

COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS
CONNECTED IN CHRIST



2024/ 2025

NORTHSTAR ACADEMY

EDUCATION PLAN AND ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT



ABOUT NORTHSTAR

NorthStar Academy
#200, 550 Laura Ave
Red Deer County, AB
T4E 0A5



NorthStar Academy is an alternate status, Kindergarten to Grade 12 school within the Golden Hills School Division. Dedicated to providing education within a Christ-centered and responsive learning community, NorthStar Academy's mission is to partner with students, their families, and local communities to deliver innovative and meaningful learning opportunities. Learning that will equip students to become compassionate communicators and creative contributors empowered by Christ.

Established in 2001, NorthStar Academy has a history of excellent evangelical Christian education. Currently home to more than 1400 students, NorthStar Academy offers a dynamic learning environment with multiple program options. This allows students and their families to choose a program specifically designed to meet the student's individual educational goals. Our Biblically integrated online and print-based programs are teacher-directed and written to meet the Alberta learning outcomes. While our home education and shared responsibility programs provides parents with greater opportunities to support their children's unique learning needs.

FOUNDATION STATEMENTS

Vision

NorthStar Academy envisions a Christ-centred, responsive learning community where all students are equipped for life-long kingdom impact.

Mission

To accomplish this vision, NorthStar Academy partners with students, families, and their local communities to provide innovative, and meaningful learning opportunities equipping students to become compassionate communicators and creative contributors empowered by Christ.



Accountability Statement

The school education plan for the three years commencing September 5, 2023, was prepared under the direction of the Board of Trustees in accordance with responsibilities under the Education Act and the Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act.

This plan was developed in the context of the provincial government's business and fiscal plans. The Board has used its performance results to develop the plan and is committed to implementing the strategies contained within the plan to improve student learning and results.



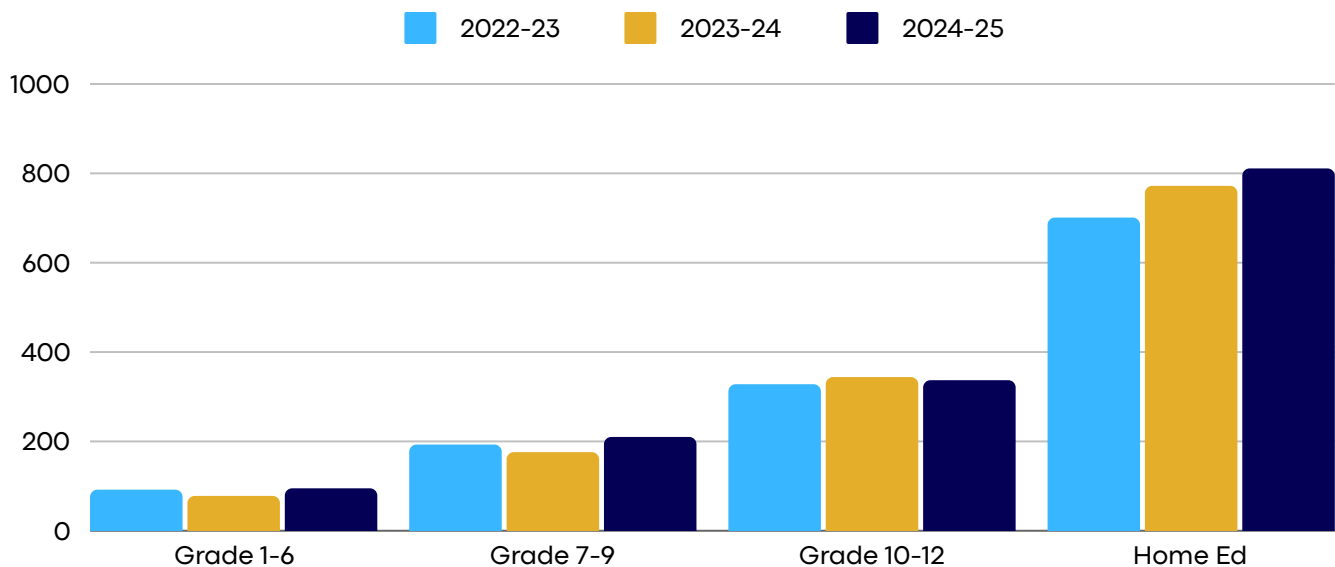
ENROLMENT TRENDS

Across the province, students and parents are increasingly drawn to alternative school programs and the unique opportunities they offer. From our kindergarten home education program to our online teacher-directed high school courses, NorthStar Academy continues to provide nearly 1,500 students with learner-focused, Christ-empowered education.

Our Home Education program continues to experience significant growth, which is supported in part by Alberta Education’s commitment to parent-directed kindergarten. We are also encouraged to see enrolment increasing in our Grades 1 to 9 teacher-directed program. The expansion of our Hybrid Learning Huddle program and new church partnerships has enhanced our ability to meet students' learning needs while fostering deeper connections in local communities, embodying our motto: Community of Learners, Connected in Christ.

At the high school level, enrolment remains steady. However, as students explore a wider range of options for completing courses, the total number of credits taken directly through NorthStar has decreased. In response, we are expanding our school partnership program, which offers non-primary high school credits to other communities and Christian schools. This initiative aims to provide students with greater access to meaningful, innovative learning opportunities, all within the foundation of a Christ-centered education.

Enrolment Counts



ALBERTA EDUCATION ASSURANCE MEASURES

OVERALL SUMMARY

Assurance Domain	Measure	NorthStar Academy			Alberta		
		Current Result	Previous Year Result	Previous 3 Yr Avg	Current Result	Previous Year Result	Previous 3 Yr Avg
Student Growth and Achievement	Student Learning Engagement	85.8	88.3	91.2	83.7	84.4	84.8
	Citizenship	86.3	85.2	85	79.4	80.3	80.9
	3-year High School Completion	46.2 ¹	53.3	56.5	80.4	80.7	82.4
	5-year High School Completion	77.3	71.6	72.5	88.1	88.6	87.3
	PAT: Acceptable	*	*	*	65.5	64.4	64.4
	PAT: Excellence	*	*	*	17.6	16.8	16.8
	Diploma: Acceptable	71.5	70.7	70.7	81.5	80.3	80.3
	Diploma: Excellence	18.0	16.9	16.9	22.6	21.2	21.2
Teaching & Leading	Education Quality	88.7	90.4	89.7	87.6	88.1	88.6
Learning Supports	Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments (WCRSLE)	92.5	88.7	90.0	84.0	84.7	85.4
	Access to Supports and Services	86.7	84.7	83.6	79.9	80.6	81.1
Governance	Parental Involvement	84.2	83.9	81.8	79.5	79.1	78.9

* Participation in our Grade 6 and Grade 9 PATs is limited and therefore our results are not representative of the school.

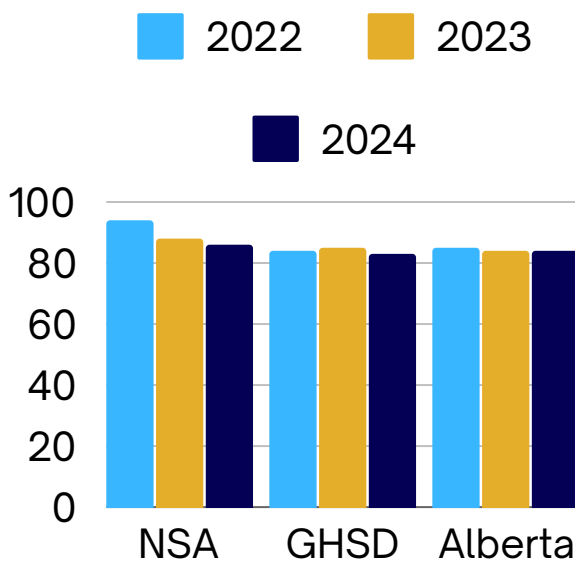
¹ 85.2 % when value includes students continuing on for a 4th year of high school.

GOAL 1

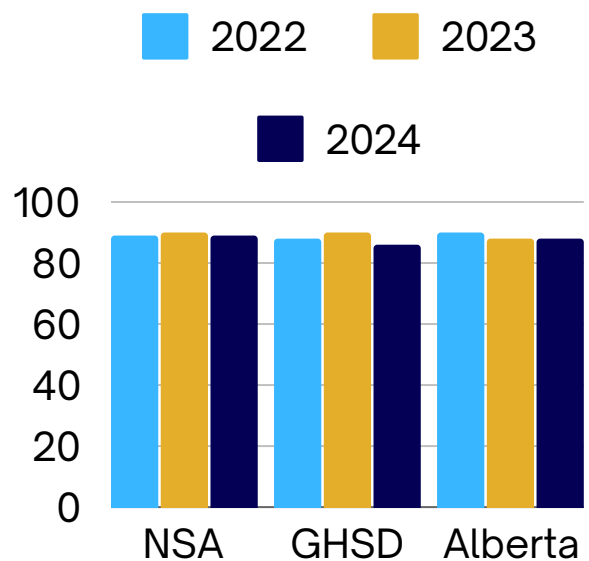
EVERY STUDENT IS SUCCESSFUL

As demonstrated through our Alberta Education Assurance Measure results, NorthStar Academy continues to prioritize quality education. Our teachers work hard to balance the regular demands of classroom teaching with the individual needs of their students. In our ongoing course re-design process, we continue to prioritize powerful learning opportunities that allow students to develop deep understanding that helps them to become critical, Biblical thinkers. Building on last year's focus on enhancing student agency through portfolios and student self-assessment, this year we are exploring social and emotional learning (SEL) from a biblical perspective. Our goal is to integrate SEL strategies into our instruction that encourage students to engage more deeply and meaningfully with their learning journey.

Student Learning Engagement



Education Quality

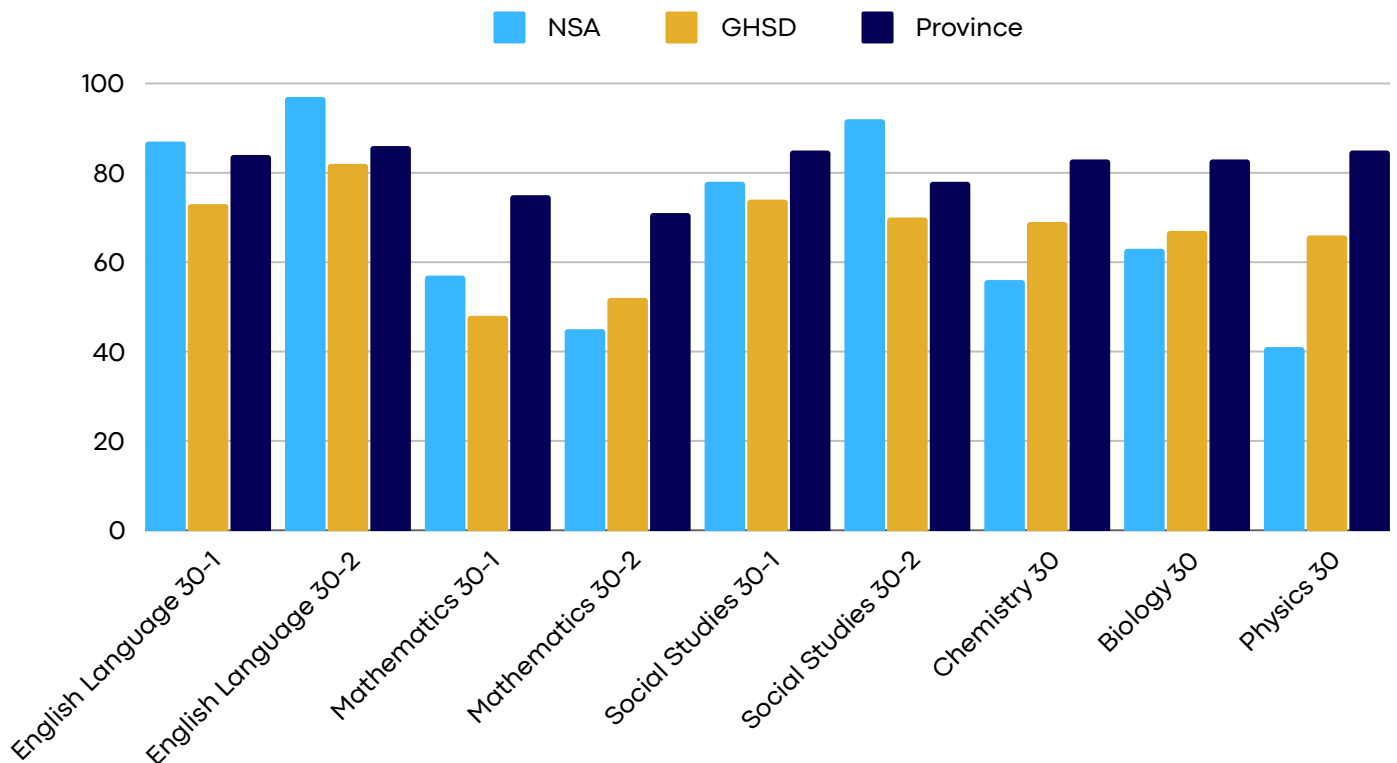


GOAL 1

EVERY STUDENT IS SUCCESSFUL

This year, NorthStar Academy's overall diploma exam results demonstrated continued improvement in both the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence. We see opportunities to further enhance student success in certain subjects and are committed to providing focused instructional supports where needed. Our high school teachers are collaborating to identify key curricular outcomes requiring additional support and to equip students with the skills needed to tackle the high-level cognitive tasks featured in Diploma exams. In response to the rise of AI and the growing access to learning tools, they are also exploring innovative ways to shift student focus from task completion to fostering deep understanding.

Diploma Exam Results



GOAL 1

EVERY STUDENT IS SUCCESSFUL

To support the achievement of Goal 1, NorthStar Academy will:

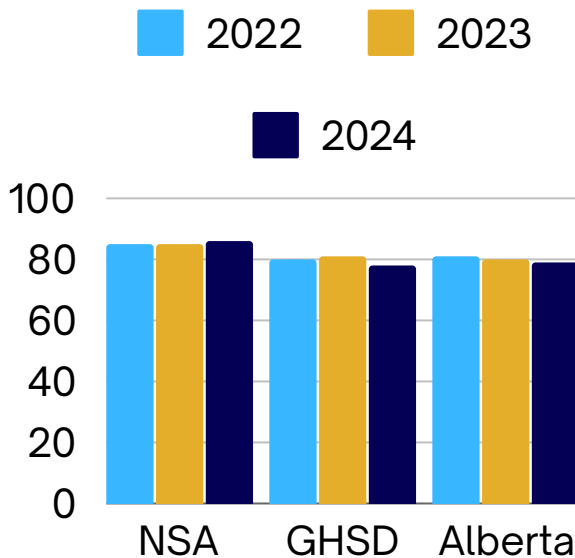
- Continue to prioritize formative assessments in our online course design.
- Build student self-assessment opportunities into course instruction, tying them directly to the course outcomes and individual student goals.
- Explore how to use portfolios effectively in our course instruction as a way to increase student agency and provide for differentiation.
- Continue to utilize our online course design checklist and online learning essential elements rubric to improve our online course design.
- Re-evaluate our classroom re-do practices.
- Participate in Golden Hill's Grade 1 to 6 new curriculum professional development program and work collaboratively to re-design our print-based resource and online courses.
- Enhance biweekly, community-based Hybrid Learning Huddle program, which invites students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 to participate in in-person, hands-on learning with a focus on science, art, physical education, wellness, and Bible.
- Continue to develop the integration of First nation, Métis, and Inuit culture, history, and contributions in our course design through a Biblical understanding of reconciliation.
- Support our First Nation, Métis, and Inuit liaison in connecting with our First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students and their families to identify how we can further support their learning.
- Provide opportunities for our First Nation, Métis, and Inuit liaison to facilitate a variety of professional development activities.
- Invite our First Nation, Métis, and Inuit liaison to review our current resources and recommend new options to use within both our teacher-directed and parent-directed programs.

GOAL 2

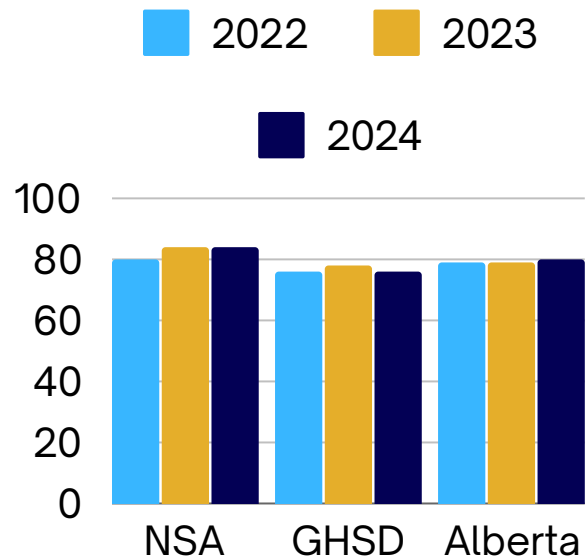
PROMOTE WELL-BEING THROUGH POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND SKILL BUILDING

NorthStar Academy is a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment. Alberta Education’s Assurance Measures consistently highlights our strong performance in citizenship, parental involvement, and fostering a safe and caring school community. Guided by our Mission and Vision statements, we are committed to providing powerful learning experiences within a Christ-centered community of learners. Our dedicated teachers and support staff work to cultivate a Christian environment where every student feels a sense of belonging. In partnership with our students’ parents, guardians and their local communities, we are currently exploring how social and emotional learning (SEL), approached through a Biblical lens, can enhance meaningful student learning. This includes strengthening teacher and social presence within our online courses and creating opportunities for deeper student connections and contributions.

Citizenship



Parental Involvement



GOAL 2

PROMOTE WELL-BEING THROUGH POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND SKILL BUILDING

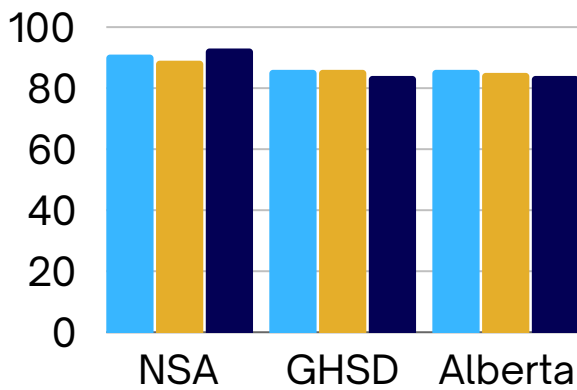
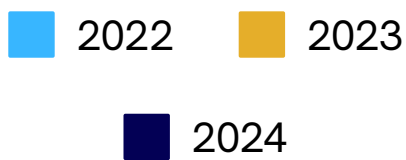
To support the achievement of Goal 2, NorthStar Academy will:

- Explore integrating social and emotional learning (SEL) into our course design to enhance students' capacity for meaningful engagement in the learning process.
- Strengthen our partnership with students' parent, guardians and supervisors by increasing opportunities for intentional feedback and facilitating conversations that help build their capacity to support students' SEL skills.
- Restructure our attendance procedures to better support student engagement and well-being by prioritizing more timely interventions and greater partnership opportunities with families.
- Continue to utilize our virtual Moodle Hallways and Homeroom classrooms to support relationship-building between students and teachers. This includes showcasing student learning and hosting celebration events and other school-wide challenges, such as our annual Read-a-Thon.
- Engage in Golden Hills' Leadership Series with Dr. David Tranter and collaborate with NorthStar's teacher-leaders to enhance strategies for supporting student regulation in home learning environments.
- Include opportunities within our Community Connections program for students to develop their knowledge and understanding of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit culture, history, and contributions.
- Invite our First Nation, Métis, and Inuit liaison as a guest in live classroom sessions, homeroom Google Meets, and school assemblies.
- Continue to refine and enhance our Community Connections program, which includes Activity Day field trips, learning clusters, and workshops.

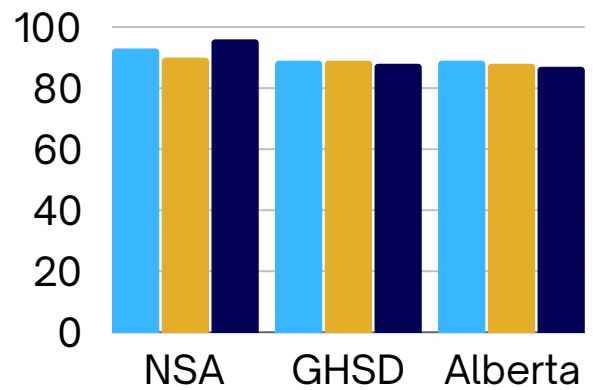
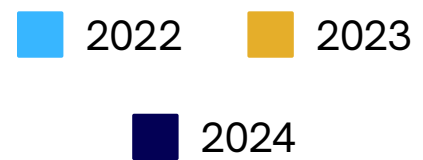
GOAL 2

PROMOTE WELL-BEING THROUGH POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND SKILL BUILDING

Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environment



Safe and Caring

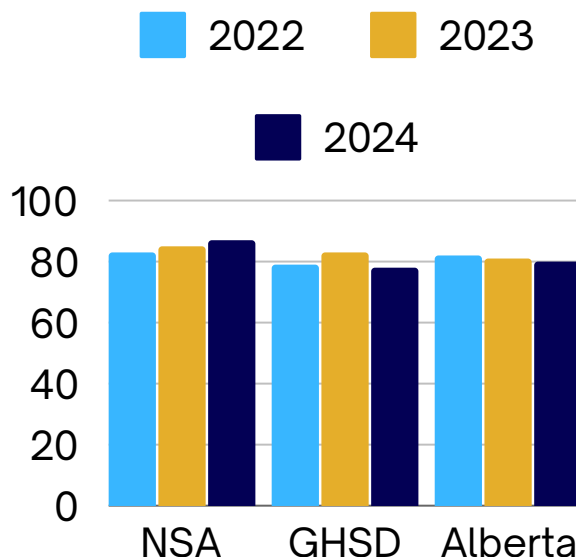


GOAL 3

LITERACY AND NUMERACY SUCCESS FOR ALL LEARNERS

At NorthStar Academy, we recognize that learning gaps persist due to the impact of the COVID pandemic. We also understand that many students join our program at different entry points, bringing diverse educational experiences and aspirations. Literacy and numeracy are often the primary focus of their individualized learning plans. To address these needs, we have renewed our focus on literacy and numeracy success for all learners. Our elementary and junior high teachers are using Alberta Education’s Early Years assessment data to identify areas where students need additional support. We are also collaborating with our school division to implement the new Grades 1-6 curriculum introduced by Alberta Education. This year, we are prioritizing literacy and numeracy in students' individualized support plans and piloting a new study hall program. In this program, students work with a learning coach, either virtually or in person, to set weekly goals and receive accountability support.

Access to Supports and Services



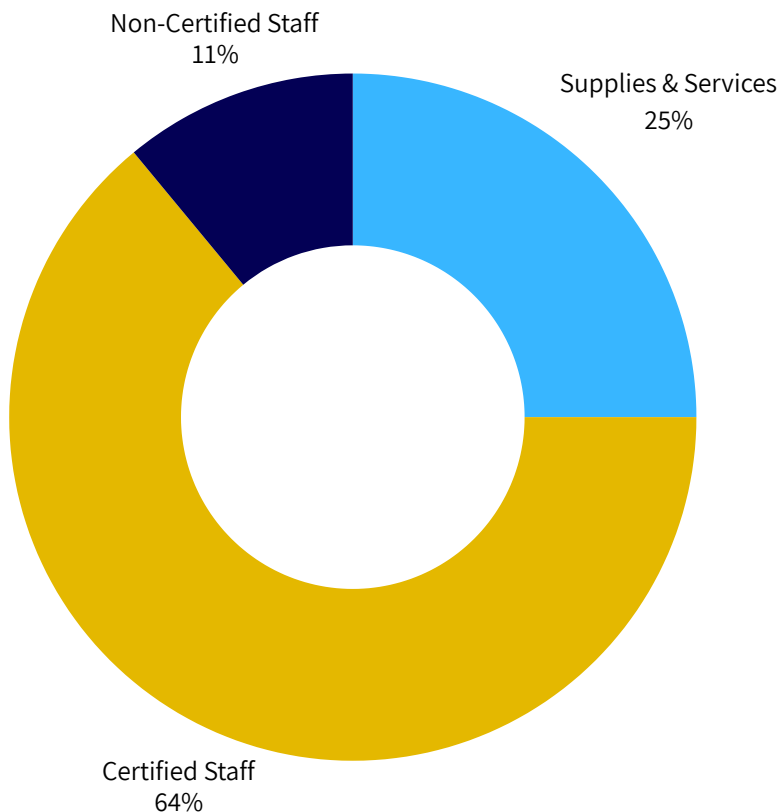
GOAL 3

LITERACY AND NUMERACY SUCCESS FOR ALL LEARNERS

To support the achievement of Goal 3, NorthStar Academy will:

- Establish a more comprehensive benchmarking process in our elementary program and use the collected data to inform instruction and targeted early intervention.
- Establish a new learning and assessment teacher-leader who will help support teachers with the implementation of our provincial, divisional, and school-based assessments and the needed instructional and intervention responses required, as follow up.
- Utilize online subscriptions, as part of our at-risk interventions supports for individual students.
- Redistribute the allocated time assigned to our Grade 1 to 9 Math and Language Arts courses, as part of our course redesign process.
- Participate in Golden Hill's Grade 1 to 6 new curriculum professional development program and work collaboratively with our grade level groups to re-design our print-based resource courses.
- Pilot a new study hall program, available both virtually and in-person, where students work with a learning coach to set weekly goals and access accountability supports.

OPERATING BUDGET



FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PLAN

NorthStar Academy has officially relocated our office from the community of Didsbury to Red Deer, Alberta. As our school continues to grow, this new location in central Alberta allows us to provide better resources and supports to our students while offering greater convenience and new community-building opportunities for students, teachers, and families. We are enjoying the opportunity to have students in our building running a variety of Hybrid Learning Huddle programs and are excited to offer more seats for Diploma and PAT exam sittings. It's also great to have teachers with regular office hours, further enhancing our ability to support our school community.

