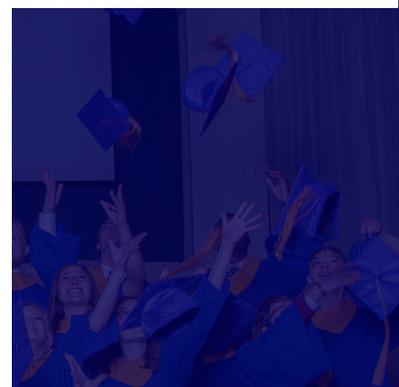
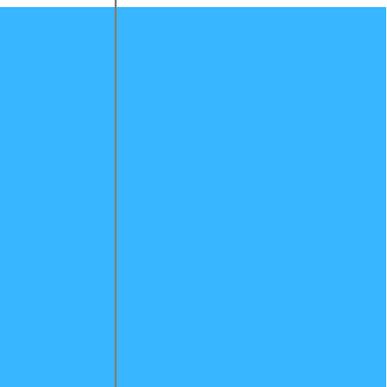


2023-2024

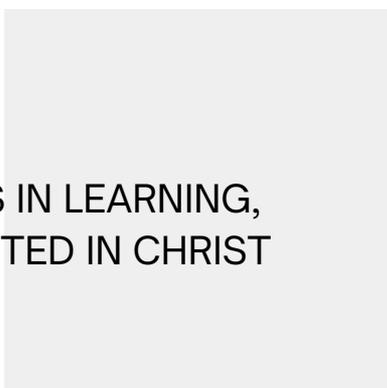


NorthStar Academy

Education Plan and
Annual Education Results Report



LEADERS IN LEARNING,
CONNECTED IN CHRIST



About NorthStar Academy

NorthStar Academy is an alternate status, Grade 1 to 12 school within the Golden Hills School Division. Committed to providing education within a Christ-centred and responsive learning community, NorthStar Academy's mission is to partner with families and our students' local communities to offer innovative and meaningful learning opportunities. Learning that will equip students to become compassionate communicators and creative contributors empowered by Christ.

Established in 2001, NorthStar Academy has a history of excellent Evangelical Christian education. Currently home to more than 1400 students, NorthStar Academy offers a dynamic learning environment with multiple program options. This allows students and their families to choose a program specifically designed to meet the student's individual educational goals. Our Biblically integrated online and print-based programs are teacher-directed and written to meet the Alberta learning outcomes. While our home education and shared responsibility programs provides parents greater opportunities to support their children's unique learning needs.



NorthStar Academy
1001 20th Ave
Didsbury, Alberta
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Foundation Statements

Vision

NorthStar Academy envisions a Christ-centred, responsive learning community where all students are equipped for life-long kingdom impact.

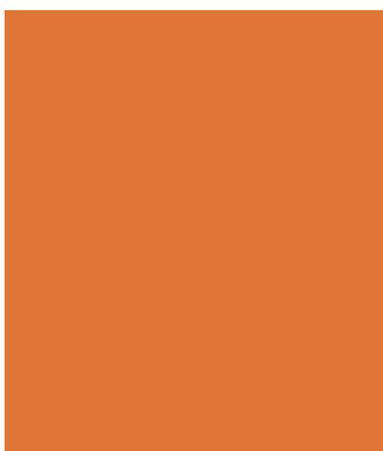
Mission

NorthStar Academy partners with families and their local communities to provide innovative, and meaningful learning opportunities that equip students to become compassionate communicators and creative contributors empowered by Christ.

Accountability Statement

The school education plan for the three years commencing September 5, 2023, was prepared under the direction of the Board of Trustees in accordance with 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.



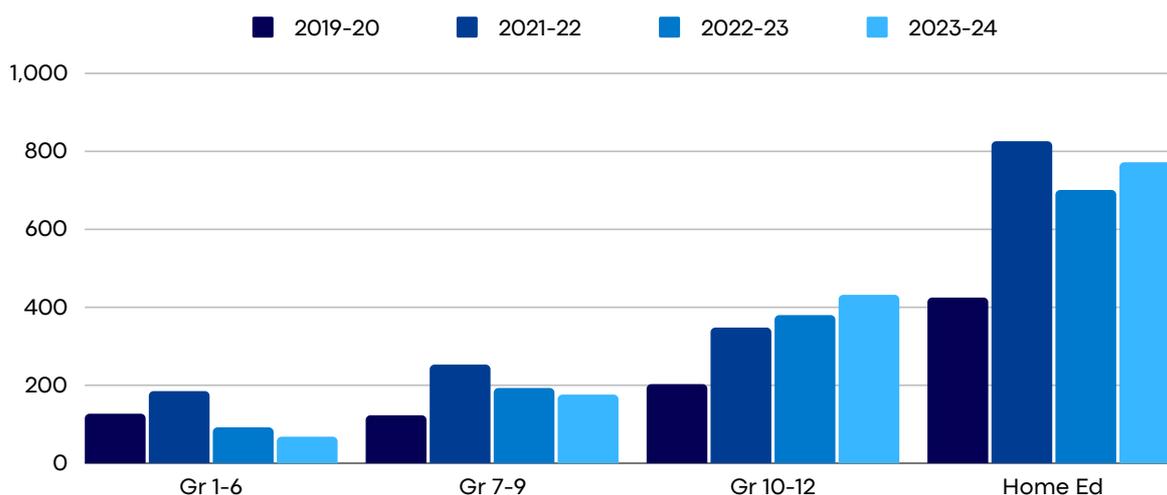
Enrolment Trends

Across the province, students and parents continue to explore alternative school programs and the opportunities they provide. Having experienced a peak population of 1800 students during the 2020/21 academic year, NorthStar continues to see enrolment numbers that are double those prior to the COVID pandemic. We are now consistently providing learner-focused, Christ-empowered learning to nearly 1500 students.

Although we continue to see lower enrolment numbers within our Grade 1 to 9 teacher-directed program, NorthStar Academy was excited to welcome 72 new students into our parent-directed kindergarten program this year. In addition, we are piloting a new Hybrid Learning Huddle program for our Grade 1 to 9 students. This program has risen from the expressed interest by students and families for greater in-person learning opportunities and a desire to connect more intentionally with our students' local communities.

In our high school program, we continue to see an increase in our enrolment numbers. This growth is due, in part, to our successful school partnership program that offers non-primary high school credits to other community and Christian schools. We now have six such partnerships.

Enrolment Counts



Alberta Education Assurance Measures

Overall Summary

Assurance Domain	Measure	NorthStar Academy			Alberta		
		Current Result	Previous Year Result	Previous 3 Yr Avg	Current Result	Previous Year Result	Previous 3 Yr Avg
Student Growth and Achievement	Student Learning Engagement	88.3	94.1	94.1	84.4	85.1	85.1
	Citizenship	85.2	84.7	89.0	80.3	81.4	82.3
	3-year High School Completion	53.3	64.9	54.7	80.7	83.2	82.3
	5-year High School Completion	71.6	66.3	72.7	88.6	87.1	86.2
	Diploma: Acceptable	70.7	57.8	n/a	80.3	75.2	n/a
	Diploma: Excellence	16.9	12.1	n/a	21.2	18.2	/a
Teaching & Leading	Education Quality	90.4	89.0	94.5	88.1	89.0	89.7
Learning Supports	Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments (WCRSLE)	88.7	91.3	91.3	84.7	86.1	81.6
	Access to Supports and Services	84.7	82.5	82.5	80.6	81.6	81.6
Governance	Parental Involvement	83.9	79.7	88.5	79.1	78.8	80.3

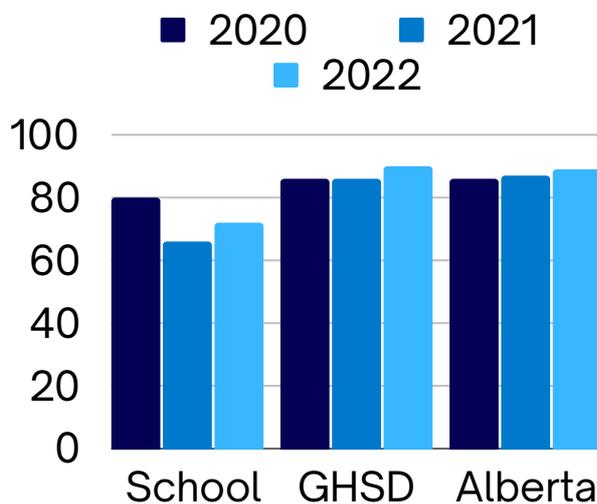


Goal 1

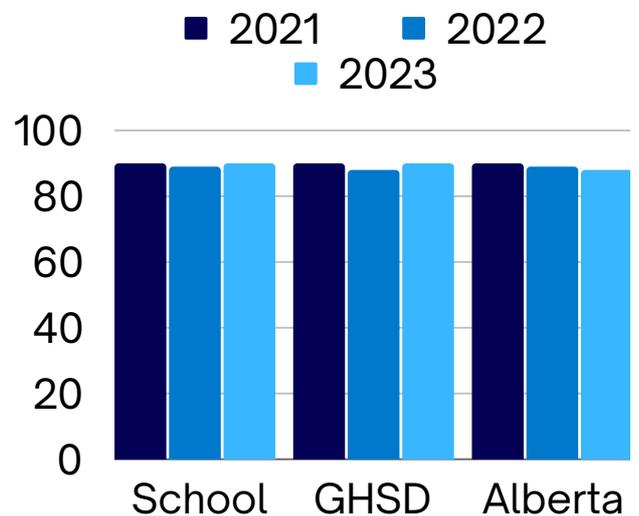
Every Student is Successful

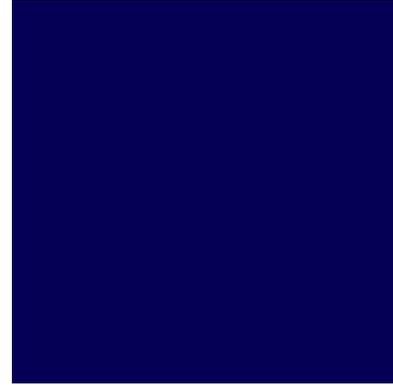
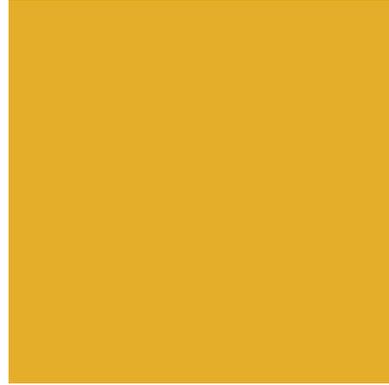
As demonstrated through our Alberta Education Assurance Measure results, NorthStar Academy continues to prioritize quality education. Our teachers work hard to balance the regular demands of classroom teaching with the individual needs of their students. In our ongoing course re-design process, we continue to prioritize powerful learning opportunities that allow students to develop deep understanding that helps them become critical, Biblical thinkers. Building off our previous year's work with Katie White that had teachers aligning their course assessments with the course outcomes and improving their overall assessment design, this year we are moving on to explore how to provide increased student agency through the use of portfolios and student self-assessment.

5 Year High School Completion Rates



Education Quality



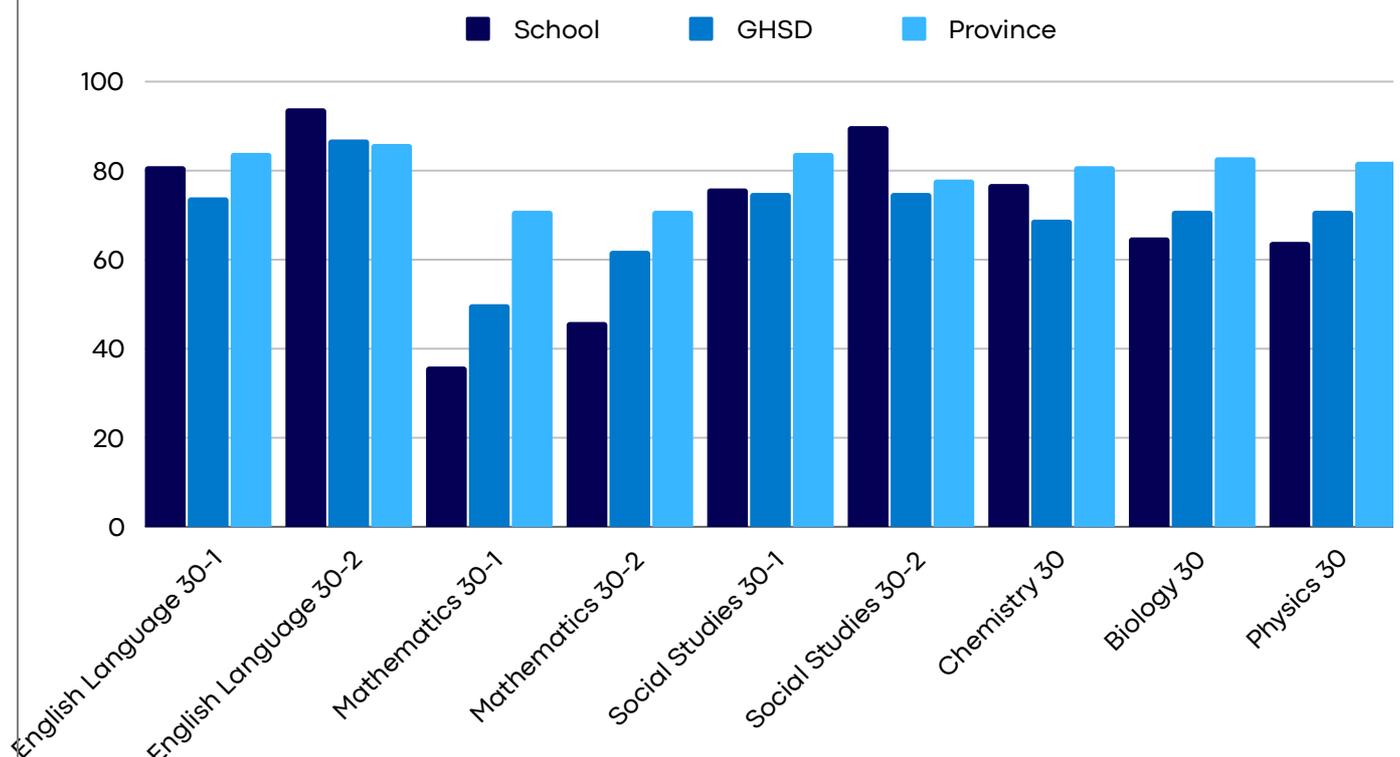


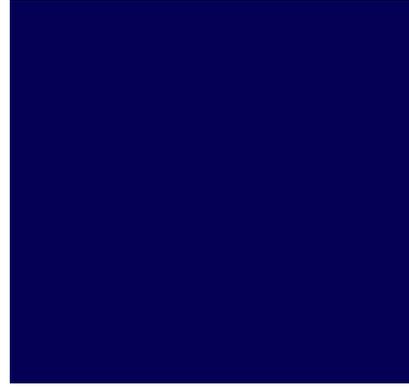
Goal 1

Every Student is Successful

This year, NorthStar Academy’s overall Diploma exam results showed improvement in the attainment of both the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence. To carry this growth forward, NorthStar Academy’s high school teachers are working together to identify the key curricular outcomes that require greater instructional supports along with the accompanying skills students need to complete the higher mental activities included on the Diploma exams.

Diploma Examination Acceptable Standard





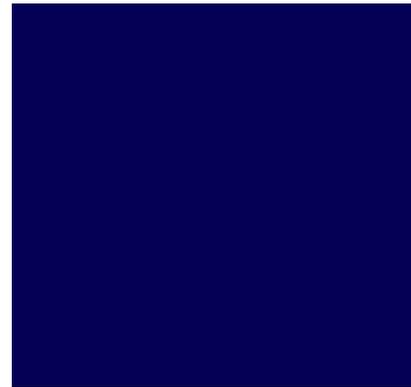
Goal 1

Every Student is Successful

To support the achievement of Goal 1, NorthStar Academy will:

- Continue to prioritize the provision of timely descriptive feedback to students and use this feedback to make appropriate instructional adjustments.
- Build student self-assessment opportunities into our course instruction tying them directly to the course outcomes and individual student goals.
- Explore how to use portfolios effectively in our course instruction as a way to increase student agency and provide for differentiation.
- Establish a biweekly, community-base Hybrid Learning Huddle program that invites students in Grades 1 to 9 to come together for in-person, hands-on learning with an emphasis on science, art, physical education, wellness and Bible.
- Continue to utilize our online course design checklist and online learning essential elements rubric to improve our online course design.
- Develop a new assessment re-do policy based on last year's professional development work around assessment.
- Participate in Golden Hill's Grade 1 to 6 new curriculum professional development program and work collaboratively to re-design our print-based resource courses.





Goal 1

Every Student is Successful

Our strategies continued:

- Invite our First Nation, Métis, and Inuit liaison to review our current resources and recommend new options for use within both our teacher-directed and parent-directed programs.
- Continue to develop the integration of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit culture, history, and contributions in our course design.
- Support our First Nation, Métis, and Inuit liaison in connecting with our First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students and their families to identify how we can further support their learning.
- Provide opportunities for our First Nation, Métis, and Inuit liaison to facilitate a variety of professional development activities.

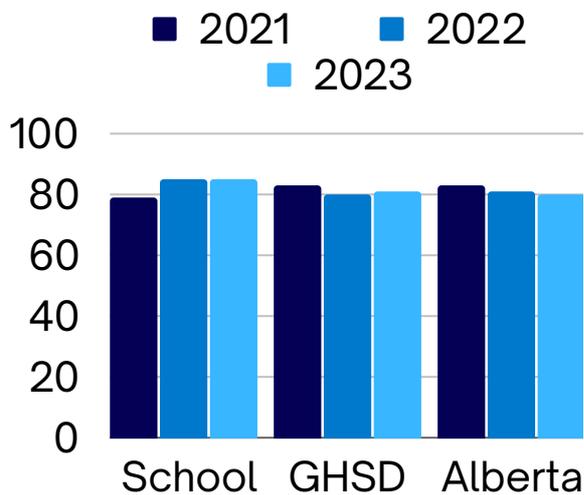


Goal 2

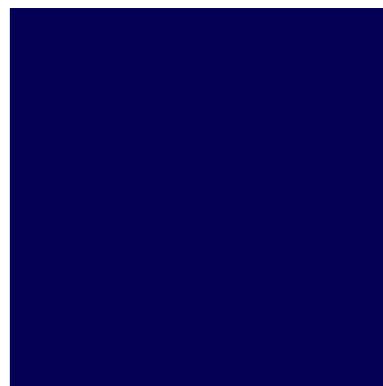
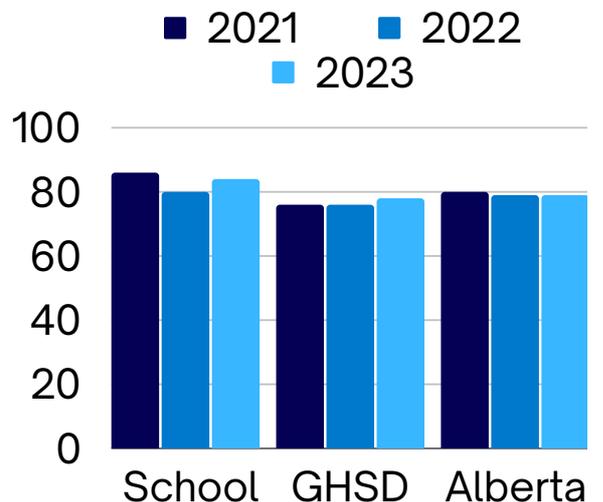
Every Student Belongs

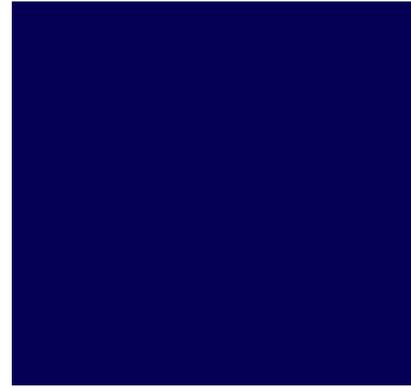
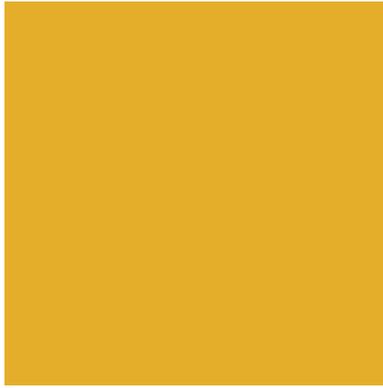
NorthStar Academy is a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment. As measured by the Alberta Education Assurance measures, NorthStar Academy continues to benefit from our historically strong citizenship, parental involvement, and safe and caring school results. In the recent rewriting of our Mission and Vision statements, NorthStar Academy renewed its commitment to providing powerful learning for all students within a Christ-centred community of learners. Our teachers and support staff work hard to cultivate a Christian community where all students belong. Building off the success of our homeroom program, we are currently exploring how to cultivate greater teacher and social presences in our online Moodle courses and how to facilitate more meaningful student connection and contribution opportunities.

Citizenship



Parent Involvement

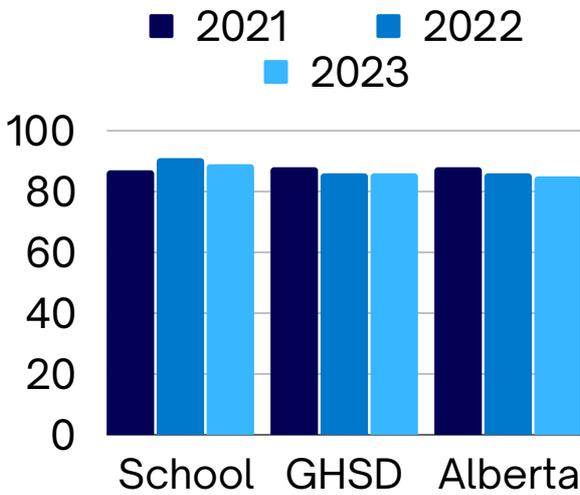




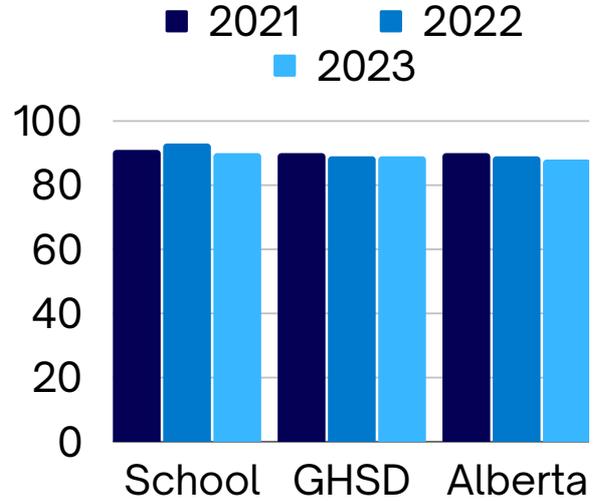
Goal 2

Every Student Belongs

Welcoming, Caring,
Respectful and Safe Learning
Environment



Safe and Caring



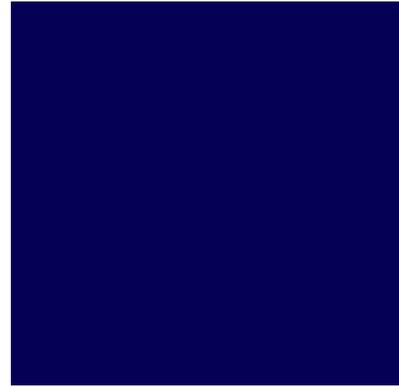


Goal 2

Every Student Belongs

To support the achievement of Goal 2, NorthStar Academy will:

- Continue to expand our grade level homeroom program based on the “Go-To Educator” model.
- Leverage technology to facilitate more opportunities for student-student and student-teacher collaboration and conversations within our Moodle classrooms.
- Restructure our attendance procedures to better support student engagement and well-being by prioritizing more timely interventions and greater partnership opportunities with families.
- Continue to utilize our virtual Moodle Hallways and Homeroom classrooms to showcase student learning and host various celebration events and school community challenges, such as our Read-a-Thon.
- Participate in Golden Hill’s Leadership series with Dr. David Tranter and work collaboratively with NorthStar’s teacher-leaders to develop additional well-being supports for students and teachers.
- Include opportunities within our Community Connections program for students to develop their knowledge and understanding of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit culture, history, and contributions.



Goal 2

Every Student Belongs

Our strategies continued:

- Invite our First Nation, Métis, and Inuit liaison to be a guest teacher in our live classroom and homeroom Google Meets
- Continue to expand our Community Connections program, which includes our Activity Day field trips, learning clusters, workshops and High School Limitless program.



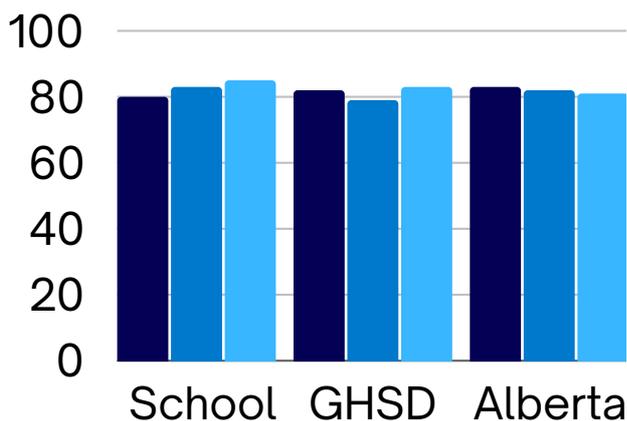
Goal 3

Literacy and Numeracy Success for all Learners

At NorthStar Academy we recognize that there continues to be learning gaps coming out of the COVID pandemic. We also understand that many of our students join our program from various entrance points and with different educational experiences and goals. Literacy and numeracy are often the focus for our students individualized learning goals. With this in mind, NorthStar Academy has recently renewed its focus on literacy and numeracy success for all learners. Leveraging Alberta Education’s Early Years assessment data, our elementary and junior high teachers are working to identify the literacy and numeracy skills that require greater instructional supports, while also building individualized support plans for those students who require more specialized supports.

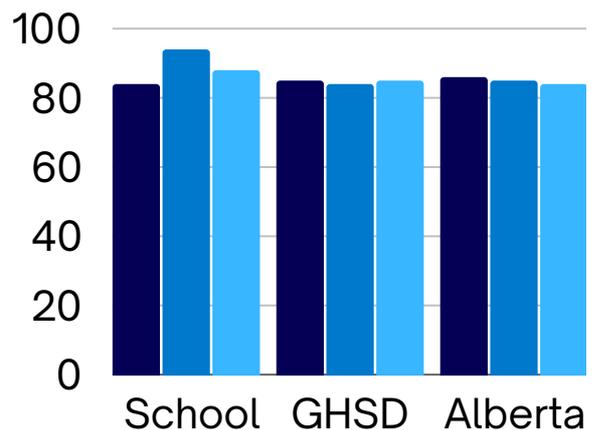
Student Learning Engagement

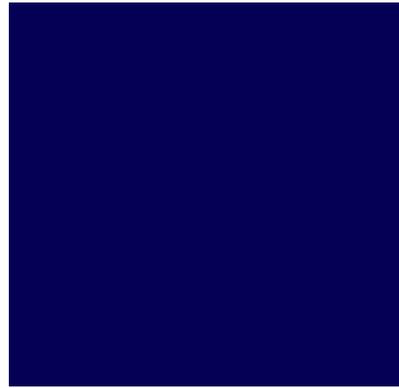
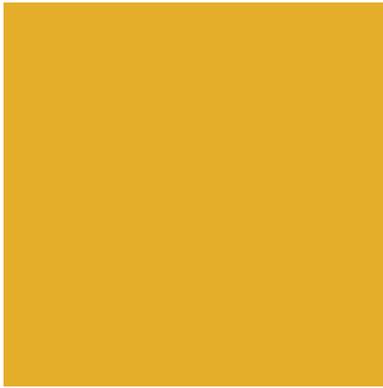
■ 2021 ■ 2022
■ 2023



Access to Supports and Services

■ 2021 ■ 2022
■ 2023



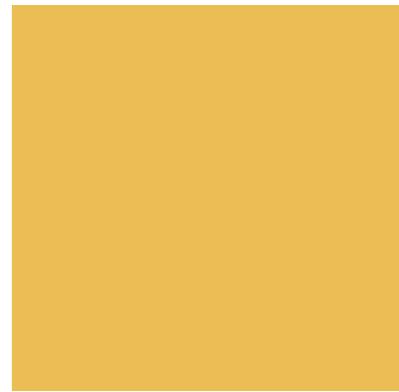


Goal 3

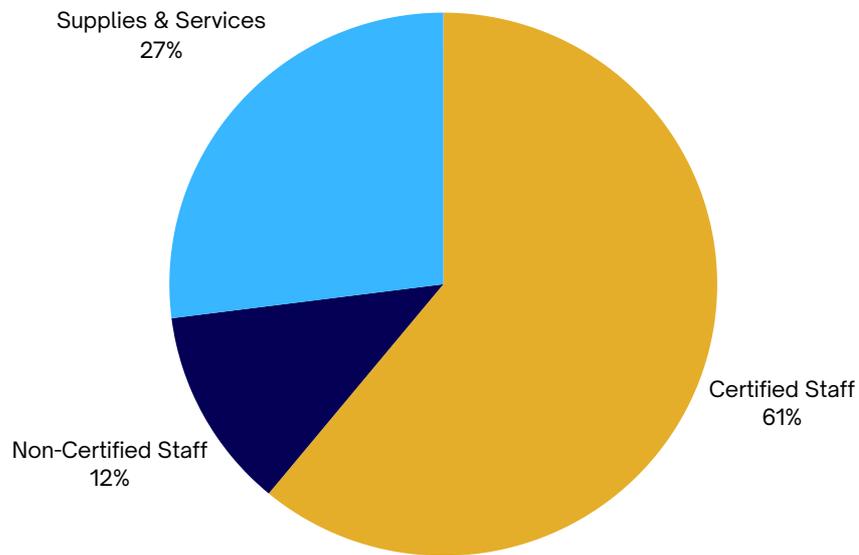
Literacy and Numeracy Success for all Learners

To support the achievement of Goal 3, NorthStar Academy will:

- Establish a more comprehensive benchmarking process in our elementary program and use the collected data to inform instruction and targeted early intervention.
- Redistribute the allocated time assigned to our Grade 1 to 9 Math and Language Arts courses, as part of our course redesign process.
- Establish a new learning and assessment teacher-leader who will help support teachers with the implementation of our provincial, divisional, and school-based assessments and the needed instructional and intervention responses required, as follow-up.
- Utilize online subscriptions, as part of our at-risk intervention supports for individual students.
- Participate in Golden Hill's Grade 1 to 6 new curriculum professional development program and work collaboratively with our grade level groups to re-design our print-based resource courses.



Operating Budget



Facilities and Capital Plan

NorthStar Academy is currently in the process of relocating our office from the community of Didsbury to Red Deer, Alberta. As our school continues to grow, this new location in Central Alberta will allow us to continue providing the best resources and supports to our students, while offering greater convenience and new community building opportunities for students, teachers, and families.



