New Sarepta Community High School Assurance Plan - 2025-2026

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School Profile:

NSCHS is a small secondary school located in the village of New Sarepta, about 30 KM South East of the offices of Black Gold School Division (BGSD) which are located in Nisku, AB. The school serves approximately 250 students in grades 7 to 12.

- Grade 7 – 37 students
- Grade 8 – 49 students
- Grade 9 – 55 students
- Grade 10 – 40 students
- Grade 11 – 34 students
- Grade 12 – 34 students

- **37** students self-identify as FNMI - **15** identify as First Nations and **22** identify as Métis.
- Currently we have **2** students in high school K&E programming and **11** students receiving K&E instruction at the junior high level.
- We currently have **45** students who receive special accommodations in learning/instruction and **5** ESL students.

- NSCHS has 14 full-time certificated staff. This includes one Learning Support Teacher who provides counselling support while also teaching classes. In addition, the school has a full-time principal and an assistant principal, both of whom carry administrative responsibilities, with the assistant principal also maintaining a teaching assignment. NSCHS has 2.5 educational assistants, 1 cosmetology technician, 2 front office staff, 2 custodians, and 1 part-time school librarian.

- Our school library is open to the students during school hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The school library is also the town's public library, which is open to the community on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, and during the day each Saturday.

- NSCHS offers a full slate of academic programming in Math, English, Social Studies and Science classes. Biology is offered every year, while Physics and Chemistry are cycled. We are continuing to offer Dual Credit programming to the high school students and an increase of up to 16 complementary courses for our junior high students.

- In the 2024–2025 school year, NSCHS continued to offer Inreach programming for high school students. Inreach programming provides students with the opportunity to select flexible, module-based courses from a wide range of CTS and social sciences offerings. These self-paced courses allow students to pursue areas of personal interest while building skills and knowledge aligned with future career goals. We continue to encourage students with an interest in the trades to enroll in courses such as *Primary Resources*, which focuses on Alberta's energy sector, and *Foundations in Industry Workplace Safety*, which provides certification applicable to up to seven different trades sectors. Several students completed 30-level diploma courses during in-reach to open their schedules for full-time work experience and RAP courses.

<u>NSCHS offers a broad range of complementary programming, including:</u>

- Woods/Construction
- Welding
- Cosmetology
- CSI
- Foods
- Drama
- Music & Art
- Technology
- PE
- Recreational Sports/Arena Games
- Outdoor Education
- Sports Performance
- Off-Campus programs (Work Experience, Green Certificate, and RAP)
- Academic Support
- Photography
- S.T.E.M.
- Dual Credit Programming
- Sixteen 40-minute, quarterly option blocks

NSCHS offers a broad range of opportunities for athletics including:

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Badminton
- Track
- Tripleball
- Cross Country
- Golf

NSCHS Celebrations of School Culture, Community and Student Success

New Sarepta Community High School continues to celebrate a positive, inclusive, and student-centred school culture grounded in strong relationships, wellness, leadership, and community partnership. Throughout the 2024–2025 school year, NSCHS celebrated student success in diverse and meaningful ways that reflect our commitment to student well-being, engagement, growth, and belonging.

Student Well-Being and Belonging

NSCHS remains deeply committed to supporting student well-being, dignity, and belonging. Wellness initiatives continue to be a cornerstone of our school culture. Our annual Terry Fox Run in September brought the school community together to promote physical wellness, Canadian identity, and philanthropy, with strong student participation and engagement.

Through Jack.org, students took active leadership roles in promoting mental health awareness and advocacy. A school-wide Mental Health and Wellness Day in May featured guest speakers and activities focused on resilience, positivity, and navigating challenges. Additional programming included presentations from MHCB, Alberta Health Services, and community partners, addressing topics such as mental health, stress management, healthy relationships, inclusivity, substance abuse awareness, and responsible decision-making.

During the 2024–2025 school year, NSCHS also piloted a Therapy Dog Program in partnership with CAAWLS. This initiative provided calming, supportive interactions for students who benefit from additional emotional regulation supports. Early observations indicated positive impacts on student self-regulation, reduced anxiety, and increased readiness to engage in learning, reflecting NSCHS's

commitment to innovative, evidence-informed approaches to student well-being.

Meeting students' basic needs remains a priority. NSCHS continued to offer breakfast and lunch supports through partnerships with the Leduc Food Bank, community donations, and a generous contribution from the Breakfast Club of Canada. These supports helped ensure students were nourished and ready to learn. Occasional Hot Lunch programs were also well received by students and parents/guardians.

In June, NSCHS observed Pride Week (June 2–6) alongside Black Gold School Division, under the theme *"You belong here—exactly as you are."* Pride Week messaging reinforced affirmation, representation, safety, and student voice, emphasizing that every student, staff member, and family belongs. These messages were shared through daily announcements and reinforced a culture of empathy, respect, and inclusion. Families were also informed of free Alberta Health Services counselling drop-in sessions available weekly in Leduc. This ensured awareness of ongoing mental health supports over the summer months.

Student Engagement, Leadership, and Citizenship

Student engagement and leadership were celebrated across academic, extracurricular, and community-based experiences. Students participated meaningfully in Pink Shirt Day, Mental Health Awareness initiatives, and a variety of Leadership Theme Days and Spirit Weeks, including Movember, Halloween, Holiday/Christmas Spirit Week, and others that fostered school pride, connection, and a positive school culture.

NSCHS and New Sarepta Elementary School partnered to host shared Remembrance Day Ceremonies, creating a meaningful and respectful event that served both school communities as well as the broader local community. Senior students played leadership roles, and the ceremony reinforced values of remembrance, gratitude, and citizenship.

Leadership and mentorship were further celebrated through collaborative work with New Sarepta Elementary School. Senior high students acted as facilitators and role models during a Numeracy Day event, while Grade 8 students volunteered on April 29 and May 7 as part of a project led by our BCYC Success Coach with the MHCB team. Students answered questions about junior high, read stories, created ZEN gardens and glitter jars, and modelled what it means to be a mentor and positive role model, strengthening relationships and supporting smooth transitions.

A highlight of the year was the reinstatement of the Grad Walk in June 2025 at New Sarepta Elementary School. Grade 12 students returned in their caps and gowns to walk the halls, cheered on by NSES staff and students in Kindergarten through Grade 6. This meaningful tradition celebrated achievement, reinforced role modelling, and strengthened connections between schools.

NSCHS also celebrated joy and inclusion beyond traditional programming. A small group of students participated in the Rodeo of Smiles, an inclusive experience that emphasized confidence, connection, and community involvement.

Fine Arts, Athletics, and Student Achievement

Fine arts continue to be a strong source of pride at NSCHS. Our Band Program benefits from an incredibly supportive Band Parent Association, which organized successful fundraisers including bake sales, a Dessert Night, and a Silent Auction. NSCHS is deeply appreciative of the strong community involvement that supports student learning and performance opportunities.

Traditionally, junior and senior high bands participate in numerous holiday events, including the NSCHS Winter Concert and the Cloverlawn Community Centre Family Christmas Evening (senior band). Students were also proud to perform live in the second half of the year and our band programs were recognized for excellence at two festivals, highlighting strong instructional leadership and student commitment.

The Senior High Drama Program also experienced a successful year. Traditionally, in the first semester, students created and operated an amazing scary haunted house for NSCHS students and presented a powerful dramatic performance during the Remembrance Day Ceremony. In second semester, students participated in the One Act Festival, receiving multiple honours at the MAcLab Drama Festival, with one cast and crew qualifying for Drama Provincials in Lethbridge (May 8–10).

Athletics remained an important area of engagement and achievement. Students demonstrated perseverance, growth and accolades, particularly in volleyball, basketball, badminton and track and field. NSCHS athletes also competed at the Alberta Provincial Championships in Calgary, placing 7th in the Senior Girls 3000m and finishing 9th in the Junior Boys shot put—two impressive top-10 provincial finishes. NSCHS also celebrated strong school spirit and connection through a Senior High Alumni Basketball Game on March 27th, which was well attended by alumni and spectators and reinforced lasting pride and relationships.

Student Growth, Achievement, and Future Readiness

Career exploration and future readiness remain celebrated strengths at NSCHS. Students were able to attend both a school based and divisional career fair, a school sponsored RCMP presentation and an Alberta CAREERS presentation in January. Students were also encouraged to engage with myBlueprint to explore interests, strengths, and career pathways, enriched through presentations from NAIT, Augustana, Lakeland College, MacEwan University, NorQuest College, the University of Alberta, Concordia University, and King's University.

NSCHS also proudly hosted its Annual Awards Evening in October, a key celebration recognizing student achievement, effort, leadership, citizenship, and personal growth. This event provided an important opportunity to publicly honour students across academic, extracurricular, and community-focused areas, reinforcing the value of perseverance, contribution, and excellence. Families, staff, and community members gathered to celebrate student successes in a formal and affirming setting, strengthening school pride and reinforcing a culture where student effort and achievement are recognized and celebrated. The Awards Evening remains an important tradition at NSCHS and reflects our commitment to honouring the whole child.

Lastly, NSCHS celebrated strong outcomes in our Semester Dual Credit Program. Of note, eight NSCHS students in Semester 2 successfully graduated through this pathway, demonstrating readiness for post-secondary learning and the effectiveness of flexible programming.

Community Partnerships and School Pride

NSCHS benefits greatly from strong parent and community partnerships. Our School Council remains highly engaged and supportive, providing valuable feedback and fundraising through initiatives such as Little Caesars and Purdy's.

NSCHS and New Sarepta Elementary School collaborated on several large-scale community events. On February 13, both schools hosted a Family Game Night, creating a welcoming K–12 opportunity for connection. In early September, the schools held a joint "Meet the Teacher BBQ" for the first time. This well-attended event brought together families from Kindergarten through Grade 12 for an evening of food, games, community booths, and engagement with local partners, including the New Sarepta Fire Department, who brought their fire truck, and members of the RCMP. The success of this event highlighted NSCHS's role as a community hub and will continue as an annual tradition.A Volunteer Appreciation BBQ on May 28 further celebrated the generosity and commitment of volunteers who contribute

so meaningfully to NSCHS. This event reinforced our identity as a small school with a big heart.

Closing Reflection

Feedback from students, staff, parents, and community members consistently affirms that NSCHS offers a wide range of learning opportunities within a caring, connected, small-school environment. The celebrations highlighted throughout this report reflect not only student accomplishments and engaging activities, but also the intentional practices that define our school culture. One such practice has been our purposeful decision to celebrate student success both within and beyond the school, extending recognition into the broader community through our communication platforms. Student achievements celebrated in this way included accomplishments in club volleyball, synchronized swimming, baseball, rugby, bowling, and a 4-H Beef Club, reflecting the diverse talents, interests, and commitments of our students. This approach strengthened student pride and dignity and fostered a shared sense of ownership and celebration, as evidenced by positive engagement from current and former students, families, and community members. As NSCHS continues the assurance process, we remain committed to nurturing student well-being, engagement, and growth through inclusive practices, meaningful relationships, and authentic recognition of student effort and achievement—building on the strong foundation of community and care that defines New Sarepta Community High School.

School Council Message

New Sarepta Community High School

School Council and Parent Advisory Association Report

August 26, 2025

The NSCHS School Council and Parent Advisory Association (PAA) meet on average 7 times a year. The executive members make up the largest number of attendees each month, with the occasional parent attending. A member of the NSCHS staff, along with the current principal, Lorelei Steffler, attended every meeting as well to give the SchoolCouncil executive an update on school events, student activities and an overall view of the day-to-day life at NSCHS during the school year. The members of the School Council and PAA continue to encourage any parent involvement and participation by sending out messages and reminders to invite all parents to our monthly meetings. We currently meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

The Council has focused on areas such as fundraising, the staff wish list and supplies, and many other acts of service to show our support to the school and its staff. The PAA supplied many of the school groups, such as band, drama, and multiple sports groups,

with a Gatorade and granola bar during tournaments, band concerts, and drama performances. This has once again been well received by our students. A big shout out to all the parents who helped out with the purchases of Gatorade and granola bars as well.

This year the School Council used their portion of the Alberta School Councils Engagement Grant to send our Chair Sherry Krozser and Vice-Chair Michelle Harper, to attend the ASCA Annual Conference. This year the ASCA conference was online which is a change from previous years. As a virtual conference I believe it was to provide both a cost savings and a way to get more of those from further away a better chance to attend. Even though the conference was virtual this year, it was as always, very informative and well attended. Our School Trustee, Esther Eckert, regularly attends our monthly meetings and is always happy to keep the School Council up to date on the BGSD news. Esther is always a strong supporter of keeping our council running and encourages the School Council to participate in attending the ASCA Annual Conference.

The PAA, which is our fundraising arm, planned regular fundraisers to assist and meet our financial commitments to the school and our students. The majority of our fundraisers are consumable based. A big thank you to all that participated in helping out our school and

students. Our main goal is to use the funds where they can be of the greatest benefit to the students and teachers at our school. This year we purchased a volleyball spiker trainer, 40 lab coats, 2 microscopes, 2 clarinets and ice cream scoops.

We want to take the opportunity to thank the staff who work with us to make NSCHS one of the best schools to be involved in.

Thank you,

Sherry Krozser

Chair, NSCHS Parent Council & PAA – 2024-25

Alberta Education Assurance Measures - New Sarepta Community High School

Required Alberta Education and Childcare Assurance Measures - Overall Summary

Fall 2025

School: 3220 New Sarepta Community High School

Assurance Domain	Measure	New Sarepta Community High Sch			Alberta		
		Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average
Student Growth and Achievement	Student Learning Engagement	**83.4**	76.4	77.7	**83.9**	83.7	84.4
	Citizenship	**78.6**	68.4	71.3	**79.8**	79.4	80.4
	3-year High School Completion	**82.6**	73.0	85.6	**81.4**	80.4	81.4
	5-year High School Completion	**92.8**	95.1	96.2	**87.1**	88.1	87.9
	PAT9: Acceptable	**67.9**	68.8	61.9	**62.5**	62.5	62.6
	PAT9: Excellence	**9.6**	16.7	12.6	**15.6**	15.4	15.5
	Diploma: Acceptable	**68.4**	54.5	67.7	**82.0**	81.5	80.9
	Diploma: Excellence	**11.2**	5.9	13.7	**23.0**	22.6	21.9
Teaching & Leading	Education Quality	**84.0**	76.3	80.3	**87.7**	87.6	88.2
Learning Supports	Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments (WCRSLE)	**85.5**	75.5	79.1	**84.4**	84.0	84.9
	Access to Supports and Services	**81.8**	79.7	81.2	**80.1**	79.9	80.7
Governance	Parental Involvement	**82.3**	75.6	73.9	**80.0**	79.5	79.1

Based on the Fall 2025 Alberta Education Assurance Measures Overall Summary, NSCHS demonstrates several areas of meaningful growth alongside areas that will continue to guide school improvement efforts. A significant area of pride for the NSCHS community is the marked improvement in Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments (WCRSLE). Results increased substantially from the previous year and now closely align with provincial averages. This improvement reflects a sustained, intentional focus on student well-being, relationship-based practices, inclusive programming, and mental health supports. Initiatives such as restorative approaches, student leadership opportunities, collaboration with Jack.org, and targeted wellness programming have contributed to a school culture where students increasingly report feeling safe, supported, and valued.

NSCHS also believes that intentional communication and the public celebration of student and school accomplishments contributed positively to these results. Over the past year, the school increased its focus on highlighting student achievements, leadership, athletics, fine arts, and community involvement through regular posts on school social media platforms and through the weekly “Notes from the Office” email newsletter shared with families each Friday. By consistently recognizing student learning, effort, growth, and success, NSCHS strengthened student pride, reinforced a sense of belonging, and enhanced transparency and connection with families. This intentional celebration of learning and community is believed to have supported improved perceptions of school culture, engagement, and welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environments.

Positive trends were also observed in student learning engagement, access to supports and services, and parent involvement, indicating growing confidence in both instructional practices and school-home communication. High school completion rates, particularly the five-year completion rate, remain a notable strength and reflect the effectiveness of flexible programming, individualized supports, and alternative pathways available to students in a small-school setting.

While these improvements are encouraging, NSCHS recognizes that some measures, including citizenship, education quality, and excellence indicators, remain below provincial averages. Additionally, school-based literacy and numeracy screening data indicate areas of need in foundational skills development. Given the small cohort sizes at NSCHS, year-to-year fluctuations are expected; however, these results provide valuable direction for focused and intentional improvement efforts. In response, NSCHS will prioritize strengthening literacy and numeracy through targeted, data-informed instructional practices while continuing to build resilience, engagement, and strong relationships among students, staff, and families. These areas directly inform the school goals outlined below and ensure that improvement efforts remain aligned with student needs and divisional priorities.

Priority Focus 2024-2027						
School Goal 1: Strengthening Literacy and Numeracy	**** Indicate *Alignment with Division Priorities (Success)***	**A significant area of concern, need or desire for improvement**	**What we need to do to address this**	**What our students will be able to do if we are successful**	**How we will know we are making progress**	**Actions we are taking in 2024-2027**
	It's really important that...	An area of improvement that we need to focus on is...	If we...	Then...	We will know we have made progress because...	Next steps for this year are...
Students in Grades 7–12 will demonstrate improved literacy and numeracy skills across subject areas.	in Grades 7-9 that we focus on foundational literacy (reading comprehension/ writing conventions) and numeracy (number sense and problem-solving) to improve confidence and achievement across all subjects.	school-based literacy and numeracy screening data indicates gaps in foundational skills for a number of students, which impacts achievement, confidence, and engagement across subject areas.	use screening and classroom assessment data to identify priority skill gaps, guide intentional instruction, provide targeted interventions, and strengthen consistent literacy and numeracy practices across grades and subject areas, then students will demonstrate improved foundational skills, increased confidence, and greater engagement as learners.	our students will be able to: -read & comprehend increasingly complex text and communicate ideas clearly (oral and written) -apply numeracy skills to problem-solve in a variety of contexts and subject areas -demonstrate improved confidence and perseverance with literacy/numeracy tasks and stronger engagement in learning.	more students will meet or exceed expected benchmarks on screeners, fewer will require intensive intervention, and classroom performance in literacy and numeracy-dependent tasks will improve. -improved literacy and numeracy screener results (school-based) classroom assessment evidence (common tasks, -teacher observations and student work samples showing growth over time	-administer, analyze, and respond to annual literacy and numeracy screeners. -establish priority skills by grade level and identify students requiring intervention. -implement targeted small-group supports and in-class strategies. Strengthen collaborative planning and shared instructional practices (common language, strategies, and assessment approaches). -Monitor progress and adjust interventions based on evidence of the use of writing rubrics.

Priority Focus 2024-2027						
School Goal 2: Fostering Wellness, Resilience, and Strong School-Family Partnerships	**** Indicate *Alignment with Division Priorities (Wellness/ Engagement and Partnerships)***	**A significant area of concern, need or desire for improvement**	**What we need to do to address this**	**What our students will be able to do if we are successful**	**How we will know we are making progress**	**Actions we are taking in 2024-2027**
	It's really important that...	An area of improvement that we need to focus on is...	If we...	Then...	We will know we have made progress because...	Next steps for this year are...
All students (Grades 7–12) will demonstrate positive citizenship, resilience, and engagement within a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment, supported by strong school–family partnerships.	students, staff, and families feel connected, supported, and valued through a school culture that prioritizes wellness, resilience, and strong, collaborative partnerships between school and home.	continuing to strengthen student resilience, respectful citizenship, and meaningful, consistent communication with families, while building on recent improvements in Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments.	intentionally prioritize wellness and relationship-based practices, implement targeted wellness and resilience programming as appropriate, reinforce expectations for respectful citizenship, and maintain consistent, celebratory communication with families.	students will demonstrate increased resilience, positive citizenship, and respectful behaviour, actively engage in their learning, and contribute to a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe school community.	our data will continue to show strength or improvement in welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments, students will demonstrate positive behaviour and engagement, and families will provide positive feedback and increased participation in school communication and events.	continuing targeted wellness and resilience programming, reinforcing expectations for respectful behaviour and positive citizenship, supporting student leadership and voice, and maintaining celebratory communication with families through weekly newsletters and social media.

This image represents the culmination of the work and priorities outlined in this Assurance Plan. It reflects student achievement, resilience, belonging, and strong partnerships between school, families, and community. Together, these elements highlight New Sarepta Community High School's commitment to fostering strong literacy and numeracy foundations, nurturing a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment, and supporting students as they grow into confident, capable, and engaged graduates.