

# February Accountability Report

## Student Services

School of Alternative Education  
2025-2026

February  
2026

## Student Services, The School of Alternative Education

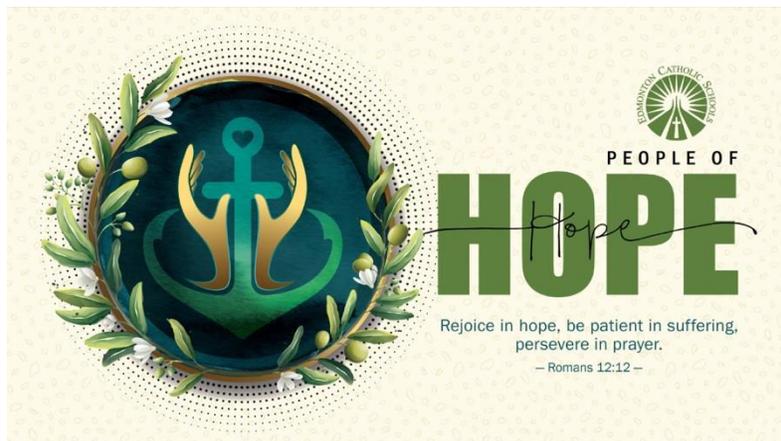
In the fall of 1999, Edmonton Catholic Schools formalized the Department of Lifelong Learning and Alternative Education Services. The department served as a vehicle to facilitate new directions in student learning. Today, Student Services, Edmonton Catholic School of Alternative Education is proud to continue this tradition of providing that opportunity to students.

Edmonton Catholic School Division's Mission is "to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to learn and that prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another." Living out this mission requires us to recognize the unique strengths, challenges, and learning pathways of every student entrusted to our care.

Student Services, The School of Alternative Education offers flexible, student-centered learning opportunities that support diverse academic and personal pathways. As society evolves, so must our education system – the programs offered by the School of Alternative Education reflects that evolution by meeting students where they are; academically, socially, and spiritually. Rooted in the Division's mission to provide Christcentered education and promote lifelong learning, the School of Alternative Education continues to provide students with unique pathways for high school completion. The School of Alternative Education provides not only academic support and modified scheduling for those students who need an alternative to the traditional high school but also provides opportunities and challenges for the students who are successful in our high schools and who want to expand their knowledge and experiences.

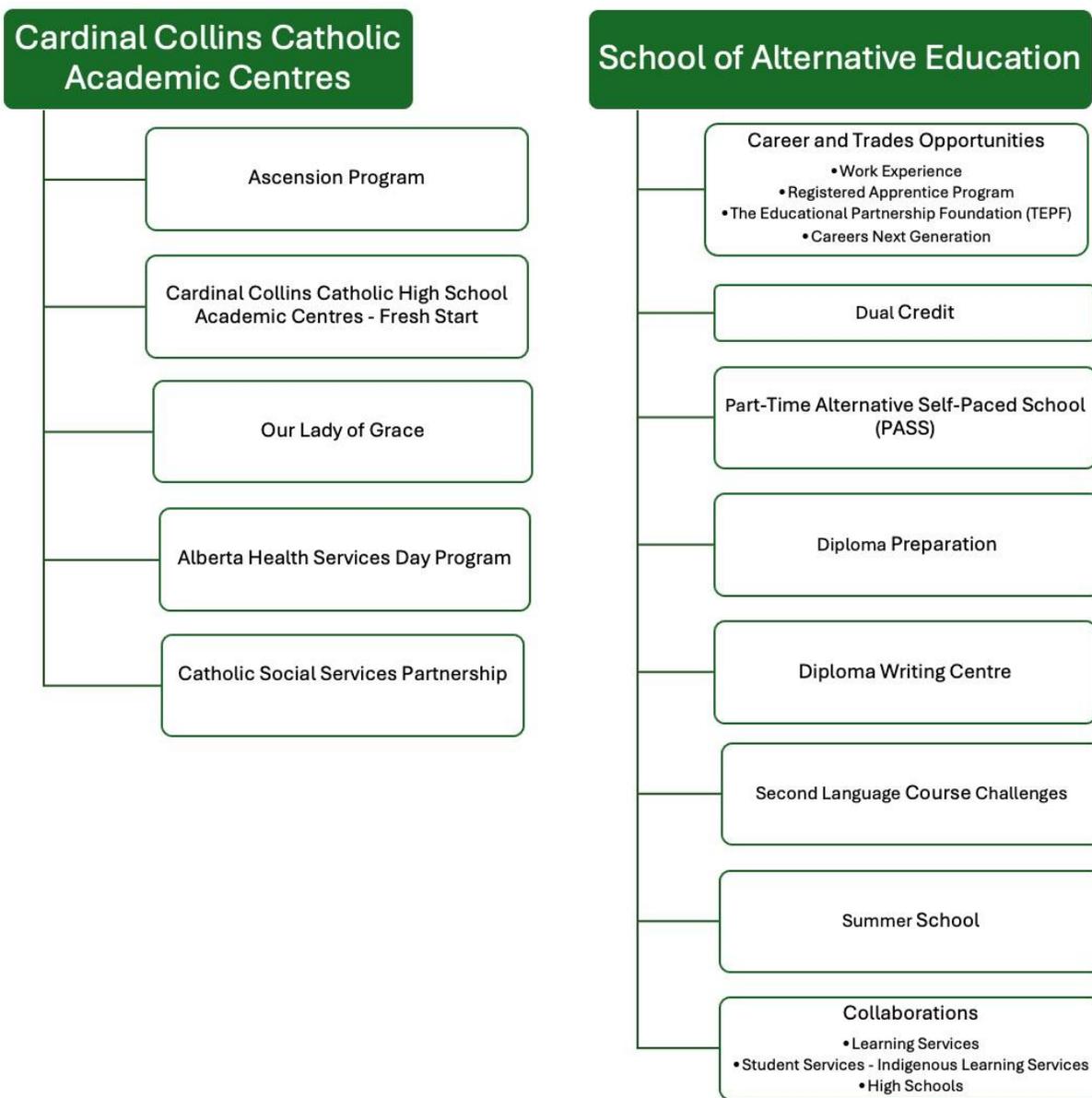
The School of Alternative Education, through strong relationships with our Division High Schools, Edmonton Catholic School Division (ECSD) departments and other programs within Student Services, strives to ensure a continuum of support and services to address the needs of students in their growth, achievement and ultimately high school completion. Edmonton Catholic School of Alternative Education truly exemplifies this year's division theme:

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer." Romans 12:12*





# Edmonton Catholic School of Alternative Education



## Cardinal Collins Catholic Academic Centre

The School Charism of Cardinal Collins Academic Centre is,

*“We believe that we each have a set of unique gifts that we use daily to work together in support of our students. Collectively, we believe that our gifts flow to our students through the vessel of hope. This sense of hope permeates all that we strive to instill in everyone each day.”*

The staff of Cardinal Collins Catholic Academic Centre, through this charism, and their ability to work as a team, build trusting and caring relationships through which provide hope to each student they interact with.

Cardinal Collins Catholic Academic Centre allows students, who, for various reasons, a traditional high school environment does not meet their needs, a self-paced environment, that provides them with a future of hope.

Cardinal Collins Catholic Academic Centre - Clareview supports students who need educational services to complete high school requirements, improve Grade 12 marks, or take additional courses for post-secondary preparation. Learning is offered through classroom-based instruction and self-paced options. Beyond regular school hours, students can access opportunities such as PASS (Part-Time Alternative Self-Paced School) and Dual Credit programs, and during July and August, summer school is available.

Transportation is often a challenge for students, so having a convenient location is important. This site offers easy access through Edmonton Transit Service and the LRT. The north-side location was chosen for several reasons: strong transit connections, a higher number of students needing these services living north of the river, and the opportunity for a unique partnership with the City of Edmonton.

The academic centre is physically connected to the Clareview Recreation Centre, giving students access to fitness facilities. They can also use the Clareview Edmonton Public Library located in the same complex. To support parents from Our Lady of Grace who may need childcare, the YMCA Clareview Childcare is also available within the recreation centre.





### **Ascension Program**

Cardinal Collins Catholic Academic Centre - Clareview offers an academic upgrading program for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year high school students. The campus offers an adult learning environment that focuses on high school completion and/or upgrading diploma course marks. All 30 level diploma courses are timetabled in a quarterly structure around the November, January, April and June diploma exam writes.

### **Cardinal Collins High School Academic Centres – Fresh Start**

Fresh Start provides an educational alternative for senior high school students who, due to individual circumstances, find that traditional school settings do not meet their needs. In the early years of School of Alternative Education, the focus was on students who were considered atrisk; pregnant and parenting teens and those students who did not attend or found little success in their community schools. In the last number of years, School of Alternative Education has broadened it's programming considerably to include students who want to access one or two courses or take their entire high school program within a Fresh Start program. Programming can be provided through Fresh Start Academic Centres to students who may only need a few more courses to graduate or to those students who are working. Elite athletes and fine arts students, whose endeavors require time away from school regularly, may find the programming offered at Fresh Start Academic Centres to be conducive to their complicated and busy schedules.



### **Our Lady of Grace (OLOG) Program**

Our Lady of Grace provides mobile and individualized services to support pregnant and parenting teens within their community school setting, where educational alternatives are available in a regular school environment. The program begins with a comprehensive assessment of each student's needs, followed by tailored services that may include personalized counseling for students and families, bi-weekly parent support groups, pre-natal and post-natal education, and referrals to community agencies.

OLOG maintains strong partnerships with numerous organizations, including Health for Two, Collective Kitchen, the Adolescent Pregnancy Clinic, TERRA Centre, and the Catholic Women's League (CWL) across Edmonton, Sherwood Park, and St. Albert. Additionally, the program collaborates with Grant MacEwan University to host student nurses completing their community nursing practicum placements. These partnerships, along with support from the Sacred Heart Catholic Church of the First Peoples, provide essential resources and funding that enhance the program's ability to meet the needs of vulnerable students and their families.



OLOG students are blessed to go on field trips to Elder Bob Cardinal's cultural grounds, where they have the opportunity to learn through meaningful teachings and participate in traditional ceremonies. These experiences help students deepen their understanding of Indigenous culture and foster respect for its traditions. Elder Bob also joins our OLOG students at the Cardinal Collins Catholic Academic Centre Graduation to share a heartfelt blessing with our graduates, making the celebration even more special.

### **Alberta Health Services Day Program**

Alberta Health Services operates a voluntary six-week program whereby a multidisciplinary team serves clients with addictions from the ages of 12 to 18 years of age. Although the main goal of this program is to equip clients with tools to deal with their addictions, clients have daily access to school blocks where School of Alternative Education teachers provide them with the courses necessary to continue their junior and senior high school programs.

### Catholic Social Services Partnership

Students who reside in several Catholic Social Services group homes have access to a School of Alternative Education teacher's instruction on four afternoons per week to facilitate the achievement of their high school certification.

## School of Alternative Education

### Career and Trades Opportunities

The School of Alternative Education provides students with diverse pathways to explore careers and gain hands-on experience through innovative programs:

#### Work Experience

Students earn high school credits while gaining practical skills and real-world exposure in various career fields. This program helps students develop employability skills and build connections with potential employers. Work Experience is supported during the school year and through Summer School programming.



- Students may earn up to 30 credits in Work Experience, but only 15 credits can be applied toward the Alberta High School Diploma. Each credit requires 25 hours of work.
- Mandatory prerequisite: Students must complete HCS3000: Workplace Safety Systems, earning 1 credit, before starting Work Experience or RAP.

### Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP)

RAP allows high school students to begin apprenticeship training while completing their diploma. Students earn credits toward graduation and hours toward their first-year apprenticeship, giving them a head start in skilled trades careers. RAP is supported during the school year and through Summer School programming.

- Students can earn up to 40 high school credits through RAP, with 5 credits awarded for every 125 hours of on-the-job training.
- Mandatory prerequisite: Students must complete HCS3000: Workplace Safety Systems, earning 1 credit, before starting Work Experience or RAP.

### **TEPF Semester Careers Program**

The Educational Partnership Foundation (TEPF), students participate in a semesterlong program focused on career exploration and foundational skills in trades. This initiative supports students interested in pursuing technical and vocational pathways.

### **TEPF Summer Careers Program**

Students can accelerate their learning and gain career-focused experience during summer school. This program offers flexibility and opportunities to complete career courses outside the regular school year.

With The Educational Partnership Foundation, The School of Alternative Education offers a tremendous opportunity for high school students interested in the Summer School Trades Careers Program.

Students receive work experience credits. Prior to the program beginning, students will, with the support of their home school and Alternative Education, complete HCS3000 and CSTS2020. Training takes place in an industry setting by journeyperson instructors. Current opportunities include Boilermaker, Carpentry, Electrician, Finishing Trades, Insulator Heath and Frost, Ironworker, Industrial Mechanic (Millwright), Pipe Trades and Bricklayers.

The Summer School Careers Program allows students to:

- Explore the possibility of careers related to the TRADES
- Gain an opportunity for job placements
- Attend a closing ceremony and receive a completion certificate **Current**

### **Support Model for 2025/2026**

- 1 ECSD teacher serving as Work Experience/RAP Coordinator within Alternative Education, supporting 8 high schools
- 2 teachers seconded by Careers, providing a combined 1.0 FTE  
This collaborative staffing model ensures students receive quality instruction and guidance across all career-focused programs.

These programs empower students to transition successfully from school to the workforce, aligning with Edmonton Catholic School Division's commitment to preparing students for diverse post-secondary and career opportunities.

## Dual Credit

In collaboration with Learning Services, the School of Alternative Education provides dual credit programs that enable high school students to earn both university and high school credits at the same time. These courses are offered through our PASS (PartTime Alternative Self-Paced School) evening program, Summer School, and classroombased day programs at various locations. Available dual credit options include Aviation, Psychology, Police Studies, Information Technology, Business, Healthcare, and Administrative Professional, providing students with a head start on post-secondary education and opening pathways to careers in fields such as aviation, law enforcement, technology, business management, healthcare, and office administration. The following courses and programs are being offered during this academic year:

### Dual Credit Programs (1-year certificate)

- Administrative Professional, Post Secondary Partner: NorQuest College. Method of Delivery: In-person at Cardinal Collins Catholic Academic Centre (Clareview Campus); full-year classroom instruction plus one-month practicum in July
- Educational Assistant, Post Secondary Partner: NorQuest College. Method of Delivery: In-person at Cardinal Collins Catholic Academic Centre (Clareview Campus); full-year classroom and practicum



### Courses Semester 1 (2025/2026)

- Early Learning & Child Care, Post Secondary Partner: NorQuest College. Method of Delivery: In-person at Cardinal Collins Catholic Academic Centre (Clareview Campus); Thursdays 1–4 pm, over two semesters
- Aviation (Private Pilot Ground School), Post Secondary Partner: Prairie College. Method of Delivery: Online (Wednesday evenings) along with independent study
- Aviation Avionics Technology, Post Secondary Partner: SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology). Method of Delivery: Online (Wednesday evenings) along with independent study
- \*\*\*NEW Fundamental Kitchen Skills & Trade Calculations (Culinary Arts), Post Secondary Partner: NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology). Method of Delivery: In-person at Mother Margaret Mary Catholic High School, Wednesday evenings



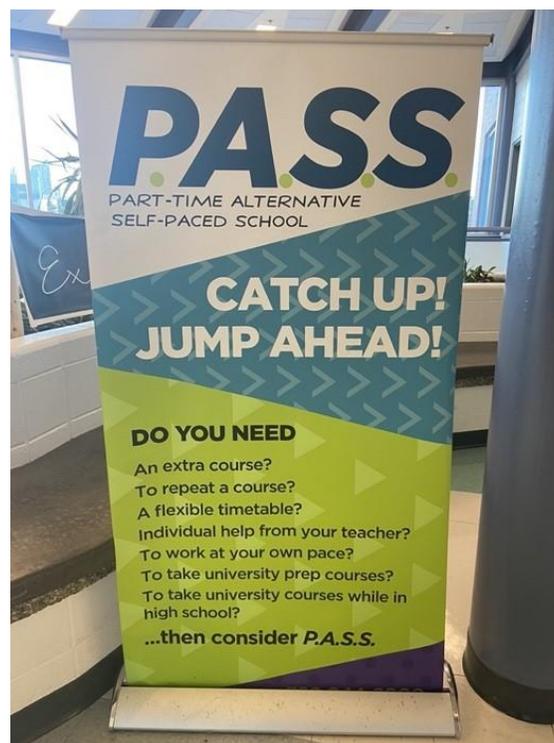
### **Courses Semester 2 (2025/2026)**

- Business & Accounting, Post Secondary Partner: MacEwan University. Method of Delivery: In-person at Mother Margaret Mary Catholic High School, Wednesday evenings
- Anatomy & Physiology, Post Secondary Partner: Norquest College; offered in both semesters. Method of Delivery: In-person, Holy Trinity Catholic High School, Wednesday evenings
- Health Fields & Nursing, Post Secondary Partners: Norquest College and NAIT. Method of Delivery: In-person at Holy Trinity Catholic High School and Online, Wednesday evenings

- Information Technology, Post Secondary Partner: Concordia University. Method of Delivery: In-person at Mother Margaret Mary Catholic High School, Wednesday evenings
- Psychology, Post Secondary Partner: Norquest College. Method of Delivery: Inperson at Mother Margaret Mary Catholic High School, offered in both semesters, Wednesday evenings
- Police Studies, Post Secondary Partner: MacEwan University. Method of Delivery: In-person at St Joseph Catholic High School offered in both semesters, Wednesday evenings
- Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Post Secondary Partner: Olds College; offered in both semesters. Method of Delivery: Online, Wednesday evenings

### **PASS – Part-Time Alternative Self-Paced School**

PASS is an alternative high school program for students who want a self-paced, individualized approach to their education. Courses are broken up into modules to be completed independently or with the help of a teacher one-on-one. The teacher and the student make appropriate goals and a schedule which allows for continuous progress. The courses offered and credits gained by the students are applied toward their high school diploma. The program operates out of division schools and School of Alternative Education sites from late September to June every Monday and Wednesday from 4 pm -7 pm. Students can set their own daily work schedule and communicate with teachers through various approved media platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom.



### Diploma Preparation

School of Alternative Education offers diploma exam preparation courses to help get students ready for grade 12 diploma exams. This program is offered at Lumen Christi Catholic Education Centre during the months of January and June. The diploma preparation program has significantly supported student learning and our Division's diploma results.



### Diploma Writing Centre

The School of Alternative Education continues to provide flexible and accessible diploma exam writing opportunities for students throughout the academic year. This initiative ensures that students have multiple chances to complete their diploma requirements, supporting diverse learning pathways, and individualized success.

#### Scheduled Diploma Writing Sessions:

November, January, April, and June:  
Lumen Christi Catholic Education Centre serves as the designated writing centre for these sessions. This centralized location provides a consistent and supportive environment for students registered through Alternative Education programs.



#### August:

To accommodate summer school students, the August diploma writing session is traditionally hosted at Archbishop O'Leary Catholic High School. This location is selected to align with summer programming and ensure ease of access for students completing courses during the summer term.

By offering diploma writing opportunities in November, January, April, June, and August, the School of Alternative Education demonstrates its commitment to flexibility and student success. These sessions are integral to meeting the needs of learners who require alternative timelines or pathways to graduation.

### Second Language Course Challenge

Edmonton Catholic School of Alternative Education is proud to celebrate and support diverse, knowledgeable, and ambitious students as they work towards high school completion and post-secondary and career goals. Edmonton Catholic high school students who are fluent in reading, writing, and speaking in the following languages: French, Spanish, Filipino, Italian, Ukrainian and Polish can challenge the respective 30/35 level language course offered through the second language course challenge which includes two projects, an oral assessment and written examination, all in the target language. Successful completion of the second language course challenge may benefit the students in earning up to 15 credits towards their high school credential and these courses may also be used for university entrance as a Group A requirement.



### Summer School

The School of Alternative Education offers a comprehensive summer school program during July, providing students with flexible pathways to success and equitable access to learning. This program supports students who need to:

- Complete core high school courses for graduation.
- Upgrade marks for post-secondary admission.
- Access to alternative timelines to meet academic goals.

All course offerings are driven by student registration and enrolment, ensuring programming meets actual student needs. Delivery options include:

- In-Person Teacher-Directed Classes
- In-Person Modular (Self-Paced)
- Online Delivery

Specialized Summer School Partnerships:

- Indigenous Learning Services (ILS):  
Students can complete Physical Education 10 and CALM while working with Braided Journeys coaches and ECSD staff, integrating cultural, spirituality and wellness activities. Hosted at summer school sites with in-person delivery.

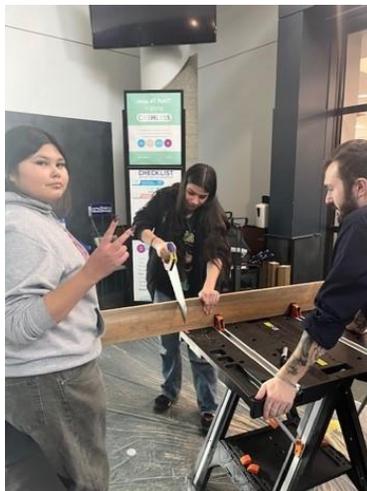
- **One World One Centre:**  
Offers English as an Additional Language (EAL) Camps for newcomers to Canada, supporting language development and integration. Hosted at summer school sites with in-person delivery.

Summer school course offerings delivered by the School of Alternative Education reflect ECSD's commitment to supporting students' educational journeys and providing them with pathways and opportunities for year-round student success.

## Collaboration with Learning Services

### ECSD Summer Trades Careers Program/Trades Career Program

Through The Educational Partnership Foundation (TEPF), students participate in a semester-long program focused on career exploration and foundational skills in trades. This initiative supports students interested in pursuing technical and vocational pathways.



### English as an Additional Language Consultants and One World One Centre – Summer School

The School of Alternative Education partners with One World . . . One Centre to provide summer programming with a community partner, Action for Healthy Communities, for our English as an Additional Language Learners. Through this summer school course, students, new to Canada, with limited English, earn high school credits while they learn about Edmonton Catholic Schools and the City of Edmonton all the while making connections with teachers, students, schools and community partners.

## **Home Education**

The School of Alternative Education supports parents who select Home Education for their children. Home Education allows parents to be their child's primary educator. Parents are responsible for managing, delivering, and supervising their child's courses of study. The goal of this program is to develop academic programming that meets Alberta Education Home Education regulations. We believe that the ideal model is one where the school administration, teachers and parents can work closely together to support student success.

## **Collaboration within Student Services**

### **Partnership with Indigenous Learning Services**

Edmonton Catholic School of Alternative Education has partnered with Indigenous Learning Services to create programs and services for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. These programs (camps) are offered during weekends, spring break and the summer months. Students are immersed in courses and activities that focus on career exploration, cultural teachings, leadership development, connection with Indigenous community leaders and participation in environmental excursions.

### **Braided Journeys**

The Braided Journeys Student Support Centres, which are located in the Clareview and Westmount campuses of Cardinal Collins Catholic Academic Centre, are committed to assisting student success by cultivating a caring, welcoming, and positive place where Indigenous students see themselves, their contributions and their culture represented, respected, and celebrated. Each centre offers support, encouragement, and guidance throughout a student's educational journey.

## **Collaboration with our High Schools**

### **Program Transition to Cardinal Collins High School Academic Centres**

Throughout the school year, many of our Division's community high schools are faced with students who have become disconnected with their school community for a variety of reasons. Many of these students are no longer able to be successful and have exhausted all means of supports that have been put in place at our Division's community high schools. When minimal success has been achieved in their high school program, a Program Transfer can be initiated. This may offer a solution to bring a student back to the path of achieving a credential in our division. It is understood that poor attendance, social, and emotional barriers can make it difficult to see success due to factors that affect the student outside of the school. Often this means exploring the suitability of continuing their education at an alternate school program in the School of Alternative Education.

It is important to note that for these students, every effort is made to communicate between schools to allow for a quick and efficient transfer with as little disruption to the student as possible. An understanding exists with all parties that a student can return to their community high school at a natural transition point when they have demonstrated a readiness. This could be at the beginning of a new term but is determined in consultation with the administrator who oversees the student in question, as well as the School of Alternative Education staff. This ensures that hope is maintained for the student.

## Conclusion

In remaining faithful to Edmonton Catholic School Division's mission "to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to learn and that prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another," the School of Alternative Education plays a key role in meeting the diverse needs of high school learners.

Alberta's High School Completion Framework emphasizes flexible learning pathways to ensure all students graduate and reach their academic potential. Catholic education shares this goal, rooted in our mission to provide inclusive, faith-based learning environments that respect the dignity of every learner. By offering a wide range of programs, pathways, and supports, the School of Alternative Education honours the dignity of each student and ensures that every student has genuine opportunities to succeed. This commitment reflects the heart of Catholic education: forming the whole person and accompanying each learner toward their fullest God-given potential.

Many students in ECSD high schools' face work obligations, family responsibilities, high school academic course constraints, and personal challenges that make traditional schedules difficult. The School of Alternative Education's daytime, evening/weekend and summer school classes provide the flexibility needed for these students to earn credits without leaving their Catholic learning environment.

School of Alternative Education programs offer individualized instruction, credit recovery, and self-paced modules, to support students who struggle academically, or simply want to excel academically. These settings foster strong teacher-student relationships, consistent with Catholic education's emphasis on dignity and belonging. These programs serve as a witness to Catholic values, demonstrating that education can be both adaptable and compassionate.

School of Alternative Education programs advance equity and inclusion by serving at-risk youth, Indigenous students, newcomers, and those facing other academic barriers. They support social justice by ensuring all students have access to graduation pathways, reinforcing our commitment to holistic development.

Finally, School of Alternative Education programs offered during the day, after hours and during July and August are essential because they align with both academic success and our Division's faith-based mission of inclusion and service.

As we look ahead, School of Alternative Education remains dedicated to identifying and sustaining programming that empowers all students toward high school completion and a successful pathway to the trades or post-secondary education.