

ADCS Development Plan

2024/25



Principal Message

Celebrating Our Journey at ADCS

I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for the journey we have embarked upon at ADCS. Stepping into the role of the principal has been an honour beyond measure, and I am delighted to reflect on the connections we've forged and the teachings we've shared. This document shares our intentions, goals and expectations for the year. Please take a moment to review it and reflect on how we are growing as a community, team and family.

In just this short span of time, I've had the privilege of getting to know each of you, from our dedicated staff to our vibrant students and supportive parents. The warmth and camaraderie within our community have been truly inspiring, reaffirming my belief in the power of collaboration and shared vision.

One of the highlights of our second year has undoubtedly been the introduction of our groundbreaking program, MyPath North pilot program. This innovative initiative reflects our commitment to personalized education, empowering students to chart their own course towards success. Witnessing the growth and development of our students as they engage with MyPath North fills me with immense pride. It's heartening to see them progress in both strong academic achievement and genuine happiness. As we celebrate the milestones of our second year, let us also look ahead with anticipation and optimism for the journey yet to come. Together, we have laid a solid foundation upon which to build a future filled with learning, growth, and boundless possibilities.

As we stand on the threshold of a new academic year of 2024-2025, I am excited to share our aspirations and goals for the journey ahead. Building upon the strong foundation we've established, our focus for the upcoming year is centered on fostering even deeper engagement and enhancing literacy and numeracy skills.

First and foremost, we are committed to nurturing a culture of active engagement within our community. This means creating dynamic learning environments where every voice is valued and every perspective is celebrated. Through collaborative projects, interactive discussions, and extracurricular activities, we aim to ignite a passion for learning that extends far beyond the confines of the classroom.

In addition to fostering engagement, we recognize the critical importance of literacy and numeracy skills in preparing our students for success in an ever-evolving world. With this in mind, we will be implementing targeted initiatives and resources to support literacy and numeracy development across all grade levels. By equipping our students with strong foundational skills, we empower them to navigate complex challenges and seize opportunities with confidence and competence.

Thank you for entrusting me with the privilege of serving as your principal. I am truly honored to be part of the ADCS family and look forward to the continued success and prosperity of our community.

Tammie Sarauer
Principal, ADCS

School Context

Athabasca Delta Community School, situated in the remote northern community of Fort Chipewyan, Alberta, serves as a crucial educational institution for the area's predominantly Indigenous population. Nestled in one of the oldest settled communities of the province, this school provides a unique educational experience by integrating local cultural traditions and languages into its curriculum. It aims to not only uphold academic standards but also to foster a deep respect and understanding for the local Indigenous cultures, including Cree, Dene, and Métis.

As a community hub, the school plays a significant role in supporting the social and educational development of its students while also acting as a bridge between the traditional and contemporary aspects of their community life. We are looking forward to welcoming 160 students in our 2024/2025 year, with 33 staff members to help support an enriched learning experience for our students.

This year we will be officially launching our MyPath North program that allows our students to experience and value a variety of unique educational experiences both the indigenous ways of knowing and enriched traditional education opportunities.

We want to make sure our students feel comfortable in walking in both worlds that Fort Chipewyan offers to their community members.

PSD Vision, Mission, Values

Our Vision

Where we are going: Our students possess the confidence, resilience, insight and skills required to thrive in, and positively impact, the world.

Our Mission

How we will get there: We assure supportive learning environments, meaningful experiences and healthy relationships that create opportunities to develop resilience, to gain diversity in perspectives and to achieve enduring success.



Our Ultimate Goal

The reward for getting there: Student Success and Well-being

Our Values

What guides us: Learning opportunities that are purposeful, essential, relevant, authentic and responsive; Excellence in achievement; Trustworthy, respectful relationships; and, Resilience with self-awareness.



Our Priorities

Student Wellness & Workplace Wellness

Both student wellness and workplace wellness are priorities for us.

PSD's Ultimate Goal: Student Success and Well-being highlights how important student wellness is. A healthy school approach is one that supports the health and well-being of students and the entire school community. EVERYONE plays a role in supporting student wellness.

Healthy organizations and workplaces are at their best when they are made up of people who are healthy. Wellness is a very personal concept that can mean many things to different people, but workplace wellness is about how you feel about your work, the workplace environment, and the climate and culture within it.



Our Priorities

Equity, Diversity & Community

Although PSDs tagline is 'Where the World Opens up', the world doesn't open up to all members of our communities until our minds open up to all members of our communities. A continual progression toward equity, and the promotion of anti-racism, are essential components of a caring, respectful and safe school division. All members of the PSD community are expected to demonstrate, and ensure, that a sense of belonging, for all staff, students and community members, exists in all places.



Our Priorities

Indigenous Perspectives and Ways of Knowing

PSD is building relationships with Indigenous communities that increase understanding of their experiences, and therefore increase attendance rates, academic completion, and a sense of belonging for Indigenous students. In addition, we need to learn the history of our continent that predates colonialism - we have a responsibility to listen to the stories of the Elders and to increase our understanding beyond what we were taught in school, and to bring those perspectives into our day-to-day work and learning.



Our Priorities

Programming and Pedagogy

Student programming and continual improvement of teaching practices continues to be a priority for PSD. The Division is proud to offer diverse programs to students because that's how learning comes alive for them. Programs showcase the breadth of the work. The depth of our work gets recognized in our attention to pedagogy.



Our Context

Athabasca Delta Community School, a comprehensive Kindergarten to Grade 12 institution in Fort Chipewyan, entered a significant partnership with the Parkland School Division and the local Three Nations community in the 2022-2023 school year. This collaboration marks the third year of concerted efforts to integrate the school fully into the fabric of the community. Emphasizing community values and indigenous knowledge, the school is dedicated to providing unique learning opportunities that not only adhere to the rigorous Alberta provincial standards but also honor the local cultural values. Each student is encouraged to develop a growth mindset, ensuring that education is not just about academic excellence but also about nurturing the whole child. This approach aims to equip students with the skills and perspectives needed to thrive both within and beyond their community.



ADCS Vision

"Our vision at Athabasca Delta Community School is to cultivate a safe and nurturing learning environment that honors our community's values and traditions while meeting Alberta's educational standards. We are committed to fostering a growth mindset in each student, ensuring they feel accomplished and equipped with the tools necessary to forge their own paths. By integrating indigenous knowledge and focusing on the holistic development of every learner, we strive to empower our students to succeed and contribute meaningfully to their community and the wider world."



Overview

As we chart our course for the coming year at Athabasca Delta Community School, our School Development Plan serves as our compass, guiding us through our key initiatives.

This year, we are focusing on increasing student engagement, boosting literacy success, and building numeracy confidence.

Our approach is holistic, aiming to educate the whole student by honoring the rich traditions of our community and creating a supportive environment.

We are dedicated to ensuring that each student not only achieves academically but also thrives personally, equipped with the confidence and skills needed as they embark on their future journeys.

This plan reflects our commitment to their growth and our aspiration to see every student succeed.



Key Areas of Focus

Student Engagement

Expanding success through student engagement: Our goal is that students feel confident and feel that they are active participants in their lifelong learning journey

Strategies to achieve this goal

1. MyPath North crafted so each student have a meaningful connection and opportunities for their education
2. Inviting Elders and Community members into the school to share knowledge
3. Creating community events to bridge the historic gap between the school and community
4. Enhancing the students academic skills to be successful in their learning, including self talk to know that learning is a skill that can be enhanced
5. Extracurricular activities



Key Areas of Focus

Student Engagement

Measurements for Student Engagement

- Attendance data
- Student Self Assessment
- My Path North Surveys
- Elders, Parents and students have input through stories and reflections throughout the year at intentional gatherings.
- Engagements with Mikisew Cree First Nations, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nations, Fort Chip Metis Nation



Key Areas of Focus

Literacy Development

Expanding success through literacy: Our goal is to increase the number of students that are at or above grade level and that they have developed a love of reading and writing.

Strategies to achieve this goal:

1. Supporting implementation of new curriculum through professional development
2. Building small group instruction practices into classrooms
3. Focus on data collections to understand student strengths and areas of growth
4. Prioritizing collaborative opportunities for school based literacy lead to support work in classrooms

Measurements for Literacy Development

- Continuation of Alberta yearly standards and testing
- Student assessment of personal growth and confidence in their reading and writing
- Student assessment of an increased love of their reading and writing
- School Developed Benchmarks
- Fountas and Pinnell assessments
- Reading Benchmarks

Key Areas of Focus

Numeracy Development

Expanding success through numeracy: Our goal is that our students will be confident and engaged with their math abilities and they will expand their skills to engage in numeracy problem-solving.

Strategies to achieve this goal:

1. Supporting implementation of new curriculum through professional development
2. Building small group instruction practices into classrooms
3. Continue professional development in “Building Thinking Classrooms”
4. Focus on data collections to understand student strengths and areas of growth
5. Prioritizing collaborative opportunities for school based numeracy lead to support work in classrooms



Measurements for Numeracy Development

- Continuation of Alberta yearly standards and testings
- Early Year Numeracy Interview with each student
- Alberta Education Assurance Measures
- School Developed Benchmarks

