

Business Plan

2026-27

Ministry of Advanced Education

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Advanced Education*

I am pleased to present the 2026-27 Business Plan of the Ministry of Advanced Education.

The Government of Saskatchewan's 2026-27 Budget provides stability for the post-secondary sector while protecting affordability for students and expanding training opportunities for Saskatchewan citizens in priority occupations.

The ministry is investing \$847.1 million in post-secondary education in 2026-27. This includes increased funding for post-secondary institutions and more financial aid for students.

Saskatchewan has renewed its commitment to stable, predictable funding for the post-secondary sector through a [new multi-year funding agreement](#) that begins this fiscal year. It will provide \$250 million to post-secondary institutions for the next four years through annual three per cent operating funding increases. Students also benefit from a lower annual tuition increase limit under the agreement.

Saskatchewan continues to make significant investments in health care training opportunities to support our health care workforce and improve services for citizens. We have added more than 1,000 new health program training seats since 2022 as part of Saskatchewan's [Health Human Resources Action Plan](#). Nearly 190 of these new training seats will come on stream in 2026-27. We are training more doctors and nurse practitioners and launching new programs in respiratory therapy, occupational therapy and speech language pathology that will welcome students this fall.

The ministry is also addressing student affordability by increasing funding for [Saskatchewan Student Aid](#) programs. Students will benefit from a \$119.3 million investment in a broad range of financial supports. More students will be able to pursue their studies and prepare for future career opportunities. Post-secondary education is the foundation for an innovative labour force and a strong, dynamic economy.

Infrastructure investments will help institutions provide training opportunities to students and meet the province's labour market needs. Key capital projects include the new Saskatchewan Polytechnic campus in Saskatoon and Carlton Trail College's expanded trades facility in Humboldt.

Progress on the Business Plan will be detailed in the ministry's 2026-27 Annual Report.

2026-27 Budget Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>The 2026-27 Budget introduces a new four-year funding agreement with an increase of \$33.6 million to provide post-secondary institutions with the capacity to manage current and future operational costs. This year, \$776.4 million will support operating and capital funding of post-secondary institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$477.2 million to the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina and the federated and affiliated colleges; • \$204.4 million to Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, Gabriel Dumont Institute and Dumont Technical Institute; • \$38.0 million to Saskatchewan’s Regional Colleges; and • \$56.8 million for capital projects and preventative maintenance and renewal across the sector.
<p>2</p>	<p>The 2026-27 Budget delivers on the training pillar of the <i>Health Human Resources Action Plan</i> through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$38.7 million to continue expanding training seats in areas of critical need, including 26 new nurse practitioner seats. • \$13.7 million to support domestic training seats for the Physician Assistant, Speech Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Respiratory Therapy programs; • \$7 million to secure training seats for Saskatchewan students in specialized health care training programs not offered in the province; and • \$4.3 million to support seat expansion in the College of Medicine’s Undergraduate Medical Education program.
<p>3</p>	<p>Saskatchewan students and graduates will benefit from financial support and incentives that help fund their academic and professional careers within the province. These investments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to \$24,000 in tuition tax credits through the Graduate Retention Program to eligible graduates who live and work in Saskatchewan; • \$39.1 million for the Student Aid Fund, which provides loans and grants to over 21,000 students each year; and • \$12.2 for scholarships and bursaries, including Indigenous Language Scholarships, Scholarship of Honour and the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship.
<p>4</p>	<p>To provide safe and suitable learning environments, new and ongoing capital investments will be made in the following post-secondary projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$24.6 million for preventative maintenance and renewal funding to benefit all institutions; • \$10.4 million to continue expanding space for new domestic Occupational Therapy and Speech Language Pathology programs at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon; • \$10 million to advance the new Saskatchewan Polytechnic Joseph A. Rемаi Saskatoon Campus; • \$4.6 million to support capital expansions required for the Medical Radiologic Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology, Respiratory Therapy, Registered Nurse and Registered Psychiatric Nurse programs at Saskatchewan Polytechnic in Saskatoon and Regina; • \$3 million to support renovations and relocation for the University of Regina’s Faculties of Nursing and Social Work in Saskatoon; • \$2.2 million to expand welding, metal fabrication and machinist programs and introduce a millwright program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic’s Regina campus; and • \$1 million to complete design and construction of the Carlton Trail College Humboldt trades building expansion.

Government Vision and Goals

Saskatchewan's Vision

“...to be the best place in Canada—to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.”

>> Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2026-27 Annual Reports.

Ministry of Advanced Education Overview

Overview

The ministry is responsible for the post-secondary education sector that supports a growing Saskatchewan and that leads to a higher quality of life. The ministry places a high priority on meeting the needs of students by ensuring that our post-secondary sector is accessible, responsive, sustainable, accountable, and provides quality education. Working with our post-secondary institutions, the ministry is focused on providing opportunities for all students, especially First Nations and Métis people, to prepare them to live, work, and learn in Saskatchewan.

Mission

The ministry provides leadership and resources to foster a high-quality post-secondary education and training system that responds to the needs of Saskatchewan people and the economy.

Goal 1: Students Succeed in Post-secondary Education

The ministry supports and develops programs and services to help students succeed in post-secondary education. This goal aligns with government direction in [Saskatchewan's Growth Plan](#), which aims to improve student outcomes by building the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to succeed in the labour market. Three of the ministry's five post-secondary sector expectations – accessible, responsive, and accountable – are aligned with this goal. Meeting these expectations means the post-secondary sector is:

- **Accessible:** offering qualified people the opportunity to attend and succeed.
- **Responsive:** meeting the needs of students, communities and the economy.
- **Accountable:** achieving expected outcomes and operating transparently.



Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Provide supports to promote student success

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Invest in supports to ensure post-secondary education is accessible and affordable to students.
 - Fund a range of financial supports including student loans, grants and scholarships.
 - Provide non-financial support for students.
 - Co-lead the [Healthy Campus Saskatchewan](#) community of practice, which supports mental health and well-being in the post-secondary sector through prevention and promotion initiatives.
 - Support open education resources¹ at the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic, including [SaskOER](#), an online platform to house all provincial open education resources.
 - Identify opportunities to improve the experience of international students in Saskatchewan.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Foster an inclusive post-secondary sector where students from diverse backgrounds can enroll and succeed.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Develop and encourage services that meet the diverse needs of students.
 - Support the enrolment and educational attainment of Indigenous students by providing targeted funding for:
 - Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies' Student Support Services Model and Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Indigenous Student Success Strategy.

¹ OER, including open textbooks, are digital materials that are open to the public or released under an intellectual property license for teaching, learning and research. OER save students money on textbooks and learning resources.

- Gabriel Dumont Institute’s Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP).
- First Nations University of Canada’s Indigenous Language Teacher Education Programs and support Indigenous Languages Scholarships to help protect and revitalize Indigenous languages.
- Mitacs Indigenous Pathways Initiative internships.
- Support the enrolment and educational attainment of students with disabilities.
 - Administer the [Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Disabilities](#) program.
- Foster sustainable growth and diversification of international student enrolment in Saskatchewan.
 - Allocate provincial attestation letters strategically to support program quality, integrity, and positive student outcomes.
 - Strengthen oversight of the Designation Framework for the International Student Program to ensure institutional compliance and program excellence.
 - Work with institutions to better align international student recruitment with Saskatchewan’s economic and workforce priorities.
- Build intercultural expertise and capacity.
 - Expand opportunities for Saskatchewan students and educators to participate in study, work and research abroad experiences.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Provide programs, services and technology that evolve in response to the needs of clients and stakeholders.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Support post-secondary institutions’ ongoing efforts to modernize student information system technology.
- Continue to update the technology of key ministry systems.
- Solicit input and feedback from clients and stakeholders on the ministry’s programs, services, and supporting technologies to drive improvement.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Annual Number of Students in Credentialed Programs

- Enrolment indicators demonstrate sector capacity and uptake. This annual student head count data is used to monitor trends and inform planning for the sector.
 - For Indigenous students, the target is a 10 per cent increase in enrolment by 2029-30 (baseline year is 2024/25).
 - For International students, the target is to maintain a 50 per cent provincial attestation letter utilization rate (baseline year is 2025).

Number of Credentials Awarded

- The number of credentials awarded demonstrates student outcomes. This data is used to monitor trends, inform planning, and support sector responsiveness.
 - For Indigenous students, the target is a 10 per cent increase in the number of credentials granted by 2030 (baseline year is 2025).

Post-secondary Educational Attainment of the Population Aged 25 to 64

- Measures the proportion of Saskatchewan’s population aged 25 to 64 years with a post-secondary credential.
 - This measure changes slowly over time. The target is a one percentage point annual increase in the proportion of Saskatchewan residents, 25 to 64 years, who have a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or university degree.
 - Information is collected annually from Statistics Canada’s Labour Force Survey.

Educational Attainment of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Populations Aged 25 to 64

- Compares post-secondary educational attainment between Indigenous and non-Indigenous adults aged 25 to 64 years. Educational attainment measures change slowly over time.
- The long-term target is to match the attainment level of the Indigenous population with the attainment rate of the overall Saskatchewan population.
- Information is collected annually from Statistics Canada’s Labour Force Survey.

For more information on Saskatchewan’s post-secondary education performance see the [education and learning tab on the Government of Saskatchewan Dashboard](#).

Goal 2: Meet the Post-secondary Education Needs of the Province

The ministry supports learning opportunities and programs that meet the needs of students and the province's labour force. This goal supports [Saskatchewan's Growth Plan](#) through the development of an agile and integrated education and training system that is responsive to economic opportunities for businesses and prepares people for careers in Saskatchewan. In addition, there is alignment between three of the ministry's five post-secondary sector expectations – responsive, high quality, and accountable. Meeting these expectations means the post-secondary sector is:

- **Responsive:** meeting the needs of students, communities, and the economy.
- **High Quality:** meeting required standards and maintaining public confidence in the programs and services provided.
- **Accountable:** achieving expected outcomes and operating transparently.



Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Support post-secondary institutions to provide education to meet the existing and future needs of Saskatchewan's economy and communities.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Support government's commitment to the [Health Human Resources Action Plan](#) to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain health care workers in the province.
 - Work collaboratively across government, post-secondary institutions, and health system partners to ensure that domestic and interprovincial health care training programs respond to current and projected health care system needs.
- Work with stakeholders to meet the need for veterinary professionals in Saskatchewan.
 - Continue to implement the five-seat expansion for Saskatchewan students at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.
 - Collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders to develop solutions to help meet labour market needs.
- Strengthen alignment between post-secondary education, research and employment.
 - Provide financial support for Mitacs research internships, which equip Saskatchewan undergraduate and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows with work experience in Saskatchewan businesses.
 - Support planning for nuclear power training at Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions. This includes continuing to provide support for the Global Institute for Energy, Minerals and Society, which seeks to work with industry and government to align post-secondary programs and research.
- Work with post-secondary institutions to advance improvements, efficiency, and enhancement of French-language post-secondary education opportunities.
 - Collaborate with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders to support Francophone students.

- Improve connections between post-secondary international education and the economy.
 - Begin development of a new International Education Strategy that focuses on attracting and retaining global talent to support Saskatchewan’s economic and workforce priorities.
 - Work with institutions and industry partners to attract high quality students to support Saskatchewan research and innovation initiatives.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Invest in attraction and retention of post-secondary graduates to support the needs of Saskatchewan’s economy.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Deliver [Graduate Retention Program](#) tuition tax credits to post-secondary graduates who live and work in Saskatchewan.
- Provide student [loan forgiveness to nurses and nurse practitioners](#) who practice in areas of the province with high recruitment needs.
- Provide student [loan forgiveness to veterinarians and veterinarian technologists](#) who practice in underserved communities.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Strengthen program quality and responsiveness to Saskatchewan’s economic and social needs.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Examine and adjust ministry legislation, regulations, and policies to ensure alignment with program and sector needs.
- Ensure all new degree programs meet Saskatchewan’s labour market and quality standards according to [The Degree Authorization Act](#).
- Ensure private vocational schools deliver quality programs that meet the needs of students and Saskatchewan’s labour market.
- Monitor post-secondary institutions’ compliance with all legislative, regulatory and policy requirements.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Saskatchewan Employment Rate by Credential

- This measure reflects the province’s economy and labour market. It measures the employment rate of Saskatchewan’s labour force by educational attainment (credential).
- Information is collected annually from Statistics Canada’s Labour Force Survey.

Quality of Educational Experience

- This measure demonstrates levels of graduate satisfaction with the overall quality of their educational experience. This information is collected every five years when the ministry conducts the [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Graduate Outcomes Survey](#).

Relatedness of Program to Current Job

- This measure demonstrates the relatedness of the post-secondary program to the current jobs of recent graduates. This information is collected every five years when the ministry conducts the [Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education Graduate Outcomes Survey](#).

Goal 3: Saskatchewan's Post-Secondary Sector is Accountable and Sustainable

This ministry goal supports Saskatchewan's Growth Plan by keeping finances strong, building a sustainable province, and improving outcomes. This goal aligns with two of the ministry's five post-secondary education sector expectations – sustainable and accountable. Meeting these expectations means the post-secondary education sector is:

- **Sustainable:** operating within available resources.
- **Accountable:** achieving expected outcomes and operating transparently.



Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Support the long-term financial sustainability of the post-secondary education sector.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Implement the new [multi-year funding](#) agreement for the post-secondary education sector to improve institutional financial sustainability and support student affordability.
- Provide capital funding to post-secondary institutions to ensure safe, functional and efficient campuses across the province.
 - Collaborate with post-secondary institutions to develop an annual capital plan that informs government's infrastructure investments.
 - Provide funding to post-secondary institutions to support new and ongoing major capital projects including additional training opportunities for students resulting from the [Health Human Resources Action Plan](#).
 - Provide funding through preventative maintenance and renewal to improve existing infrastructure by addressing repair needs, minor renovations, building code upgrades, equipment replacement and other infrastructure enhancements.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Ensure the post-secondary education sector is accountable for public investments.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Implement the ministry's accountability reporting framework to demonstrate progress on shared post-secondary institution and government priorities.
- Monitor post-secondary institutions' financial forecasts to evaluate the financial health of institutions and follow-up on any adverse financial results.
- Maintain and enhance the [Post-Secondary Education Indicators Project](#) to ensure consistent, comparable, sector-wide data is collected and available to inform planning, monitoring and reporting.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Expenditure to Revenue Comparison

- The expenditures to revenue comparison demonstrates efficiency and long-term sustainability. It is used to inform planning for the sector, to compare with other jurisdictions, and to review trends.
- Information is collected annually through the [Saskatchewan Post-secondary Education Indicators Project](#).

Reliance on Revenue Source Comparison

- Measures the composition of the sector's revenue sources and provides a measure for assessing the sustainability of the sector if the proportion or distribution of revenue sources changes.
- Information is collected annually through the [Saskatchewan Post-secondary Education Indicators Project](#).

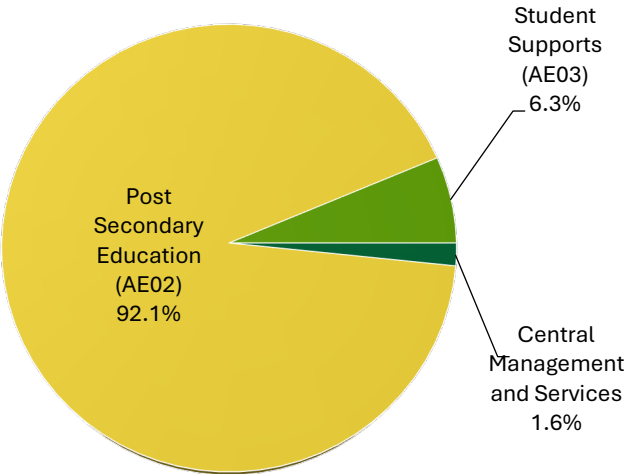
2026-27 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>Expansion of Critical Health Care Education: The Ministry of Advanced Education is improving access to health care education by expanding opportunities in critical health care training programs. Beginning in fall 2026, Saskatchewan residents can now stay in the province to train as Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, and Respiratory Therapists.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Sustainable Funding to Institutions: A new four-year funding agreement for Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions has improved funding certainty and supported student affordability by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering stable, predictable funding through guaranteed annual operating grant increases which ensures that institutions can continue to deliver high-quality education and prepare graduates for Saskatchewan’s workforce. • Limiting tuition increases by reducing the annual cap from four percent annually to a range of zero to three percent annually to minimize tuition increases for students. • Reducing the reporting burden on post-secondary institutions, while maintaining accountability to government priorities. Institutions now submit one report annually that demonstrates the impact of funding and how it supports students and the community.
<p>3</p>	<p>Automating Tax Slips: In 2026-27, the Ministry will have all tax slips moved from a manual to an automated process on the Student Portal. Automation of processes will save time and resources, reduce human error and create efficiencies. This process improvement aligns with our commitment to student privacy. The elimination of paper copies and the mailing of tax slips will help to prevent potential privacy breaches.</p>

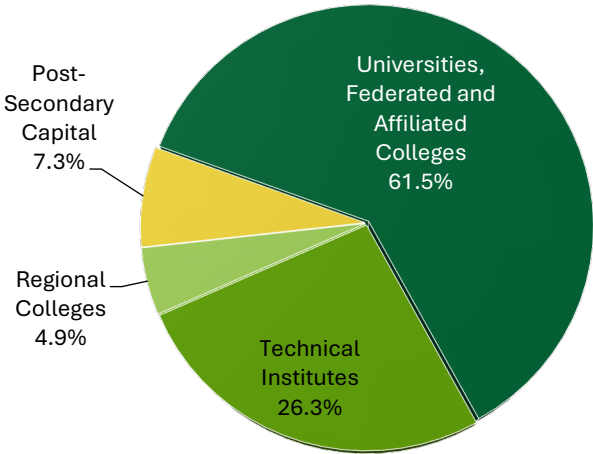
Financial Summary

Ministry of Advanced Education 2026-27 Estimates (\$847.1 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$13,834
Post Secondary Education	\$780,141
Student Supports	\$53,157
Total Appropriation	\$847,132
Capital Asset Acquisition	\$-
Capital Asset Amortization	\$-
Total Expense	\$847,132
Ministry of Advanced Education transfers to Post-Secondary Institutions (\$776.4 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Universities, Federated and Affiliated Colleges	\$477,203
Technical Institutes	\$204,407
Regional Colleges	\$37,954
Post-Secondary Capital	\$56,825
Total	\$776,389

Ministry of Advanced Education Budget (\$847.1 million)



Ministry of Advanced Education Transfers to Post-Secondary Education (\$776 million)



Links to more information

- [Ministry of Advanced Education](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)