



## PAST TOPICS:

- Alternatives to Zero
- Cold Weather Attendance for Staff

## FUTURE TOPICS:

- Accountability Pillar Measures
- Payroll, T4's and Related Technology
- Success teams
- Leave provisions
- Why Focus on Reading/Literacy
- Technology
- Individual Program Plans (IPP)
- Field Trips
- Continuous Improvement
- FVSD Purchasing (VISA, etc.)
- Culture & Climate Benchmarks
- Divisional Calendar
- Jr. High Assessment
- Staff Benefits Package
- Service Learning
- Maintenance (Requests & Com.)
- Special Education Program Reviews
- Teacher Induction –summer prep.
- Upper Hay River Literacy Laptops
- Summer School & Teacherage Maintenance

Previous issues can be found on our website: [www.fvsd.ab.ca](http://www.fvsd.ab.ca)

## Accountability Pillar Measures

### 1. What is the Accountability Pillar?

The Accountability Pillar is a series of measures chosen by Alberta Education so that school divisions can measure progress from one year to the next. Seven measure categories are linked to three of the provinces goals and they are:

Goal 1: High Quality Learning Opportunities for All

Measure Categories: i. Safe and Caring Schools ii. Student Learning Opportunities

Goal 2: Excellence in Learner Outcomes

Measure Categories: i. Student Learning Achievement (Gr. K-9) ii. Student Learning Achievement (Gr. 10-12) iii. Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship

Goal 4: Highly Responsive and Responsible Jurisdiction

Measure Categories: i. Parental Involvement ii. Continuous Improvement

Associated with these measure categories are sixteen different measures. Some of the data is gathered by factual sources such as dropout rate, high school completion rates, PAT results and Diploma exams. Some of the other data sources come from surveys of parents, teachers and students.

Each measure is compared in terms of Achievement (Very High, High, Intermediate, Low and Very Low) and Improvement (Improved Significantly, Improved, Maintained, Declined, Declined Significantly).

School divisions and individual schools can compare progress against the previous year's results. The goal is to strive for progress in each of the measure areas.

### 2. How do we use the Accountability Pillar information?

We receive multiple updates to the Accountability Pillar each year. The data is used when we are creating school, department and divisional education plans. It is important to look at the trends in the data and to look at the data over time. One year of data may not be sufficient to drive change or strategy adjustment.

3. What about other data sources, are these not important? Data like attendance, behavior, reading levels, writing competency, special needs, etc.

All of these pieces of data are important and all should be taken into account when building meaningful education plans. One of the most useful ways to use the Accountability Pillar is to look at the picture the information paints. By doing so we will look for underlying causes, dig deeper, ask more questions, seek more data inputs and ultimately use all the information to drive educational change, which will lead to greater student success.

4. Are we being compared to other school divisions which have vastly different student populations, cultural dynamics and geographical challenges?

At the very beginning of setting the standards for Achievement and Improvement the answer would be yes, but not now. Now, we compare our data to our previous year's data. The provincial data is also given to us as a comparator.

## Payroll, T4's and Related Technology

As part of our cross-training project in the payroll department Gayle Doerksen is now processing the payroll for certified staff (Teachers) and Joanne Smith is processing the payroll for support staff. As a result of this Gayle is processing benefits for ASEBP and Joanne for Standard Life. If you have any questions regarding your pay or benefits please feel free to contact the appropriate payroll representative.

As of January 2010 employees are to access their monthly paystubs and annual T4 online at the following website: <https://tscweb.fvvd.ab.ca>. Each school is to provide access to a computer and printer where employees can privately print off these statements. T4's by law are required to be provided to employees by February 28<sup>th</sup>. It is our goal to provide them to you by the beginning of February.

A reminder to those of you who reach the CPP and EI deduction limit during the year, deductions will once again commence on January's paycheck. Maximum contributions for 2010 for CPP = 2163.15 and for EI = 747.36.



*Education is not the  
filling of the bucket, but  
the lighting of the fire”.*

*- W.B. Yeats*

