

Centre for Alternative and Virtual Education
(The CAVE)
Education Plan
2023-2026



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Principal's Message

The Centre for Alternative and Virtual Education, affectionately known as the CAVE, provides an alternative method for students to receive their education. We pride ourselves on being flexible for students and families who are busy with work, extracurricular activities, life, or just need a different environment to learn. The courses we offer are online and can be worked on from virtually anywhere. We have had students work on courses while traveling in Asia and Europe to students just wishing not to attend a traditional school. The staff is kind, understanding and will always go the extra mile to help a student understand the material they are learning. Because of this virtual environment, we provide easier access to courses if schedules at students' traditional schools don't fit. We also provide a calm quiet environment in which, if students wish, can come and work on their courses. This all adds up to a comfortable learning environment for students.

Foundational Statements

Vision: Aspen View Public Schools is committed to preparing our students to achieve success and reach their unique potential through the provision of meaningful learning opportunities.

Mission: Engage Learning. Ignite Potential. Inspire Success.

Commitments:

Student Learning: Inspire to engage in relevant learning experiences in an inclusive environment that leads to academic student success.

Staff Learning: Support staff members to be reflective, life-long learners, continually striving to improve their practice.

Communication: Engage in open, active, ongoing and honest communication with students, staff, parents and community.

Culture and Climate: Promote teamwork and model welcoming, caring, respectful, safe and inclusive schools that demonstrate diversity.



Social Emotional Needs: Encourage all students to develop self awareness and decision-making skills to achieve personal and interpersonal fulfillment.

Physical Needs: Promote and model active and healthy lifestyle choices.

Entrepreneurial Spirit: Equip students with skills in areas of innovation, technology, literacy and numeracy enabling them to adapt and thrive in an ever-changing world



Planning and Priorities

The Aspen View Public Schools Education Plan is based on three key priorities

- **Student Success and Completion**
- **Wellness**
- **Engagement**

Schools will develop their own plans that align and are consistent with Divisional and Provincial priorities. As part of the planning process, school councils are involved in the planning process as required under Section 13 of the School Council Regulations (Alberta Regulation 113/2007).

Our Context

School Profile:

The Centre for Alternative and Virtual Education (The CAVE) is an alternative school that provides high school courses in an informal, friendly and flexible learning environment. The CAVE is staffed by a Principal, five teachers and one support staff. We are located in the town of Athabasca just up the street from the library. The school is in a converted home.

The school offers all core courses in Grades 10, 11 and 12, as well as some elective courses, Work Experience, Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), Dual Credit.

The CAVE primarily serves students in high school, as well as adult learners; students 19 years of age or younger are funded through Alberta Education/Government of Canada; students older than 19 years as of September 1st are able to take courses through the CAVE at a cost per credit. Students in Grade 7-9 can be considered for placement at the CAVE upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, although this is rare.

The CAVE is different from other schools in structure, scheduling and culture as well as in clientele. Students who attend the CAVE do so because they need or desire greater flexibility within, and control over, their educational programming. The school serves a very heterogeneous group of students, from those who struggle to those who wish to accelerate their program.

The CAVE runs the Aspen View Outreach Program and Virtual Program.



Student Enrolment:

- Outreach students registered as of April 2023: 74 students grades 10-12 (this number fluctuates as a lot of students only take one or two courses)
- Virtual courses taken in 2022/23: just over 500 (not equivalent to students as some take more than 1 course)
- Home Education for Aspen View also runs through the CAVE with 13 students

Staff Profile:

- 4.8 FTE teachers
- 1.0 admin
- 1.0 support staff (Office administrator)

Opportunities:

Because of the structure of virtual learning, students have the ability to fit courses into their day that they otherwise cannot in the classroom. The ability to fast track and take heavier course loads in order to do so is positive. The flexibility that we offer allows students to continue with sports, work and life in a manner that works best for them. The ability to also still speak directly with a teacher to get assistance is a positive. For those who attend outreach, it is a calm supportive environment where distractions are removed making it a pleasant facility to work in.

Challenges:

Challenges facing the CAVE are how to improve course completion and student motivation to work on their virtual courses. Because most of the students taking courses are not in our building but located in other communities, communication with students can be difficult. There are a great many moving pieces to making a virtual student successful including admin, teachers, students, parents and virtual coordinators so the structure between them all has to be solid. Challenges for students who often attend outreach come with various levels of completion and social emotional concerns. Learning how to aid them with all these challenges while still trying to complete courses can be difficult.



Alberta Education Assurance Measures

Overall Summary Fall 2022

Required Alberta Education Assurance Measures - Overall Summary Fall 2022

School: 1546 Centre for Alternative and Virtual Education

Assurance Domain	Measure	the C.A.V.E.			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
		Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Student Growth and Achievement	Student Learning Engagement	73.1	76.9	n/a	85.1	85.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Citizenship	88.2	69.8	47.6	81.4	83.2	83.1	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
	3-year High School Completion	*	36.3	36.3	83.2	83.4	81.1	*	*	*
	5-year High School Completion	*	*	n/a	87.1	86.2	85.6	*	n/a	n/a
	PAT: Acceptable	*	n/a	n/a	67.3	n/a	73.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
	PAT: Excellence	*	n/a	n/a	18.0	n/a	20.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Diploma: Acceptable	49.2	n/a	65.7	75.2	n/a	83.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Diploma: Excellence	0.0	n/a	1.4	18.2	n/a	24.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Teaching & Leading	Education Quality	83.4	86.7	69.8	89.0	89.6	90.3	Low	Maintained	Issue
Learning Supports	Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments (WCRSLE)	91.3	80.0	n/a	86.1	87.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Access to Supports and Services	86.0	84.2	n/a	81.6	82.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Governance	Parental Involvement	65.0	92.6	n/a	78.8	79.5	81.5	Very Low	n/a	n/a

Reflection on Results

Data is difficult to obtain for a great deal of the measures. As the summary above shows most categories are N/A which means there was not enough data collected to make the results valid. For example if we do not have at least 6 students write a diploma it will not be counted. Diploma courses are difficult when taken in person with a teacher; they are even more difficult when doing it self directed virtually. Because of this lack of data, we are developing methods of collecting our own within the CAVE. Our main focus is going to be course completion within the time a course should be completed. Less carry overs from semester 1 to 2 if possible. Another focus will be collecting data on our diploma mark to school awarded mark. Although sample size is small we can still collect this and over time will have a better sample size. Third focus is support that we can offer to help virtual students be more successful



PRIORITY ONE: Student Success and Completion

Students are successful from the time they enter school until high school completion, and beyond.

Course Drop percentage for 2022/23 as of April 1st.

Core Sciences	15.63%
Core Math	36.37%
Core English	35.5%
Core Social Studies	21.6%

Percentage of teachers, parents and students indicating that their school and schools in their jurisdiction have improved or stayed the same the last three years.

	the C.A.V.E.										Measure Evaluation			Alberta									
	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		Achievement	Improvement	Overall	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%				N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Overall	n/a	n/a	7	42.9	6	33.3	13	81.0	21	75.8	Intermediate	Improved	Good	251,248	80.3	263,364	81.0	262,079	81.5	224,041	81.4	243,980	74.2
Parent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	*	n/a	n/a	6	66.7	Low	n/a	n/a	34,237	79.3	34,159	80.3	35,896	80.0	28,016	81.7	30,147	70.0
Student	n/a	n/a	7	42.9	6	33.3	7	78.6	8	75.0	Intermediate	Improved	Good	185,106	80.2	196,592	79.4	192,917	79.6	167,992	79.1	185,107	76.3
Teacher	n/a	n/a	4	*	5	*	6	83.3	7	85.7	Very High	n/a	n/a	31,903	81.5	32,613	83.4	33,266	85.0	28,033	83.4	28,726	76.3

Outcomes, Strategies and Measures for 2023-24:

Outcome	Improved student performance and completion in virtual courses
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a comprehensive plan with a focus on improved assessment practices to help student achievement. ● Develop a plan to help students with frequency of course access issues. (How often they log into moodle or google to work on courses) ● Develop a plan to increase course completion rates for virtual students. ● Develop a plan to individualize support for students struggling with virtual courses. ● Develop a more comprehensive plan and structure for virtual course registration and selection of students who will be successful in a virtual environment.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased completion rates ● Decreased course drop rates ● Decreased courses carried over from semester 1 to semester 2. Students being able to complete courses on time.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decrease in late registrations for virtual courses.
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PRIORITY TWO: Wellness

Learning and working environments are inclusive, safe, welcoming and healthy.

Safe and Caring	95.7	84.9	83.1	88.8	90.0	89.2	Very High	Improved	Excellent
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Percentage of teacher, parent and student agreement that: students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others and are treated fairly in school.

	the C.A.V.E.										Measure Evaluation			Alberta									
	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		Achievement	Improvement	Overall	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%				N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Overall	n/a	n/a	7	82.9	6	83.3	13	84.9	22	95.7	Very High	Improved	Excellent	253,484	89.0	265,382	89.0	264,204	89.4	230,987	90.0	249,835	88.8
Parent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	*	1	*	6	94.7	Very High	n/a	n/a	35,486	88.4	35,247	88.7	36,809	90.2	30,969	90.5	31,707	89.5
Student	n/a	n/a	7	82.9	6	83.3	7	76.5	8	100.0	Very High	Improved	Excellent	185,384	82.5	196,856	82.3	183,364	82.6	168,813	84.0	187,165	82.5
Teacher	n/a	n/a	4	*	5	*	6	93.3	8	92.5	Intermediate	n/a	n/a	32,824	95.0	33,279	95.1	33,941	95.3	30,205	95.4	30,963	94.3

Outcomes, Strategies and Measures for 2023-24:

Outcome	Students and Staff Feel Safe and Cared for at the CAVE.
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to provide Supporting Individuals through Valued Attachments (SIVA) training ● Implementation of Dispute Resolution AP ● Hold special events such as cooking school meals, having celebrations for both staff and school community. ● Create alternate learning environments within the school (eg. couches, outside spaces etc...) ● Continue to provide Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) training ● Encourage staff to just have conversations with each other and students that are not necessarily about school or work.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decrease in staff absences ● Increased attendance from those students at outreach who do attend. ● Demeanor of the staff and students in the building. ● Survey results.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Atmosphere and demeanor of everyone attending the cave. ● Reflected in survey results.
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Outcome	Students and staff are well-regulated
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Daily opportunities for exercise (eg. go for walks, use the bike in the basement, yoga) ● Access to healthy food choices ● Staff and students create meal plans and then cook them.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demeanor of staff and students. ● Student and staff survey ● Assurance Measure Survey results on Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments

PRIORITY THREE: Engagement

Students are interested and engaged in their learning, feel connected to their school, and have opportunities to pursue their passions.

Percentage of teacher, parent and student agreement that programs for children at risk are easy to access and timely.

	the C.A.V.E.										Measure Evaluation			Alberta									
	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		Achievement	Improvement	Overall	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%				N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Overall	n/a	n/a	7	71.4	6	83.3	13	84.2	22	86.6	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable	253,515	84.2	265,362	84.7	264,165	84.9	230,686	82.7	249,524	81.9
Parent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	*	1	*	6	72.2	Low	n/a	n/a	35,439	77.0	35,184	77.8	36,846	78.1	30,874	76.7	31,643	75.3
Student	n/a	n/a	7	71.4	6	83.3	7	68.4	8	95.8	Very High	Improved	Excellent	185,470	81.7	196,933	81.9	193,409	82.2	169,631	80.2	186,935	80.1
Teacher	n/a	n/a	4	*	5	*	6	100.0	8	91.7	Low	n/a	n/a	32,606	94.0	33,245	94.5	33,910	94.4	30,181	91.2	30,946	90.3

The percentage of teachers, parents and students who agree that students are engaged in their learning at school.

	the C.A.V.E.						Alberta					
	2018 - 2020 Avg		2019 - 2021 Avg		2020 - 2022 Avg		2018 - 2020 Avg		2019 - 2021 Avg		2020 - 2022 Avg	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Overall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22	73.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	249,740	85.1
Parent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	55.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	31,694	88.7
Student	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	63.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	187,102	71.3
Teacher	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	100.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30,944	95.5



Outcomes, Strategies and Measures for 2023-2024:

Stakeholder Engagement

Outcome	Positive community relations contribute to CAVE success
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advertise what the CAVE is and what it can offer. ● Make sure website is up to date ● Register those students who we can and assist those who we cannot assist with alternative solutions. ● Meet with local municipality leaders to better inform them of what the CAVE does. ● School administrator Education Planning Retreat focused on Division Priorities, Outcomes, Strategies and Measures
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assurance Measure Survey on Parent Involvement ● Parent engagement in communication and school events ● Number of municipality meetings to review and discuss local decisions and partnerships that impact student achievement ● Number of meetings with local politicians to share accomplishments and concerns with government representatives

Strategic Priority: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success

Outcome	All staff and students experience learning that builds an understanding of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives.
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students have the opportunity to learn about Indigenous cultural practices and traditions ● School-based leads continue to collaborate, build their capacity and connect with Elders and Knowledge Keepers to bring cultural teachings into the school ● Team up with other Aspen View schools to access Indigenous land-based learning experiences



Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Students and staff report an increased understanding of Indigenous foundational knowledge● Staff report increased confidence in addressing the curricular outcomes related to First Nations, Métis and Inuit history, knowledge and cultural practices
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