

# MONITORING REPORT FOR BOARD GOVERNANCE POLICIES SEPTEMBER 2017

**Policy Name: Students Who Are Life-Long Learners**

**Policy Number: E-4**

**Policy Type: Ends**

**Date Approved: June 28, 2000**

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- Ability to think creatively and solve problems.
  - Ability to understand and apply complex ideas.
  - Ability to willingly accept new concepts and approaches.

The three bullets above require that students acquire higher level thinking skills, adapt to a world that is in radical and far reaching transformations in technology, information and communications, has the ability to embrace mistakes as learning opportunities and understand the importance of collaboration with others in order to address complex issues.

As such the District has established a focus on differentiated instruction and authentic assessment as a means to push student learning to the application, synthesis and evaluation level of thinking. Furthermore, the opportunities provided by authentic assessment allow students to embrace mistakes as learning opportunities. By embracing 21<sup>st</sup>. Century skills using Project Based Learning, our students are being prepared for the future.

In order to respond to the information and technology tidal wave, the District has adopted cloud computing and Google Apps as a way to embrace the opportunities provided by unlimited access to information. This demonstrates to the students that learning is flexible and extends beyond the classroom. By broadening our program of studies we are providing an opportunity for students to choose courses that reflect personal learning interests in accordance to their individual learning styles. Changing the structure of the way programs are delivered provides students with opportunities to address complex issues, problems and questions by collaborating with others to build knowledge, and develop skills and attributes within and across subject areas. Two examples are the Science and Technology Centre at Father Patrick Mercredi and the arts focus of Holy Trinity. **Both Holy Trinity and Father Mercredi have put a Student and Parent Portal in place for all to have easy, timely access to marks, assignment completion and attendance. As well, all elementary schools will be introducing “coding” this year.**

Accountability is assured through the monitoring of teachers by Principals, Learning Coaches and by utilizing instructional coaching techniques to support teachers in acquiring the skills and attitudes necessary to foster lifelong learning.

From a District perspective, it is necessary that the Superintendent ensure that the teachers have both the ability and the resources necessary to accomplish the task of developing students who are life-long learners as outlined in the Alberta Government’s Inspiring Education Initiative. Our current calendar which has **20** professional development days, allowing for professional development. In addition, the District has a specific focus on staff with skills for 21st century teaching when recruiting and hiring teachers. For the **2017-18** school year the District has **8** FTE Instructional/Learning Coach/Consultation positions to support teachers.

I certify that the above information is accurate as of **September 18, 2017**.

George McGuigan  
Superintendent of Schools