



**Date:** January 24, 2024 **Agenda Item:** 8.1

**To:** Board of Trustees

**From:** Shawna Warren, Superintendent

**Originator(s):** Jonathan Konrad, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services  
Kari Morgan, Division Principal

**Governance Policy:** [Board Policy 225: Role of the Board](#)  
[Board Policy 700: Superintendent of Schools](#)

**Additional Reference:** [AP815: Outreach Programs](#)  
[AP855: Alternate Programming and Learning Opportunities](#)

**Assurance Domain:** Student Growth & Achievement  
Teaching & Leading  
Governance  
Local & Societal

**Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard (SLQS)**  
SLQS Competencies ([SLQS](#) / [Board Policy 700](#)):  
Building Effective Relationships  
Visionary Leadership  
School Authority Operations and Resources  
Supporting Effective Governance

**Subject:** **Alternative Programming Report**

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**Purpose:**  
For information.

**Background:**  
Off-Campus, Work Experience, Dual-Credit, Green Certificate, Outreach and Online programming allow students to learn in alternate settings and through experiences that align with their needs and interests. Offering these programs aligns with the Board’s mission to provide a well-rounded education and the value of ensuring learning choices exist for all students. This also aligns with the *Choice in Education Act* amendments to the *Education Act* in June 2020.

The Alternative Programming Report provides an overview of the strong variety of program options that students may access in Sturgeon Public Schools.



Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the January 24, 2024, Public Board meeting.

**Attachment(s):**

1. Alternative Programming Report - January 2024



# Alternative Programming Report

[Off-Campus - WE/RAP](#)

[Connection with Careers The Next Generation](#)

[Dual Credit](#)

[Successes with Dual Credit](#)

[Green Certification](#)

[Program Expansion and Partnership Growth](#)

[Community Outreach Plan](#)

[Off-Campus Program Expansion](#)

[Summer School \(2023\)](#)

[Sturgeon and Morinville Learning Centres with Sturgeon Public Virtual Academy](#)

## Off-Campus - Work Experience (WE)/Registered Apprenticeship Program (AP)

Students can earn credits while they are employed during the school year, and in the summer months. Students register with the off-campus coordinator for work experience credits when they have secured employment. Together with the employer, and student, the coordinator develops the learning plan for the student. The employer provides mentoring, guidance and supervision for the student while they learn on the job.

The Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) is an excellent option for students interested in a career in the trades. RAP allows high school students to begin an apprenticeship training program as early as Grade 10. These students earn credit toward a high school diploma and an apprenticeship program at the same time.

### Program Staffing

- 0.5 FTE Off-Campus School Coordinator at SCHS, enrolments from the Learning Centres are supervised through SCHS
- 0.3 FTE Off-Campus School Coordinator at RW
- 0.2 FTE Off-Campus Division Coordinator at Learning Centres

### Current Off-Campus Enrolment

- 110 students during the year
- 67 students during Summer School

There are varying types of job placements throughout the county and municipalities. (ie: mechanic shops, hair stylists, restaurants, grocery stores, landscaping, butcher shops,





industries including Pembina, Dow, golf courses, hospitals, family farms, oil change shops, and recreation centers)

## Connection with Careers The Next Generation

Off-campus coordinators work closely with the Division Principal to facilitate student RAP placements and career internships.

### **Secondment**

The Division Principal is on a 0.2 FTE, part-time secondment to Careers The Next Generation. Through this partnership, Sturgeon Public School Division (SPS) has access to training, communities of practice, Workforce Website - which contains placements for students posted by employers throughout the province. A student can register on the website and should a placement come up, then the school works in coordination with the Careers coordinator, and the student to ensure the student submits an application and is well suited for the position. Students compete for these jobs with other students from the region including Fort Saskatchewan and St. Albert.

### **Junior High Programming**

FWPS has created opportunities for students to learn in alternate environments within the community, to assist with job skill development and to provide specific students with a successful program when the regular classroom is not the optimal learning environment for the student. This is supported through a Child and Youthcare worker.

## Dual Credit

Sturgeon Public Schools students can earn high school credits and post-secondary education credits while attending high school. The Division is excited to partner with Olds College, Lakeland College, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), Northern Lakes College, and most recently a renewed agreement with Norquest College for programming in the 2024-25 school year. The Division is offering Dual Credit courses where students can take part in live online instruction and/or self-paced learning with college instructors.

Taking a post-secondary course in high school gives students many advantages going forward in their educational journey. It gives students the confidence and motivation to transition from high school to post-secondary education. Dual Credit instruction gives students opportunities to try potential post-secondary programs with little or no risk in the familiarity of their high school. This helps in career development and life-long learning.

### **Alberta Education Dual Credit Grants**

There are two types of grants available for Dual credit funding.

1. Dual Credit Start Up Grant (program specific)





2023-24 SPS received \$50,000 - this goes to pay tuition and facilitate implementation of the new program (Educational Assistant - Northern Lakes College). If not used in the first year, the remaining funds are carried over to continue growth in the program.

2. Dual Credit Enhancement Grant - purchase of new equipment or upgrade facilities to meet industry standards and better connect students to today's workforce. 2023-24 SPS received \$75,000 - a large portion to be used to enhance the welding lab at SCHS, as well as continue the Dual credit Welding 1000 program through NAIT, and support student tuition for courses within the current agreements.

## Successes with Dual Credit

### **Partnership with NAIT and Welding Cohort**

The first cohort began in February of the 2022-23 school year. The cohort has continued through this school year and the 3rd group of students will start on February 1. This will mean the program will have had 45 students thus far registered in the cohort (six from another school division who registered with SPS).

### **Collaboration with Other School Divisions**

Through inquiries and connections made through Careers and community engagements, the Division has connected with two neighbouring school divisions (St. Albert Public and Elk Island Public) to broaden the course offerings for students in each division.

## Green Certification

SPS offers the Green Certificate program for students interested in agriculture business. Offered at the high school level, students can acquire the attitudes, skills and knowledge needed to be successful in the agricultural sector. Students learn through actively participating under the direction of experienced farm personnel. Students may earn a level 1 (Technician) Green Certificate and up to 16 credits by completing a series of three courses in one of the following areas:

- Bee Keeper Production
- Cow-Calf Beef Production
- Dairy Production
- Equine Certificate
- Feedlot Beef Production
- Irrigated Field Crop Production
- Field Crop Production
- Greenhouse Production
- Sheep Production





- Swine Production

Enrolment: last school year, two students enrolled in the Green Certificate Program. The off-campus team has been working on ways to entice students into enrolling. External testing takes place with this certificate. The Division is connected with Lakeland College which is assigned to the region for the testing. Most of the testing takes place in Westlock.. Parents commit to ensuring transportation for this.

Students who are in 4-H can also register in the Green Certificate 4H Projects each fall. The program is flexible and students can register at any time during the school year. There are ample opportunities for high school credit with this program and we will work to make it more accessible to students.

## Program Expansion and Partnership Growth

### Community Outreach Plan

The Division Principal and the Outreach Principal are working together to improve and expand the Off-Campus program. This includes internships and apprenticeships. To ensure connections with local businesses and communities, they are engaged in attending Chamber of Commerce groups, and in seeking meetings with Mayors and municipality representatives. Past or planned meetings:

- November - St. Albert Chamber, Mayor Hnatiw, Sturgeon County
- December - Morinville - Presentation at Chamber of Commerce
- January - February 2024 - meetings with Redwater, Gibbons, Bon Accord, and Legal - Mayors and representatives are scheduled. Chamber meeting presentations are to be arranged.

### Off-Campus Program Expansion

#### **Aviation Training**

Offering aviation training would be an exciting addition to Sturgeon Public Schools. To better understand the communities interest in this possibility, as well as what partnerships may be available, the team has embarked on several meetings and activities:

- Visited Edmonton Public Schools aviation program at J.Percy Page High School;
- Joined the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent to connect virtually with the Superintendent of Prairie Rose School Division. Prairie Rose runs a robust flight school;
- Connected with Elevate Aviation, and local flying clubs;
- A visit to Villeneuve Airport is to be scheduled, as well as a meeting with Military personnel at the Edmonton Garrison;





- Exploring the possibility of training through Air Cadets; and
- Currently reviewing curriculum and locally developed courses to determine what will fit the Division's needs.

### **Building Futures - Coventry Homes**

Planned site visit in Spruce Grove and Parkland School Division. They currently have a program where students attend school off-site for one semester and work with various trades while they build a home. Classes are set up in the garage for core subjects and students work in groups with tradespeople on site.

With the growth in north Edmonton and the projected growth in the communities throughout the county, a similar program may be possible.

## Summer School (2023)

Sturgeon Public Schools offers a robust summer school program each year. Students may choose to take courses during the summer for a variety of reasons, including to improve academic results, achieve needed credits toward graduation, or create room for other courses during the year. All courses are done through modules and Google Classroom, with students able to connect with teachers at Sturgeon Composite High School for support. An exception to this is the Physical Education offerings, which are in-person and field trip-based. In 2023, the Division saw increased enrolment and course completion.

### **Student Enrolment**

	<b>End of April</b>	<b>End of May</b>	<b>June 14</b>	<b>Total Number</b>
2022-2023	206	246	277	336
2021-2022				244
2020-2021				319

### **Student Course Enrolment**

	<b>End of April</b>	<b>End of May</b>	<b>June 14</b>	<b>Total Number</b>	<b>Total Credits Earned</b>
2022-2023	277	310	336	499	1592
2021-2022				377	1252
2020-2021				536	1640

Planning for Summer School 2024 is underway





# Sturgeon and Morinville Learning Centres with Sturgeon Public Virtual Academy

## Learning Centres

Outreach Programs cater to students who may feel that traditional school offerings do not adequately address their requirements. Sturgeon Public Schools offers two campuses or Learning Centres offering Outreach programming, encouraging students to continue through school and earn their high school diploma. In addition to academic assistance, the Learning Centres delivers supplementary services including personal and career counseling, conflict resolution, anger management techniques, time management and study skills. These initiatives are aimed at ensuring a well-rounded and supportive environment for students to thrive academically and personally.

## Sturgeon Public Virtual Academy

Online learning offers a valuable option for many junior high students, providing various benefits such as access to a broader array of courses and the flexibility to learn at their own speed. It's essential for parents to recognize the distinctions between online and traditional face-to-face learning and to ensure that their children possess the necessary skills and tools for success before deciding on online education.

## Enrolment for 2023 - 2024

SLC	- 51	(Grade 8 - 2, Grade 9 - 2, Grade 10 - 9, Grade 11 - 12, Grade 12 - 26)
MLC	- 55	(Grade 10 - 5, Grade 11 - 8, Grade 12 - 42)
SPVA	- 17	(Grade 7 - 6, Grade 8 - 8, Grade 9 - 3)
Home School	- 19	

## Concurrent Enrolment in Learning Centres

Students who are in need of a course at Redwater High School or Sturgeon Composite High School can arrange to register at either learning centre. Students may require courses for varying reasons for example, the student did not complete the course successfully in the previous term or year, conflicts in scheduling, personal matters (away from school for medical reasons, bereavement, involved in a high level of sports) Current concurrent registration:

- Redwater
  - 29 students with a total of 32 course enrollments (21 unique courses)
- SCHS
  - 73 students with a total of 88 course enrollments (36 unique courses)

## Staffing Program Staffing

1 Administrative Assistant  
1 Educational Assistant

4.5 Teachers  
1 Counselor







## 1 Principal

### **Successes**

The program focuses on establishing strong relationships with students, staff, and families as a foundation for success. Surveys consistently show that students experience a high sense of belonging, leading to reduced anxiety levels. The Division provides a valuable opportunity for adult students to complete high school courses, offering an alternative learning environment tailored to those facing challenges in traditional schools, including medical concerns, behavioral issues, mental health considerations, and demanding athletic schedules.

Staff undergoes continuous development, receiving training in Universal Design for Learning, outcome-based reporting, and the utilization of the new learning management system, "Schoology." Additionally, specialized programming such as K&E and Steam is offered to SPVA students. The flexibility of programming allows for one-on-one meetings with students and parents at their convenience, though the team acknowledges the challenge posed by the significant ratio of students to staff. The Division takes pride in its adaptability, ensuring that the flexible programming meets students where they are in their academic journey.

### **Challenges**

Running two programs and three locations with the same administration and staff creates several challenges related to course planning and management. A significant hurdle is managing the number of courses assigned to each teacher, spanning both junior high and high school levels. Staff assignments become a complex task due to the fluctuating number of courses and students, requiring careful tracking of concurrent students and the handling of bulk submissions. The use of the PowerSchool Student Information System further complicates matters, as the Division currently operates three separate schools on the same platform. This redundancy increases the workload, particularly for teachers working in multiple locations, as they must create identical course structures within each school.

### **Other comments on learning centres:**

The Division proudly celebrates the achievements of graduates, recognizing the substantial impact of earning a high school diploma or certificate of high school achievement with Sturgeon Public Schools. While the graduation rates are modest, these milestones are significant for each individual.

The Learning Centres are the preferred choice for many high school students, offering a range of options, from the entire high school experience to specific grades or semesters. Sturgeon Public Schools provide a unique style of education in a safe and inclusive environment, accommodating diverse needs.

The Division understands the challenges some students face, such as those with sports commitments or adult learners looking to complete their high school education while working. Sturgeon Public's commitment is to create a positive and empowering learning environment, making a real difference in the lives of students.

