



Niton Central School

Small Schools Can Make A Big Difference!

Annual Education Results Report
2018 – 2019
School Continuous Improvement Plan
2019 – 2022



VISION

Our school division endeavours to provide each student with the opportunity to fulfill their potential and pursue their dreams.

MISSION

We nurture each student's education and well-being within an inclusive rural learning community.

PRIORITIES

Student Learning · Teaching & Leadership Excellence · Community Engagement

BELIEFS AND VALUES

- The parent is the primary advocate of the child.
- Every individual has the right to a welcoming, caring, respectful, safe and inclusive learning environment.
- Rural communities contribute to the success of all our students.
- All students develop a passion for life-long learning, innovation and excellence.
- Learning is a shared responsibility between students, parents, schools and communities.
- Learners are well prepared for active citizenship.

CORE VALUES

Integrity · Trust · Honesty · Mutual Respect · Courage · Commitment

Public Assurance

Planning and reporting in education is an essential part of ensuring that all students have equitable opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to be self-reliant, responsible, caring and contributing citizens. Planning ensures resources for education are used in the best possible ways to meet the educational needs of Alberta's young people and reporting through transparent and timely mediums provides assurance of this promise to all stakeholders.

The Division Assurance Plan outlines priorities for student learning, teaching and leadership excellence and community engagement in the Division, guides budget development, and forms the basis for reporting on progress and achievement of provincial and local priorities. The Division follows Alberta Education's Assurance process and co-creates a Divisional Assurance plan with its educational partners that aligns with the Alberta Education Business Plan and required success measures. School plans are updated annually and serve as dynamic documents that meet the ever-changing needs of our school communities in a reflective and responsive manner.

In reporting Division results, the Assurance process provides accountability through the division website. This accountability is the obligation of the Division to be answerable for the performance and results.

The Division recognizes its responsibility to keep stakeholders informed about accomplishments and work toward the plan priorities. The Division and its schools will keep its school communities and the public informed of progress throughout the year on strategies identified in the School Continuous Improvement Plan.

School Demographics

Niton Central School, located in the hamlet of Niton Junction, is a rural Jr. K - 9 school about 60 kilometers east of Edson, Alberta. There are currently 169 students attending, with a staff of 9 teachers and 7 support staff. Our population is rural, with most students being bussed to school every day, although a small number live in the community. The school also provides space for 2 preschool programs: Successful Kids and Families, and Yellowhead County's Parent Link program. In conjunction with Yellowhead County, the school houses the Niton Public Library and the attached outdoor Green Grove Swimming Pool. Yellowhead County continues to upgrade the grounds around the school, this has included an adjacent outdoor skating rink, pump track, playground and public washrooms.

Principal's Message

Niton Central School is truly a community school. Getting to know our students well and providing for varying student needs are central to all we do. In addition to our regular academic programs, we offer a range of options and after school activities. Community members and groups are in the school regularly, enhancing and adding to what our hard working staff already brings.

Staff at Niton Central School have come together on PD days, Staff meetings and PLC time to gather, analyse and breakdown the available student data from last year. Presenting this data and the staff findings to School council at its monthly meetings is an ongoing event. Based on the student test scores, division screens and Accountability Surveys we will be assessing and making changes to improve our vocabulary and mathematical computation programs. We also will continue to work on improving communications with parents and the community. This includes an up-to-date and accessible school website, meaningful teacher pages, positive events Facebook page, weekly parent memo emailed to every family, regular teacher communication with their students' parents, and a school administration actively engaged with our eager and active parent groups, in and out of regular meetings.

Accountability Pillar Report

Alberta Education provides all school jurisdictions in Alberta with Accountability Pillar Reports in October and May of each year. The October report carries forward results for the measures of High School Completion, Drop Out Rate, Post-Secondary Transition Rate, and Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate from the May Report.

Parents, students, and teachers are invited and encouraged to complete the Accountability Survey (created by Alberta Education and administered at schools for students and teachers). Parents with students in Grades 4, 7, and 10 complete paper surveys or an online survey option which are both mailed directly to them. All students in grades 4-12 and all teachers are provided opportunities by GYPSD schools to complete the survey. Surveys are typically open at the beginning of January until the third week of February and results of the survey are available in early October of the following school year.

Areas included on the Accountability survey and examples of questions asked to determine the ratings are as follows:

1. Safe and Caring
 - Students treat each other well at school, teachers care about students, students are safe at school, and students are safe on the way to and from the school.
2. Student Learning Opportunities
 - Opportunities that students have to learn another language, learn about art, learn about computers, drama, health, music, and PE, and opportunities that are available for students to learn a variety of subjects.
3. Student Learning Achievement
 - PATs Grades 6 & 9 and Diploma Exams Grade 12
4. Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship
 - Students are taught attitudes and behaviours to be successful at work when they leave school, students follow the rules, help each other when they can, are involved in activities that help the community, and try their best, and students are taught the knowledge skills and attitudes that are necessary for lifelong learning.
5. Parental Involvement
 - Extent of parental involvement in decisions about their child's education and decisions at school.
6. Continuous Improvement
 - Quality of education in the past three years and the extent of students' pride in their school and willingness to recommend their school to others.

Diploma and Provincial Results

Grande Yellowhead Public School Division embraces the belief that all students can learn and develop their gifts. GYPSD Schools approach all measures of student success from within this philosophical framework. A vast array of classroom assessment practices, both formal and informal measures are employed to determine student success. Students receive the highest quality education and, in turn, the best opportunities to develop their gifts, talents, and potential in school and beyond.

Division Screening Tools

GYPSD uses screening tools to assess how students are doing in reading comprehension and fluency (Aimsweb and Reading Readiness Screening Tool), writing (Highest Level of Achievement assessment), and mathematics (Mathletics Alberta Assessment Screening Test) to inform instruction to ensure the success of all students.

Accountability Pillar Overall Summary
Annual Education Results Reports - Oct 2019
School: 2015 Niton Central School



Measure Category	Measure	Niton Central School			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
		Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Safe and Caring Schools	Safe and Caring	88.0	85.8	86.8	89.0	89.0	89.3	High	Maintained	Good
Student Learning Opportunities	Program of Studies	76.0	67.0	65.0	82.2	81.8	81.9	Intermediate	Improved	Good
	Education Quality	89.5	87.8	85.2	90.2	90.0	90.1	High	Maintained	Good
	Drop Out Rate	0.0	0.0	3.3	2.6	2.3	2.9	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	High School Completion Rate (3 yr)	n/a	n/a	n/a	79.1	78.0	77.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Student Learning Achievement (Grades K-9)	PAT: Acceptable	85.7	87.5	83.1	73.8	73.6	73.6	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	PAT: Excellence	11.6	26.6	21.2	20.6	19.9	19.6	Low	Maintained	Issue
Student Learning Achievement (Grades 10-12)	Diploma: Acceptable	n/a	n/a	n/a	83.6	83.7	83.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Diploma: Excellence	n/a	n/a	n/a	24.0	24.2	22.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams)	n/a	n/a	n/a	56.3	55.7	55.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	64.8	63.4	62.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship	Transition Rate (6 yr)	n/a	n/a	n/a	59.0	58.7	58.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Work Preparation	91.7	68.3	67.0	83.0	82.4	82.6	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
	Citizenship	82.4	79.7	82.4	82.9	83.0	83.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Parental Involvement	Parental Involvement	89.0	78.1	72.1	81.3	81.2	81.1	Very High	Improved	Excellent
Continuous Improvement	School Improvement	71.6	85.7	79.6	81.0	80.3	81.0	Intermediate	Declined	Issue

Reading the Accountability Pillar

The Accountability Pillar consists of a common set of performance measures and consistent, fair evaluations of results. Through the Accountability Pillar, increased emphasis is placed on achieving outcomes, reporting results and using results for informed decision making for the purpose of improving programs and student results in subsequent years.

Ratings:

Achievement - This is a comparison of current results to a set of standards

- a. Very Low (red)
- b. Low (orange)
- c. Intermediate (yellow)
- d. High (green)
- e. Very High (blue)

Improvement - This is a comparison of current results with the previous 3 year average

- a. Declined Significantly (red)
- b. Declined (orange)
- c. Maintained (yellow)
- d. Improved (green)
- e. Improved Significantly (blue)

Overall - Combines the achievement and the improvement results

- a. Excellent (blue)
- b. Good (green)
- c. Acceptable (yellow)
- d. Issue (orange)
- e. Concern (red)

School Data Story

Niton Central School (NCS) is by all measures a “Safe and Caring school”. Survey results show that parents, staff and students all feel that NCS is a learning environment that fosters empathy and kindness throughout all aspects of the community. This supportive, collegial and student centered focus has shown some strong academic results. It is important when looking at Accountability pillar Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) results that we focus on the 3 year average as yearly results represent a very small number of students.

The staff at Niton Central School have developed a culture of always wanting to do more great things for their students. This shows in all of the continuous volunteer time they put into extra programs. This culture also drives a demand for continual growth in using best teacher practise in the classroom. All staff’s Professional Growth focus is directly linked to the Teacher Quality Standards (TQS) that are set out by Alberta Education. Administration at the school use the Leadership Quality Standards (LQS) as a supportive guideline for moving themselves and the staff forward. The TQS / LQS is a constant discussion point. This is to make sure it is driving all growth at Niton Central School.

Niton Central School is the hub of the community. Parents and the public use the school for activities and events on a daily basis, some even when school is in. This open door policy helps create a very strong sense of support for the school. The school is able to gather feedback from the supportive community through groups such as School Council, Niton Central Fundraising Society, Niton Central Sports Council. These groups meet at least once a month and are a great source of guidance for the school.

Instructional Focus

Data analysis combined with staff and community consultation has focused us on the following educational needs for Niton Central School:

1. Literacy, with a focus on improved vocabulary in all subject areas.
2. Math, with a focus on mental math skills and math computation.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS

STUDENT SUCCESS

SMARTER GOAL	STRATEGIES
Creating Safe and Caring Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers will have a positive interactions with all students at the start of the day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers will greet all students at their classroom door every morning.
Evidence of Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher feedback on percent of students reached. 	
Academic Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy, with a focus on vocabulary will be increased in every classroom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A vocabulary focused word wall will be displayed and used as a teaching tool in every classroom
Evidence of Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of classes with Word Walls 	

TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

SMARTER GOAL	STRATEGIES
Teaching Quality Standard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TQS is used to help focus all Professional Growth plans TQS will drive Self Reflection of strengths and weaknesses within day to day teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer template that includes TQS for Professional Growth Plans. Refer to TQS when reviewing implementation and success of Professional Growth Plan. Use TQS as a reference when debriefing after Instructional Rounds.
Evidence of Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Teachers will be able to show their focus on the TQS when discussing Professional Growth and Instructional Rounds with their Principal. 	

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SMARTER GOAL	STRATEGIES
Engaging Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monthly reevaluation of SCIP and any new data that may affect it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Permanent staff agenda item in monthly staff meeting
Evidence of Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minutes from staff meetings 	
Engaging Parents/Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase direct communication from Parents and the Community to the school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Redirect / promote school based questions to be brought to the school first
Evidence of Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decrease school concern questions on Social Media platforms 	