

2023 Provincial Election Advocacy Priorities

FUNDING

Adequate, stable, predictable funding must be provided to meet the needs of public school students in ESC to Grade 12.

- School jurisdictions need flexible and known funding before the annual budget cycle begins.
- In the past four years, jurisdictions have had to apply for additional funds through a grant process that requires significant paperwork and is contingent on approvals.
- Divisions cannot plan or hire staff to be in place as student need emerges.

Reserves

- Boards are not holding back funds from classrooms.
- Boards accumulate operating reserves as part of a long-view plan to address the necessary improvements needed in their schools.
- Boards need reserves on hand to access in case of emergencies.
- Reducing red tape, such as reserve requests, supports local board autonomy.

Capital and Facilities

- Boards have seen a substantial increase in utility costs, natural gas, electricity, and carbon tax. Provincial funding is not adequate to support these increases.
- Capital project projections - such as the modernization project at Grand Trunk School in Evansburg - are not adjusted to address escalations in construction costs

TRANSPORTATION

- Increased funds to address changes to eligibility criteria for riders does not take into consideration the critical challenges Divisions face in rural communities.
- Divisions need to recruit and train more drivers, purchase more buses, and add more routes. Purchasing the necessary buses is a capital expense that cannot occur within this new funding framework.
- Boards need the ability to move funds into capital to purchase buses before they can expand service to meet the new eligibility criteria.



Should your party form government, how will you address the inflexible and unpredictable funding for public schools? How will you ensure that all annual funding is available to school divisions from the onset to facilitate effective planning and staffing?

CURRICULUM

- Alberta's educators are passionate and dedicated professionals.
- Introducing new subjects one year at a time allows educators to learn new outcomes, develop resources, scaffold sequential knowledge and skills, and design engaging learning and assessment plans for students.
- Having four levels of new curriculum at the same time creates significant gaps for students and requires educators to teach concepts students have missed as a result.



Should your party form government, will you consider a more gradual implementation schedule for Alberta's new curriculum?

CROSS-MINISTRY SERVICE AND SUPPORT

- Our rural schools are asked to do more but do not have the wrap-around external services needed from other ministries to ensure students are not falling through the cracks
- Families have limited access to psychiatrists, social workers, mental health beds, and specialized facilities like CASA House or The Glenrose.



Should your party form government, how will you attract and retain specialists and health care providers to Alberta? How will you entice and compensate these professionals to take positions in rural Alberta?

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Alberta's public education system has been internationally ranked as a leader in curriculum, inclusion, instruction, and system leadership.

- Diverting funds from the public system to support 'choice' weakens the public system.
- Public funds are wasted duplicating infrastructure, resources, school buildings, and personnel needed to operate private and charter school options.
- The more that public boards are excluded from conversations about needed or wanted programming, the less opportunity the public system has to meet those needs - and the spiral to undermine public education continues.



Should your party form government, will you limit the public funds that are diverted to support private and charter schools and turn your focus back to funding a strong, inclusive, and world-renowned public education system in Alberta?

Provincial Spring Election 2023



Your Board's Goals:



To raise the profile of important and key issues related to K-12 Public School Education in Alberta



To inform candidates from all parties and our valued stakeholders about key educational issues in our Division



To establish a solid foundation for ongoing advocacy efforts after the election

Protect Public Schools. Get the Facts on Private and Charter School Funding

- At a time when Alberta public schools are losing EAs, teachers, librarians, and school counselors, is it fiscally responsible to funnel more provincial dollars into exclusive options outside of the public system such as charter and private schools?
- Private (receiving 70% of public funds) and Charter Schools (receiving 100% of public funds) are governed by **private** boards of directors and are not subject to open elections, so they do **not** democratically represent the local or broader communities, and they can **deny** access to students with complex needs or whose background does not fit their criteria.
- The research for improved student learning, promised by Charter Schools, has not been folded back into the public system - where is the **value** for Albertans?

