

# School Advancement Plan 2016 - 2017

Hilltop Jr./Sr. High School



**N**orthern Gateway  
Public Schools

**Learning for life. Together.**

This document is created to share the goals, strategies and success indicators for the school.  
It is a legislative requirement as part of the 3 Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Review (AERR).  
It is meant to share the local context and priorities and document school advancement direction.  
This is an organic document, which is open to change and modification as circumstances, results, and local context dictate.

## A. School Profile

Focus Question: Who are we?

Hilltop High School is a Grade 9-12 high school located in the town of Whitecourt. Hilltop also operates an Outreach Program named Hilltop's Storefront School. Whitecourt is a town of 10,000 people built mainly on the forestry and oil industries. Due to the nature of the industries, Whitecourt has a high rate of transitory workers. This translates into the school system as well.

Population demographic breakdown by grade:

Hilltop Campus

Grade 9: 114

Grade 10: 116

Grade 11: 130

Grade 12: 118

Storefront Campus:

Grade 9: 4

Grade 10: 7

Grade 11: 6

Grade 12: 11

Number of Students: Hilltop Campus: 478 Storefront Campus: 31

Number of certificated and non-certificated staff: Hilltop High School has a teaching staff of 25.130 FTE teaching staff. The Storefront campus has a teaching contingent of 1.0 FTE. We also have 14 support staff which includes a 0.75 FNMI Liaison Worker, three secretarial staff, a full-time computer technician, a librarian and seven education assistants.

## B. School Highlights

Focus Question: What is exciting and unique to our school?

Hilltop High School offers a comprehensive program of core, Career and Technology Studies and option courses. We offer multiple classes in most courses as well as Art, Construction, Cosmetology, Computer Sciences, Drama, Foods, Mechanics, Photography and Welding. In addition, our students have access to the Registered Apprenticeship Program, Work Experience and Dual Credit programs. We are proud of the wide range of choice students have at Hilltop. We have a number of staff members who have their journeyman certificate in their trades and can, therefore, offer students a higher level of programming than other schools in the area.

Hilltop students have access to programming that meets their needs. In addition to the robust regular programming, we offer Knowledge and Employability, Life Skills as well as a fully-staffed student services department for students to meet their educational and emotional needs. In addition, we offer extra counseling services through CANNIFF and Associates as part of the Aspen Student Health Program.

Hilltop operates an alternative education program through Hilltop's Storefront School. The Storefront program is designed for students who do not find success in the regular high school program, or, for students who are self-motivated to work through high school at their own pace.

Hilltop High School also offers students a number of elements of high school redesign, even though we are not an official redesign school. Students have to opportunity to participate in FLEX twice a month. Students can self-nominate, or be nominated by parents or teachers to attend FLEX tutorials. We also offer students in in-reach program where they can take courses that are not offered as part of our regular course offerings. In addition, Hilltop High School offers the only summer school program in Northern Gateway Public Schools.

Hilltop also has a very successful extra-curricular program that includes sports, drama, photography, and humanitarian opportunities. Our sports teams are competitive at both the local and provincial levels. We host the community high school football team, the Whitecourt Cats. Hilltop students make up the majority of the players and Hilltop staff make up the coaching staff of the team. We also offer students the opportunity to participate in cross-country running, golf, basketball, volleyball, and track and field. Our drama program hosts a number of performances throughout the school year. Hilltop's Photography students take on jobs for local community groups including the Town of Whitecourt. They also offer services like passport photos and video services to the general community. This program emphasizes the entrepreneurial spirit of students. Hilltop's humanitarian group, HUGS, is a grassroots program that supports an orphanage in Uganda. HUGS provides a monthly allowance to take care of the educational needs of students in the orphanage. Students also participate in Yearbook Club, host Arts and CTF Night events. Our students also participate in Skills Canada events. We also have students involved in the Whitecourt Youth Advisory committee. The school hosts a Medieval Club, a Dungeons and Dragons Club and a School Reach club.

We also have a travel club that organizes a yearly international trip. Students have travelled to Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and more through the traveling road show group. Students also take part in local and national field trips as well. We regularly have students attend the Forum for Young Canadians in Ottawa. Students also participate in field trips for cosmetology, outdoor education and sports. Students also have the

Our staff are leaders in the community. Many of our staff members coach community sports, and sit on community committees.

## C. Strategic Planning

### 2016 - 2017 Strategy Action Plan

<b>School Strategy</b>	Focus on Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.
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**Division Gateway Statement** Learners are Successful

**Division Outcome** Learners Meet Standards

**School Outcome** By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, Hilltop students will experience a decreased academic gap between the results of Grades 6-9 and Grades 9-12.

<b>Data Gathered</b>	<p>Percentage of students who achieved standards on Provincial Achievement Tests:</p> <p>Acceptable Standard: Hilltop: 63.6 Province: 73.6</p> <p>Standard of Excellence: Hilltop: 12.3 Province: 19.4</p> <p>Percentage of students who achieved standards on Diploma Exams:</p> <p>Acceptable Standard: Hilltop: 88.3 Province: 85.0</p> <p>Standard of Excellence: Hilltop: 20.5 Province: 21.0</p>
<b>Compelling Need</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Measures (ABEd): Hilltop's PAT results are below the Provincial Average, particularly in the area of Standard of Excellence.</li> <li>• Performance Measures (NGPS): Hilltop's PAT results are below the Division Average, particularly in the area of Standard of Excellence.</li> <li>• Performance Measures (School): There is a gap in the knowledge and skills required of students entering Grade 9. Staff have calculated the closure of this gap over the last two years.</li> </ul>

2016-2017 Timeline	School Actions	Indicators of Success	Responsibility	Results
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Fall 2016 Spring 2016	Pilot HLAT in Grade 9	100% of Grade 9 students participate in HLAT writing	School Administration Grade 9 ELA Teachers	All Grade 9 students are compared to the NGPS HLAT standard
Fall 2016 - Ongoing	Sr. High Math Network- Math teachers will work with other division math teachers to dig deeper into curriculum, instruction and assessment	Results increase in Math 30-1 and Math 30-2 DIP	School Administration (support participation) Teachers (participation) Learning Service (Support)	Improvement in Math results
Fall 2016 - Ongoing	FLEX nominations- By nominating students, teachers can work one-on-one and small group settings to help students meet standards	Increase nominations for students who are not meeting the standard of their courses	School Administration (support participation) Teachers (nominations and tutorials)	More students have access to tutorials during FLEX
Fall 2016 - June 2017	Numeracy Book Study- <i>The Joy of X</i> . Teachers will participate in a numeracy book study.	Increase in understanding of numeracy by school staff	School Administration Teachers	
Fall 2016 - Ongoing	Revitalize Hilltop participation in Learning Networks	100% of Hilltop teachers will be an active member of a NGPS Learning Network	School Administration (Support and Facilitation) Teachers (Participate in Network) Learning Services (Facilitate process)	100% of teachers are involved in professional sharing of resources and ideas

<b>School Strategy</b>	Promote student success via multiple channels.
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**Division Gateway Statement** Learners are Supported

**Division Outcome** Learners have excellent teachers, school and school authority leaders.

**School Outcome** Promote the excellent learning opportunities available at Hilltop High School.

<b>Data Gathered</b>	Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Results
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<b>Compelling Need</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Measures (ABEd): Satisfaction of students, parents, teachers and school board members with the opportunity of students to receive a broad program of studies 82.3%</li> <li>• Performance Measures (NGPS): 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. 76.3%</li> <li>• Performance Measures (School): 61.3% of parents and 69.4% of students indicate that they are satisfied with the program of studies offered at Hilltop High School. 64% of parents indicate they are satisfied with the overall quality of basic education at Hilltop High School.</li> </ul>
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<b>2016-2017 Timeline</b>	<b>School Actions</b>	<b>Indicators of Success</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Results</b>
Through newsletters, website, newspaper, social media, radio, etc., highlight Hilltop's unique or outstanding programs - Ongoing (September 2016-June 2017)	Use the Division webpage and Facebook page to highlight the successes at Hilltop High School.	100% of Hilltop's events will have shared public highlights throughout the year.	Administration (support and promotion) Community Liaison Secretary (promotion) School Staff (through clubs, teams and results)	Hilltop receives a greater percentage of media coverage in the Whitecourt area
Promote student achievement through graduation ceremony and awards ceremony.	Hosting awards ceremony in October and Graduation in June.	100% of student achievement is honoured by school and division staff.	Administration Teachers	Student successes are highlighted
Promote student art through a variety of venues. (Ongoing - September 2016 - June 2017)	Hosting drama productions, fine arts night, and displaying artwork at Central Office	100% of fine arts students will have their work on display throughout the course of the school year.	Administration School Staff Community Liaison Secretary	Fine arts students have their contributions to the school recognized
Through the use of Hilltop Media highlight Hilltop's unique or outstanding programs (Ongoing - September 2016 - June 2017)	Use the video technology to highlight events on the school website and throughout the school	100% of Hilltop's events will be recorded for broadcast on the website, Facebook and Twitter.	Administration Community Liaison Secretary Teachers and School Staff	Media becomes a tool for school promotion

#### D. School Community Communication and Collaboration

It is expected that this School Advancement Plan is a result of a collaborative effort among students (if appropriate), parents, School Council, staff members and the administrative team. Describe how the school community has been included in the development your school plan.

<b>Collaboration Approach</b>	<b>Key Contact(s)</b>
The plan was developed as a collaboration of all staff members. We used a PD day to discuss results and look at possible goals. School staff developed the goals together.	Brent Northcott, Principal; Lesia Hleck, Assistant Principal
The plan will be shared with our School Council, the Friends of Hilltop	Tammy Dickson, Chair