) subject or subjects.

The Initial Accreditation Seminar is a professional learning opportunity, which is one of the requirements for initial accreditation and an option for a renewal or second subject accreditation.

Who is responsible for Accreditation?

The Ministry of Education oversees the Accreditation Policy and the administration of accreditation for teachers. The Accreditation Policy is developed in consultation with the League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents the Saskatchewan School Boards Association and the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.

Who is responsible for the Accreditation Seminar?

The development and implementation of the Accreditation Seminar is the responsibility of the STF.

Who decides the content of the Accreditation Seminar?

The content of the Accreditation Seminar is developed in consultation with the Ministry of Education, LEADS, the SSBA, the STF, Grade 12 teachers and current accreditation seminar facilitators. Each involved group brings their knowledge of the current research and the needs of Saskatchewan teachers and students and from this information the writer(s) develop the seminar. Before being piloted, the seminar goes through multiple feedback cycles engaging all involved stakeholders.

What's the value of the Accreditation Seminar?

The Accreditation Seminar is a unique professional learning experience in that it has been developed in consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders to meet the specific needs of teachers desiring accredited status. While the seminar is updated on a five-year cycle, it has the primary outcome of supporting teachers in improving their classroom assessment practices while also being grounded in Saskatchewan curriculum and instruction. The seminar also provides the opportunity for participants to learn in partnership and network with teachers from across Saskatchewan.

Why does the seminar registration seem so expensive compared to other STF workshops?

The Accreditation Seminar is designed to fulfil the needs of teachers as outlined in the Accreditation Policy. The STF has been trusted to fulfil this role, however the STF receives no funding from the Ministry to execute these responsibilities. This means participating teachers, or their school divisions, bear the full costs of the seminar.

The budget for the seminar is designed to cover the costs of developing and running the seminars in full – the Federation does not make any profit from the Accreditation Seminar.

Developing and facilitating the seminar has costs that include, but are not limited to:

- The development of the seminar itself. The STF hires a writer or team of writers to develop both the participant and facilitator manuals.
- Production and design of the materials.
- Engaging the sector in continuous feedback – both during the development and implementation phases.
- Facilitator honoraria.
- Mentorship and ongoing professional learning opportunities for approximately 20 teacher facilitators.
- Coordination and management costs of the seminar – several STF staff are involved in the successful development and implementation of the seminar. Administrative logistics of hosting professional learning – rental fees, lunch, etc.

My division has many teachers who are interested in initial accreditation and more who require renewal – is there a more cost-effective option for us than attending a provincial seminar?

Absolutely! STFPL coordinates on-site accreditation seminars for school divisions. These seminars are hosted in your community at a location of your choice and operate on a fixed fee based on the number of facilitators required for your group. You might also consider offering a hosted provincial seminar allowing participants from surrounding communities to attend while subsidizing your fees.

Why might teachers be interested in attending the seminar when they could put together their own self-determined option?

The Accreditation Seminar has been designed to meet the criteria for renewal in a very deliberate and specific way that might not be easily achieved by a teacher on their own. The content directly addresses the learning needs of teachers regarding assessment, instruction, and curriculum in a Saskatchewan context. The seminar also provides an opportunity for participants to learn and network with colleagues from across Saskatchewan, both in similar and different environments and often sparks learning partnerships that last long past the seminar itself.



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