



Latest Advisory Committee Meetings Encouraging

The past several Advisory Committee meetings (held on September 15th and October 20th) were very informative; subcommittees shared integral pieces of work and the resulting conversations and comments from committee members were very positive.

“All members are encouraged to share their viewpoints. We value, appreciate and need the knowledge and expertise each of your organizations brings to the tables.

- Deputy Minister Audrey Roadhouse speaking at the September Advisory Committee Meeting

The Financing Subcommittee brought forward some key and substantive pieces of work within the draft framework of the *Chart of Accounts* structure which was described in the June 2010 Update newsletter. It was obvious to the group that there has been a lot of work put into these pieces of work, by both the working group that was set up to focus on these key pieces, and the Financing Subcommittee where the work was discussed, and advice provided.

At the next Advisory Committee meeting in November, members will see all proposed components for the new funding distribution model.

Key Considerations During Development of Model

Throughout the development process, the Ministry of Education has worked closely with its education stakeholders and much of that feedback continues to inform the work of the subcommittees and technical committees. In the past several months, several key items were discussed:

Conditional vs. Unconditional Funding

Education sector stakeholders have asked if there will be some components of the funding distribution model that will be conditional. While the majority of the funding will be unconditional, of the work to date, there is the potential for some elements of conditionality. Education stakeholders have confirmed that for those particular components, conditionality is important.

Enhanced Accountability

The 2009 change in the way education is financed does not impact the educational governance of school divisions. School divisions will continue to be responsible for accountability to their electors and communities for

Ministry Contacts:

School division budgets
787-4658

Advisory Committee and subcommittee information
787-9892

Information data management
787-7856

Facilities
787-5631

Communications/media
787-6291

This publication is produced by the Ministry of Education to inform school divisions and education stakeholders as we move forward on changes to how education is funded in Saskatchewan.

Please email suggestions, submissions, or comments to tasha.lupanko@gov.sk.ca

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operations, outcomes and resource use. However, boards of education are now accountable to the general public for fiscal management through government. Because of the amendments to the Education Act put into effect on April 1, 2009 the relationship between government and school divisions for financial accountability has changed. The Ministry has been working with boards of education, the Ministry of Finance and the Provincial Auditors Office to put new policies and processes in place to meet the requirements for this enhanced due diligence. We appreciate the hard work and support of boards of education as we make this transition.

The work of the Accountability, Evaluation and Reporting subcommittee, a group which includes representatives from our major stakeholders, has identified that the *Continuous Improvement Framework* (CIF) should be regarded as the starting point in assessing what accountability mechanisms are in place – and what, if anything, needs to change.

In its work to date, the subcommittee has identified the 4th pillar in the CIF, “system accountability and governance” as needing enhancements.

School Divisions Invited to Review Budget Needs with Treasury Board

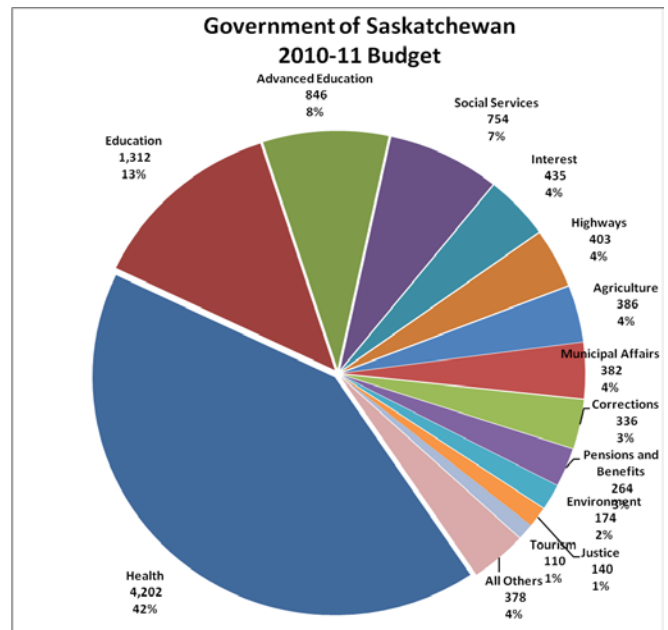
As part of the Saskatchewan government’s enhanced planning and budget process, four school divisions will have the opportunity to present their needs in person to the government’s Treasury Board this year. Organizations classified by government as Major Third Parties, including regional health authorities, universities and now school divisions have been invited to review their budget plans with the Treasury Board in November.

Four representative school divisions were chosen by the Ministry of Education to present this year; in coming years the plan is to offer the same opportunity to all divisions.

Education’s Piece of the Pie

A highlight at the October Advisory Committee meeting was a presentation from the Ministry of Finance on the government’s planning and budget cycle and how school division reporting fits within the cycle.

While the information was quite complex, there was agreement at the meeting that the presentation was very helpful in showing how education funding is considered. Below is a chart which was shared to demonstrate the level of funding given by sector:



Changes to Municipal Tax Forms

The Ministry of Education will soon be issuing an information bulletin to all municipalities to advise of changes to municipal tax forms, dates they must be submitted by and where to find copies of the new remittance forms.

Visit the Municipal Affairs website at <http://municipal.gov.sk.ca/publications> for more information.

Important Dates and Deadlines

School divisions appoint local auditors	Nov. 1
Un-audited financial statements	Nov. 1
Audited financial statements	Dec. 31