

June 14, 2018

For Immediate Release

EICS Board of Trustees Approves 4 Year Assurance Plan *Plan sets direction for EICS based on community consultation*

*Sherwood Park...*At the May 29, 2018 public board meeting, the Elk Island Catholic School (EICS) Board of Trustees approved its [4 year assurance plan](#), which was the culmination of an extensive community consultation. As one of only 5 pilot jurisdictions across Alberta, EICS has had many of the government's accountability processes waived in favour of processes that enhance responsiveness to the community's priorities.

Through our division-wide public consultation platform (ThoughtExchange), EICS received feedback from over 1,200 individuals who contributed 2,800 thoughts and prioritized the thoughts with over 120,000 stars. EICS analyzed the feedback in the context of the needs of students and the direction of education in Alberta, which resulted in the following four priorities:

- **Faith Formation:** As a Catholic school division, we are called to share our Catholic faith with our staff and students. Meeting our staff and students where they are at on their faith journey, we invite them into a closer relationship with Christ.
- **Quality Teaching and Learning:** Student success depends on quality instruction in an environment that respects learner's independent spirit. Quality teaching and learning promotes the development of innovation and creativity while attending to meaningful assessment and reporting practices.
- **Wellness:** EICS is committed to success and well-being for all students. The Division recognizes that, as a system, school community wellness must be present for all stakeholders.
- **Engagement and Improvement:** EICS is committed to ongoing communication and engagement with educational partners to improve decision-making and assurance.

Parents and community members can review each school's plan to successfully implement these priorities for students on each school's website and can also review results for the entire Division and schools on the division's [Success Measure Dashboard](#). Stakeholders can also review the Division's and schools' financial commitment to each priority by reviewing the division's [budget reporting](#) for the upcoming year.

"Being part of the Assurance pilot has provided the EICS Board of Trustees with the flexibility needed to serve the community in the areas it sees as important for their children," says EICS Board Chair, Justine Wright. "This plan provides our schools with a clear direction in how to ensure all students in EICS can be successful."

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EICS, part of Alberta's publicly funded education system, is committed to developing educational opportunities in the context of Gospel values. EICS is dedicated to providing quality, faith-based learning environments to students of any background and faith, where their skills are nurtured and celebrated by dedicated, caring staff.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact;

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Attached – 4 Year Assurance Plan

Goal	Faith Formation	Quality Teaching and Learning	Wellness	Engagement and Improvement
Understanding the Context	As a Catholic School Division, we are called to share our Catholic faith with our staff and students. Meeting our staff and students where they are at on their faith journey, we invite them into a closer relationship with Christ.	Student success depends on quality instruction in an environment that respects learner's independent spirit. Quality teaching and learning promotes the development of innovation and creativity while attending to meaningful assessment and reporting practices.	Elk Island Catholic Schools is committed to success and well-being for all students. The Division recognizes that, as a system, school community wellness must be present for all stakeholders.	Elk Island Catholic Schools is committed to ongoing communication and engagement with educational partners to improve decision-making and assurance.
Outcome	Provide students, staff and community with a faith permeated environment and enhance the Faith Formation of all staff and students.	Provide appropriate supports to ensure Success for All students	Provide students, staff and community with a safe and caring environment	Provide partners with the opportunity to contribute to student success
Strategies	<p>The Division will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Provide an actionable representation of the Division faith theme that leads to impact in the divisor and at the schools *Work with parishes to Sacramental preparation opportunities *Engage students in relevant Religious education and faith permeation which promotes hope and engagement in students *Design and implement extracurricular faith formation activities *Continue parish collaboration *Continue a focus on faith formation learning opportunities for staff and students *Continue to enhance and strengthen our Catholic identity through the Five Marks of An Excellent Catholic Leader and the Five Marks of an Excellent Catholic Teacher *Develop further awareness of connections between our Catholic Faith and the spiritual beliefs/practices of our Indigenous communities. *Develop a deeper understanding of the connection between our spiritual life and our wellness. *Engage community partners in engaging all staff and students in faith based Social Justice and Charitable initiatives. 	<p>The Division will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Identify and implement best practices to align with excellent early learning pedagogy and learning environments *Support improvements to instructional and assessment practices that increase student achievement, engagement and the development of the 8 competencies for ALL students utilizing the Alberta Programs of Study through the Collaborative Response Model *Support staff collaboration to engage and improve in literacy teaching practices across curricula and for all students, K-12 *Support staff collaboration to engage and improve in numeracy and math teaching practices across curricula and for all students, K-12 *Support Universal Design for Learning having accommodations, adaptations and modifications available for ALL learners *Support staff initiatives to apply current research to teaching and learning to enhance diverse programming for students *Research, share and support technology integration approaches to enhance and remove barriers to teaching and learning for ALL students (inquiry, innovation, Learning Commons, project-based learning) *Develop and oversee the application of standards that promotes excellence for schools, teachers, and school leaders (TQS, LQS) *Continue to strengthen instructional leadership to lead learning related to Indigenous foundational knowledge and its application within classrooms and the larger school community 	<p>The Division will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Continue to provide and develop services and model initiatives that promote staff and student health and wellness eg., Mental Health Strategic Plan, Nutrition Procedures, transition plans for students. *Continue the engagement work of seeing mental health as a shared responsibility. * Focus on relationships as the effective method to attain system wellness. *Maintain partnerships with government and community organizations to ensure student and family wellness is supported both in and out of school *Maintain a safe school environment with the ongoing implementation of Violent Threat Risk Assessment protocol. (VTRA) *Support all students in an inclusive environment. 	<p>The Division will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Maintain transparency through continued generative stakeholder engagements and communication strategies *Enable on-going communication through various mediums between the classroom and home *Collaborate with the parish and faith community *Maintain continuous operational review and improvements *Continue ongoing funding allocation reviews to achieve priority-based budgeting *Provide safe and effective transportation *Maintain school facilities that are safe, clean and support effective education
Success Measures	<p>Elk Island Catholic Schools measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Catholic School Reviews *School faith environment *Staff faith formation *Student faith formation <p>Alberta Education measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Students model active citizenship 	<p>Elk Island Catholic Schools measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Progress from student interventions *Staff satisfaction survey results with professional development and collaboration *Staff competency self-assessment survey (TQS and LQS) *Student engagement survey results *Student reading level data *Student Math Intervention Programming *Instrument (MIPI) data *EYE-TA results <p>Alberta Education measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Class size averages *Diploma exam results *High school completion *Indigenous achievement *Overall quality of basic education *Provincial achievement test results *Post-secondary transition *Rutherford eligibility *Satisfaction with broad program of studies 	<p>Elk Island Catholic Schools measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Employee engagement survey *Staff health and wellness as measured by absenteeism *Student attendance as measured by the attendance dashboard *Success with Comprehensive Student Health programs *Success with educational transitions <p>Alberta Education measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Success with educational transitions *Success with safe and caring schools 	<p>Elk Island Catholic Schools measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Funds allocated to support Divisional priorities *Satisfaction with communications *Success of community Engagement in Divisional decisions *Success with School and parish partnerships *Success with adequacy of resources *Success with School Facilities *Success with Transportation Services <p>Alberta Education measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Satisfaction with parental involvement *Satisfaction with school improvement