



EDUCATION PLAN
2020 – 2023

Connect Charter School

IT'S NEVER JUST AN ORDINARY DAY





INTRODUCTION

Connect Charter School's 2020-2023 Education Plan is a reflection of its commitment to fulfilling its charter, to *developing students as extraordinary citizens* and is aligned with the priorities in Alberta Education's 2020-2023 [Business plan](#). Results from [the Annual Education Results Report \(AERR\)](#) have informed this plan and combined with the mission and vision statements at Connect, prepare our school to support students now and well into the future. This is a rolling education plan, meaning the 3-year timeframe will 'roll' forward with a new year added for each one completed. This plan will be updated annually and will reflect adjustments in priorities, outcomes, measures and strategies for implementation. This plan aligns our six charter school goals and three locally developed outcomes and aligns with the five assurance domains provided by the Ministry.

Unique to Connect Charter School is our Exemplary Learning, Teaching, Leadership and Governance frameworks that outline Who We Are, What We Do, How We Do It and Why We Do It. These frameworks ensure students are engaged in meaningful, authentic learning activities that foster a community where both teachers and students are passionate and enthusiastic about learning.

Connect Charter School is committed to participating in research with post-secondary institutions to inform practice and the public education system. Connect Charter School is part-way through its first year of a five-year agreement with Mount Royal University to participate in a research initiative exploring the influence of theory-practice hybrid spaces on the practices, theories, and relationships of members of the school and university community. Connect Charter School continues to explore other research possibilities.

Engaging our stakeholders has been an essential component of preparing our education plan. While the COVID-19 global pandemic has influenced planning, education and its delivery across the world, Connect quickly adapted to ensure the continuity of instruction and planning. Our Education Plan outlines focused goals, outcomes, strategies and measures that illustrates a clear plan for the future.

This plan is posted on Connect Charter School's website.

The planning and reporting cycle as prescribed in the Funding Manual for School Authorities 2020-21 School Year on page 15 was used in the creation of our Education Plan and is evidence of continuous improvement and assurance. Our Education Plan sets out what needs to be done, while our AERR provides the results obtained from implementing this plan. The Education plan contains provincial and local measures. Moving forward, AERR will be shared with the public by November 30 annually. The education plans will be available on May 30 annually. Below is a graphic outlining the planning and reporting cycle.

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT



ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT FOR THE EDUCATION PLAN

The Education Plan for Connect Charter School commencing 2020 was prepared under the direction of the Board/Board of Directors in accordance with the responsibilities under the *Education Act* and the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*. This plan was developed in the context of the provincial government's business and fiscal plans. The Board has used its performance results to develop the plan and is committed to implementing the strategies contained within the plan to improve student learning and results.

The Board approved the Education Plan for 2020-2023 on February 9, 2021.

Dave Robinson
Board Chair

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Connect Charter School highly values input from stakeholders. A culture of collaboration ensures different perspectives are considered and valued. A variety of platforms are used to support engagement from the following stakeholders:

School Council: Connect Charter School families connect with the school leadership team through monthly school council meetings, where dialogue on school priorities, planning and challenges occur.

First Nations, Metis and Inuit Partners: The Partners in Place initiative, made possible through the support of the Calgary Foundation, supports the evolving partnership with the Tsuut'Ina.

Communications Committee: This board committee supports and guides school engagements with a variety of stakeholders.

Technology Committee: This committee has directly engaged with students, teachers, parents, alumni and industry leaders to support the development of the long-term technology vision at Connect Charter School.

Superintendent Survey: Annually the superintendent's survey of staff, students and parents is posted on our [website](#). Cohorts of students and parents from each grade participate in this survey.

On-line Forums: Throughout the school year, the leadership team uses online synchronous forums to communicate with parents. Given the added challenges the global pandemic presented, online forums kept stakeholders informed and engaged.

Research and Innovation Committee: The Research and Innovation board committee works to establish partnerships with post-secondary institutions to support on-going research at Connect Charter School.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Connect Charter School's vision is to *Prepare our students as extraordinary citizens*. Our Mission and Teaching Philosophy promotes innovation and the ongoing development of exemplary learning, teaching and leadership practices within an active inquiry-based learning community.

As an inclusive public school, Connect Charter School is committed to supporting all students. We will continue to examine ways we can enrich our digitized programming, rooted in an inclusive mindset.

Outcomes, strategies and measures for the 2020-2023 Education Plan were informed by the Annual Education Results Report, Alberta Education's 2020-2023 Business Plan and Connect Charter School parents, staff and stakeholders' input.

CONNECT CHARTER SCHOOL LEARNING OUTCOMES

Within Alberta, there are 13 active public charter schools. This [video](#) provides a brief overview of what the role of Public Charter Schools is in the province of Alberta and of their purpose. Alberta's charter schools are publicly funded schools, with no tuition fees, that provide education in a different or enhanced way to improve student learning. Following are the 6 charter-specific goals for Connect Charter School that demonstrate the potential to improve the learning of our students.

Connect Charter Goals:

1. Promote exemplary learning, teaching and leading through a disposition of inquiry.
2. Enhancing learning and teaching through the appropriate and effective use of technology and maintain an intentional, authentic and innovative perspective in the use of technology.
3. Engaging students in meaningful, real-life learning activities in a variety of rich learning environments, with a focus on mind, body, emotions, creative spirit and ethical citizenship.
4. Providing environmental, outdoor and global education learning opportunities for students to experience and appreciate the world outside of the classroom and to develop social, leadership and stewardship skills.
5. Fostering a culture of collaboration and caring relationships of mutual respect with students, staff members and parents sharing a passion for learning; together and from others, in the classroom, within the school and beyond.
6. Nurturing thriving classrooms and other learning environments where teachers are informed by research and where students and teachers explore and develop deep understanding as active researchers.

Alberta Education’s requirements for reporting assess performance broadly and locally. The 6 local Connect Charter School goals have been integrated into three broader outcomes that outline overall priorities at Connect Charter School.

Outcome 1: Connect Charter students are successful.

STRATEGIES

- Using Specialized Learning Supports funding, Connect Charter School will provide more support to students with educational assistant.
- Connect Charter School will use the STAR Reading and Math Intervention Program results, to inform interventions that are needed.
- Connect Charter School will ensure it’s school is safe and caring and focusses on the well-being of students and staff.
- Connect Charter School will build the online teaching capacity of teachers to improve their support for students.

The school leadership team will continue to engage with families about our new report card, the reporting cycle and future plans.

LOCAL MEASURES

- Our School Survey results
- New report card- teacher issued grades
- Enrollment patterns
- Number of Educational Assistant
- TAR Reading and Math Results

PROVINCIAL MEASURES

- Alberta Education Accountability Pillar
- Reading benchmark results
- Provincial Achievement Tests

Outcome 2: Connect Charter School has excellent teachers and school leaders.

STRATEGIES

- Collaborative planning and programming with our First Nations', Metis and Inuit students will inform the Partners in Place initiative.
 - Connect Charter School will provide regular teacher and administrative professional development opportunities that align with charter and local goals to build capacity within our teaching staff.
 - There will be regular leadership team engagement with stakeholders to inform planning.
 - Connect Charter School will engage in research projects with post-secondary institutions and local action research projects to inform pedagogy.
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LOCAL MEASURE

- Our School Survey results
 - The annual Superintendent's survey given to students, parents and teachers is available on our [webpage](#).
 - Teacher learning plans
 - Narrative data collection
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PROVINCIAL MEASURES

- Alberta Education Accountability Pillar
- Student attendance rates



Outcome 3: Connect Charter School is well governed and managed.

STRATEGIES

- The Connect Charter School Board will consult with stakeholders to ensure a wide range of perspectives are considered to inform governance and planning.
 - The Board of Directors will review and update the Exemplary Governance Framework to improve governance.
 - The Connect Charter School will hold an annual board advance to set long term strategic direction for the School.
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PROVINCIAL MEASURE

- Alberta Education Accountability Pillar
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LOCAL MEASURES

- Self-evaluation using the Exemplary Governance Framework annually.
- Monthly reporting on established goals to the board ensures evidence of progress is shared and discussed on a regular basis.
- Our school survey results
- Superintendent survey results



FIRST NATIONS, METIS AND INUIT SUCCESS

Connect Charter School is committed to engaging with First Nations, Metis and Inuit students through experiential-based learning opportunities. The Partners in Place (PIP) initiative will grow and evolve to allow students to develop understanding of, and respect for, the histories, cultures, languages, contributions, perspectives and experiences of First Nations, Metis and Inuit. Our outdoor excursions and camping expeditions will facilitate partnerships and provide opportunities to explore curriculum and experiences that will support the learning of all students. We will offer engagement opportunities that allow teachers to develop and apply foundational knowledge about First Nations, Metis and Inuit for the benefit of all students.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Moving forward, results from our Annual Education Results Report in the fall will inform the planning cycle in the spring. This will ensure cohesion between results obtained and our future education plans. Although a great deal of planning, time and effort went into the COVID-19 re-entry plan and safety precautions in 2020, engagement strategies continued and provided the valuable input from our stakeholders that was needed.

BUDGET AND FACILITIES

Connect Charter School Society's 2020-2021 Budget is available at this [link](#).

The Three-Year Facility and Capital Plan is available at this [link](#).

Connect Charter School is committed to pursuing opportunities for expansion through the locally developed Keebo online learning program and to expand to a second campus. Expansion opportunities will support the evolution of our charter and enrich public education in the province of Alberta.