

# External School Review

## Berri Regional Secondary College

Across our education system, we seek growth for every student, in every class, and in every school. The external school review value-adds and supports schools to raise student achievement and sustain high performance by providing an expert external perspective on school performance by verifying or challenging:

- a school's improvement planning and processes and its impact on student learning
- the impact of previous external school directions
- the rigour of a school's improvement practices
- the school's capacity to achieve or sustain learning improvement over time.

The external school review lines of inquiry focus on:

- quality school improvement planning
- expert teaching
- quality leadership
- conditions for optimal learning.

The overarching question in every external school review is: How well does the school improve achievement, growth, challenge, engagement, and equity?

### Reported impact of directions from the previous External School Review in October 2019.

The panel acknowledges that since the earlier external school review, several factors, including leadership and staff changes and the amalgamation of two campuses onto one site at Berri, impacted the school's ability to address all previous directions. Several developed whole school documents, a strategic plan, a school improvement plan, a commitment to culture document agreements and guide leaders and staff. While many staff were aware of the intent of these documents, they struggled to explain how they supported their work and influenced the improvement of student learning outcomes. The school improvement plan actions and statements in the strategic plan made clear the collaborative development of a guaranteed viable curriculum. Learning area teams have developed greater clarity and understanding of the curriculum requirements by developing overviews, learning and assessment plans, tasks and resources.

Additionally, teachers have been reviewing and adjusting for their context units of work and resources to support their teaching and student learning. While the school improvement plan clarifies the improvement priorities, some teachers and leaders expressed concerns about the lack of focus on improving literacy and numeracy. Leaders described extensive re-development of site-specific operational policies and processes to support and reflect the new site.

Students commented positively about leadership and student voice opportunities. The development of student agency in their learning and clarity of disposition of a successful learner was not highly visible in mainstream classes or beyond visible pockets in programs promoting inclusion. Engaging students in choices of how they approach and present their learning is an area that needs further agreement and development across the school.

The principal and leadership team have created and maintained a supportive, positive and caring school culture. Students, staff and parents view programs supporting wellbeing, inclusion and pathways in learning as a strength of the school. High expectations and support for all learners remain a challenge. The next step is to develop clarity and agreement on what is highly effective teaching and learning at Berri Regional Secondary College. At the same time, the development of instructional leaders and their alignment to support teachers through highly effective performance development processes and targeted professional learning.

### Outcomes from the External School Review held in September 2023.

The principal will work with the education director to implement the following directions:

- Direction 1** Ensure consistency in quality teaching and learning by developing a coherent teaching and learning framework that is grounded in evidence-informed, high-impact teaching strategies and guides teacher practice.
- Direction 2** Ensure effective instructional leadership by clarifying roles and responsibilities, building cohesion and accountability and developing coaching and mentoring capabilities of all leaders.
- Direction 3** Promote a whole-school culture that reflects the school's vision of high expectations and success for all learners, by developing agreements on student dispositions for successful learners and strategies to support them.

These directions are published on the school improvement plan and will support the school's ongoing improvement work. **Based on the school's current performance, Berri Regional Secondary College will be externally reviewed again in 2024.**



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