

Regular Board Meeting Agenda – 1:00 pm

Monday, September 25th, 2023

Acknowledgement of the Land

Horizon is located on the traditional land of the Blackfoot Confederacy, Treaty 7 territory and the home of the Métis Nation of Alberta. We honor the Blackfoot people and the diverse Indigenous peoples whose ancestors have marked this territory for centuries, a place that has welcomed many peoples from around the world to make their home here. Together we call upon all our collective communities to build a stronger understanding of all peoples who dwell on this land we call home.

A – Action Item

A.1 Agenda	
A.2 Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held Monday, August 28 th , 2023	ENCLOSURE 1
A.3 September 2023 Payment of Accounts	ENCLOSURE 2

I - Information Items

I.1 Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Wilco Tymensen	ENCLOSURE 3
I.2 Trustee/Committee Report	
I.2.1 Zone 6 Report – Marie Logan I.2.2 Facilities Meeting Report – Bruce Francis I.2.3 Administrator’s Report – Maxwell Holst	
I.3 Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations – Phil Johansen	ENCLOSURE 4 ENCLOSURE 5
I.4 Associate Superintendent of Human Services – Karen Rancier	
I.5 Associate Superintendent of Learner Services Report – Terri-Lynn Duncan	

I - Correspondence

C.1 Minister Nicolaidides’ Back to School Letter	ENCLOSURE 6
C.2 News Release: Funding on the way for new school buses	
C.3 Alberta News: Supporting students with disabilities	
C.4 News Release: Talking to Albertans about new social studies curriculum	

Dates to Remember

• September 25 – Board Meeting
• September 27 – Policy Meeting (1-3:30)
• September 29 – ATA Bargaining
• October 5 – ATA New Teacher Induction
• October 9 – STAT Holiday - Thanksgiving
• October 10 – Administrators Meeting
• October 18 – ASBA Zone 6 Meeting – 10:30
• October 20 – School-Based PD Day (no school)
• October 23 – Organizational Meeting/Board Meeting
• October 27 – Policy Meeting (8:30 – 12)

Horizon School Division



6302 – 56 Street Taber, Alberta T1G 1Z9
Phone: (403) 223-3547 1-800-215-2398 FAX: (403) 223-2999
www.horizon.ab.ca

The Board of Trustees of Horizon School Division held its Regular Board meeting on Monday, August 28th, 2023, beginning at 1:00p.m.

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE: Marie Logan - Board Chair, Bruce Francis – Vice Chair
Derek Baron, Blair Lowry, Jennifer Crowson, Maxwell Holst , Mandy Court

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Wilco Tymensen, Superintendent of Schools
Phil Johansen, Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations Karen Rancier, Associate Superintendent of Human Services Terri-Lynn Duncan, Associate Superintendent of Learner Services Sheila Laqua, Recording Secretary

VIA ZOOM Heather Cameron (Taber Times)

ACTION ITEMS

A.1	Moved by Blair Lowry that the Board approve the agenda. Carried Unanimously	AGENDA APPROVED 120/23
A.2	Moved by Derek Baron that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held Monday, June 26 th , 2023, as provided by Enclosure #1 of the agenda. Carried Unanimously	BOARD MEETING MINUTES APPROVED 121/23
A.3	Moved by Mandy Court that the Board approve the June 2023 Payment of Accounts in the amount of \$8,115,858.40 as provided in Enclosure #2 of the agenda. Carried Unanimously	PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS APPROVED 122/23
A.4	Moved by Maxwell Holst that the Board approve the Horizon Locally Developed Course: Bible Studies. Carried Unanimously	LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSE: BIBLE STUDIES APPROVED 123/23
A.5	Moved by Jennifer Crowson that the Board approved the renewal of the Locally Developed Courses Religious Studies 15, 25, 35 as provided in Enclosure #3 of the agenda. Carried Unanimously	RENEWAL OF LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES APPROVED 124/23

A.6

Moved by Jennifer Crowson that the Board approve the date change on the 2024-2025 Jurisdiction Calendar.

Carried Unanimously

JURISDICTION
CALENDAR CHANGE
APPROVED
125/23

DISCUSSION ITEMS

D.1 EDC – RECALL OF SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE INFORMATION

- The *Recall Act* came into force on April 7, 2022, to allow Albertans to initiate a process that could lead to the removal and replacement of elected officials, including MLAs, municipal officials, and school board trustees.
- Individuals may submit a notice of recall petition to a school board between April 19, 2023, and December 31, 2024, which is prior to the next general election in 2025. Petitions require a minimum of 40% of the electorate to have signed the petition.

D.2 MINISTER MANDATE LETTERS

- Premier Danielle Smith has issued a mandate letters to her Ministers
- Mandate letters can be found on the Alberta Government’s website.

D.3 ATA NEW TEACHER INDUCTION – OCTOBER 5, 2023

- Sr. Administration and Board trustee representation will attend the ATA New Teacher Induction on October 5, 2023.

INFORMATION ITEMS

I.1 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- Welcome Karen Rancier, NEW Associate Superintendent of Human Resources
- No written report

I.2 TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORT

I.2.1 ASBA Zone 6 Report

Marie Logan, Zone 6 Rep, provided a summary from the Zone 6 meeting:

- No Report

I.2.2 Facilities Meeting Report

Vice Chair, Bruce Francis, provided an update regarding Facilities Department summer work:

- Milk River Modernization Project
- Completed Summer Projects
- Grounds Agreement with Village of Lomond

I.3 ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

- MCC will no longer be using the ACE Place building – FCSS will now be utilizing the space
- No written report

I.4 ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF HUMAN SERVICES REPORT

- All teaching vacancies have been filled for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year

- No written report

I.5 ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF LEARNER SERVICES REPORT

- Curriculum support will continue for teachers K-6 as they implement the new curriculum.
- Over the summer, lunch was provided to students in Taber through a grant program called Healthy Heroes. This grant was obtained with Horizon School Division, Holy Spirit School Division, and Parallel Church.
- No written report

CORRESPONDENCE

- No discussion came from the correspondence.

Moved by Derek Baron that the meeting adjourn.

Carried Unanimously

MEETING ADJOURNED
126/23

COMMITTEE ITEMS

Moved by Derek Baron that the Board meet in Committee.

Carried Unanimously

COMMITTEE
127/23

Moved by Mandy Court that the meeting adjourn.

Carried Unanimously

MEETING ADJOURNED
128/23

Marie Logan, Chair

Sheila Laqua, Executive Secretary

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS REPORT

Board Meeting - August 28, 2023

General	August 22/23		559599.11
U.S.	August 29/23		1863.51
General	August 29/23		333198.5
General	August 31/23		104642.73
General	August 31/23		75561.54
General	August 31/23		871693.37
General	August 31/23		231179.87
General	September 12/23		64049.79
U.S.	September 15/23		1643.18
General	September 19/23		42,676.42
"A" Payroll	August 2023	Teachers	1,451,971.30
		Support	258,798.21
"B" Payroll	August 2023	Casual	16,664.98
Total Accounts			3,453,943.40
Board Chair			
PJ:dd			
September 21, 2023			

Superintendents Progress Report

September 2023

The Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard:

Quality superintendent leadership occurs when the superintendent's ongoing analysis of the context, and the superintendent's decisions about what leadership knowledge and abilities to apply, result in quality school leadership, quality teaching and optimum learning for all students in the school authority.

The Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard is described by the following competencies.

Building Effective Relationships

- Establishing a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment.

Modelling Commitment to Professional Learning

- Enhancing leadership, teaching, and learning.

Visionary Leadership

- A preferred future.

Leading Learning

- Promotes shared responsibility for student success and continuous improvement.

Ensuring First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Education for all students

- Establishing structures and providing the resources for schools.

School authority operations and resources

- Alignment with goals and priorities.

Supporting Effective Governance

- Providing the board with information, advice and support to fulfill governance role.

The following is a summary of meetings and activities that I have participated in.

- Meetings and conversations with principals and staff as needed and/or requested. Conversations have focused on:
 - police report that resulted in Taber schools having their doors locked.
 - school off-campus excursions,
 - student discipline including suspension processes
 - early years assessment data results analysis
 - principal transitions (supporting new incoming principals)
- CUPE Bargaining
- Work has begun with regard to analysis of the division assurance data
- A number of other meetings, events, and professional learning activities were attended over the month. These include but are not limited to
 - Senior Administrative Leadership Team (SALT) meeting
 - Administrator meeting
 - Division Office staff meeting
 - College of Alberta School Superintendent (CASS) provincial executive meetings
 - College of Alberta School Superintendent , zone 6 (CASSIX) meeting

- W.R. Myers modernization
- W.R. Myers school council meeting
- School visits
- New principal and Sr admin evaluation meetings
- Principal professional growth plan and school three year education plan meetings
- Teacher Employer Bargaining Association meeting



230925 Board Report

Associate Superintendent of Human Services

Human Resources

- all teaching positions have now been filled
- at the time of writing this report, 8 support staff vacancies remain unfilled

Horizon Induction Program (HIP)

- the first two sessions of the school year have been held:
 - August 21: overview of HIP program, introduction of Division Office Team, Policy review, Counselling Model and Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment overviews, Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation, time for mentors and mentees to spend together
 - September 18: overview of Inclusion Philosophy, ISPs, Collaborative Response, Continuum of Supports

Clinical Team Leader/FSLC/Wellness Coaches

- The Family School Liaison Program team will be hosting our 8th annual Headstrong Youth Summit on October 19, 2023. We will be hosting the in-person event at the Taber Civic Centre, which was donated free of charge. We have grades 9-10 participating from Horizon Schools. Palliser Regional South Schools will be joining us for the day. Taber Coalition for Action and Prevention Awareness (TCAD) provided a monetary donation towards the event.
 - The Headstrong Summit youth mental health event provides a unique leadership opportunity for students Grade 9-12 through large group presentations, interactive breakout sessions, experiential activities and action planning. With a focus on *Stronger Together* students will spend the day learning from experienced speakers about recovery, hope, resilience and how they can BE BRAVE, REACH OUT, and SPEAK UP. Together students, Wellness Coaches, Family School Liaison Counsellors, and teachers develop ideas for stigma challenging activities and mental wellness promotion, leaving prepared to share these activities with their schools. The day will feature a keynote speaker along with other breakout session speakers, nutritious snacks and much more.
- Our Family School Liaison Program Team has started planning for our annual Mentorship Program where high school mentors mentor middle school and elementary students for a 12 week program. Mentors receive credits for participating. Training for mentors will take place September 27 and 28th for Taber mentors and September 26 and 27th for VHS mentors. In Taber, we had a total of 48 mentors sign up from grade 10-12. This year because of numbers we will be accepting grade 11 and 12 students for a total of 22 mentors.

- Four new Family School Liaison Counsellors were hired. Kimberley Shakespeare (Master's in Counselling) for Warner and Milk River, Alicia Yetman (BSW) for Barnwell, VES and Chamberlain, Wendy Ojo (BSW) TCS and Dr. Hamman and Candace Benson (Master's in Counselling) for DAF. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Candace Benson submitted her resignation pending her replacement. Julia Newberry was hired as the new CYCW for Vauxhall. Kirsti Forsyth was hired as the new Wellness Coach for Chamberlain, Enchant, and Hays. Linda Yamamoto, FSLC for W.R.Myers is on leave until the end of October.
- Horizon summer camps were run over the summer in Warner, Milk River, Enchant, Lomond, Vauxhall, Grassy Lake and Taber and were successful in serving over 60 students.
- The annual Backpack event held at Central School on August 22, 2023, resulted in 150 backpacks being handed out to students to ensure a positive start to the school year.
- 26 Horizon School staff were trained in Level 1 Threat Assessment Training October 23 and 24th by CTL Angela Miller, SRO Chris Nyugen and FSLC, Rylee Beland.
- Referrals for the Lethbridge Family Services Angel Tree Program will begin in October.
- CTL is exploring opportunities for parent learning opportunities.

Indigenous Learning

- The first Indigenous Steering Committee meeting of the year was held on September 19 to review Land Acknowledgement protocol and wording, create plans for sharing Indigenous content with staff and students, and discuss the role of the Indigenous Allies.
- Congratulations to Chloe Hart from Central School on winning the Horizon School Division Orange Shirt Design Contest! She will be recognized at an Orange Shirt Day Assembly on September 28.
- Indigenous Liaison Report - Lisa Sowinski
 - Working with new families from Safe Haven.
 - Attending meetings with parents, as appropriate.
 - Inviting Elder Charlie Fox & Metis jigger Roy Pogorzelski to VES to Bless tipi and teach some Metis Jigging and speak on Truth and reconciliation with staff and students.
 - Supporting three schools that have Jaron Weasel Bear coming out to teach traditional games and make a hand drum for VES/VHS.
 - Checking with all schools to see what they have planned for Orange Shirt Day and if they need help with bringing someone in to support their school.
 - Supporting Barnwell school as they have Jaron Weasel Bear coming out to teach tipi protocol and set up the tipi. He will also work with the little people making tipis and sharing about the paint on them.
 - Working with Eagle Spirit Nest Community Association. On Sept. 29th, we will have a vigil out in the confederation park for National Truth and reconciliation. We do this on the 29th so our indigenous families can be with their own families on Sept. 30th.
 - Ensuring students participating in the "backpack program" received their items.
 - Ensuring families that are in need of breakfast, lunch and snacks are on the programs at their schools.

- Setting up Hoop dancing lessons for interested schools.
- Meeting with FCSS Indigenous Liaison to come up with some programs.
- Helping with letters, forms for funding from Jordan's Principle for some students that need assistance.
- Attending path/ISP meetings for students, as appropriate.
- Presenting to Grade 3 students at TCS.

Workplace Wellness

- On September 12, Administrators reviewed "wellness" data from various staff focus groups held in the spring. Administrators labeled various suggested strategies as being ones the Schools or Division Office should/could address.
- The Mental Health in Schools Pilot group will have its first meeting on October 18. This first module is one of 6 that will occur throughout the year.

Report completed by Karen Rancier, Associate Superintendent of Human Services

Associate Superintendent, Learner Services Report to the Board of Trustees – September 25, 2023

Learner Services lead team members:

Terri-Lynn Duncan, Associate Superintendent
Dave LeGrandeur, Director of Learner Services
Coral James, Coordinator of Learner Services/Instructional Coach
Amanda Cayford, Instructional Coach
Rita Gejdos, Instructional Coach
Garth Moulund and Sharla Kane, Career Practitioners
Heather Brantner, Off-campus Coordinator
Helena Goertzen, Low German Mennonite Liaison

KEY ACTION AREA #1:

Strong core instruction that develops student competencies

- Instructional Coaches have spent full days in schools supporting teachers in learning how to navigate PowerTeacher Pro, which is our new grading system to replace Students Achieve, which is no longer functional.
- Learning Coaches have been working with junior high teachers to collaborate about best practice as the division moves to outcome-based reporting using a 100 point scale.
- All Early Learning staff had their meeting. It was held at the beginning of September, hosted at division office. A third of the staff are new. Time was spent reviewing best practices in Early Learning to support students such as speech and language, sensory needs and social emotional learning.
- Career Practitioners are meeting with Principals in Junior High and High Schools to prepare a plan for the school year on Career Exploration and Career Pathways.
- The Off Campus Coordinator has been communicating with principals and students promoting and registering students for Work Experience, Registered Apprenticeship, Green Certificate and Dual Credit students, Fire Academy and Introduction to the Trades. We have 4 dual credit students for the fall, 5 introduction to the trades, 1 student who is doing introduction to electrical and wind turbines, and 1 student attending the Fire Academy. We have 11 Green certificate students, and 19 Registered Apprenticeship students as well.
- Our first ½ day Division Wide Teachers Learning Through Collaboration was successful. We have 30 different teacher groups that the teachers have coordinated and planned.
- Our Low German Mennonite Liaison has been introduced to all schools and spent the first month joining some school council meetings as well as planning Mennonite

Heritage week for 2024 with school that happens in September. She is doing a quilt project at Horizon Mennonite Alternative Program.

- Principals have been provided with spreadsheets on their school data containing the Early Years Assessment and their reading scores for Fountas and Pinnell.

KEY ACTION AREA #2:

Response to Instruction and Intervention

- Instructional Coaches have had intentional meetings with principals in the division to see how they can support instructional practices (especially with beginning teachers) and have begun making plans around PD days throughout the school year. There has also been conversations about offering support around early literacy, early numeracy, Collaborative Response and Learning Support teacher mentorship/modeling. Bookings have occurred for PD and coaching.
- The Director of Learner Services has been connecting with Learning Support Teachers in “Fall Meetings” to discuss needs of students, new students, and plans to support inclusive environments in their schools.
- The Learner Services team spent the day supporting a number of administrators and Learning Support Teachers in an overview of Collaborative Response with Lorna Hewson as well as a full day with teachers and educational assistants from WR Myers, Hays, TCHS, Vauxhall High School, Central School, Barnwell and Chamberlain on the September PD day. This workshop supports growth in Response to Instruction and Intervention for all students.
- Learner Services organized and supported a wide range of staff to attend a half day training session with the two speech language pathologists; JoAnn Hill and Jaelyn Belisle. The focus was to build capacity across multiple roles to intervene within the classroom proactively. Not only did new Speech Language assistants attend, but also those wanting a refresher, support staff in Early Learning - grade 3, Learning Support teacher and principals. Central School willingly offered up their gym as a space to be used for this.
- The Learner Services team has organized a first-ever fall Developmental Check-up. Family Connections was able to help support this day as well. Eleven new students that registered late came through the screening process and follow-up speech and language assessments are being completed as a result. The September 30 deadline for mild speech delays is a factor in the fall screens and assessments being completed during this month.
- Learner Services staff have been joining back to school BBQ’s and meeting to connect with staff, parents and school community as much as possible.

LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

- Dave and Terri-Lynn joined colleagues from zone six at our September CASSIX Meeting. There was excellent conversation and collaboration.

TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION (Information will be shared as needed)

- The Tech team completed phase 2 of the server migration and upgrade as part of their summer infrastructure project and are nearing completion of the third and final phase of the project.
-



ALBERTA
EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary - Bow*

Dear Parents,

Another school year has started and as Alberta's new Minister of Education, I want to introduce myself and give you a quick update about some of the things your government has been doing to ensure our students are set up for success.

A top priority for my parents was getting me a high-quality education, since I'm a second generation Calgarian. Having immigrated to Calgary in the 1970s their educational opportunities were limited, and they firmly believed that a strong education is the path to greater success and prosperity. I took their advice to heart and went on to earn my PhD in political science and conflict resolution. I'm passionate about education and will work hard to set our students up for success.

As the 2023/24 school year gets underway there are several important highlights I want to share with you.

I firmly believe that the upcoming school year will give students the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Here are some of the things that we are working on:

1) We are injecting new funding to start the school year off on the right foot.

For the current school year, Alberta's government has increased funding to many of our school divisions to make sure they have the financial resources they need to give our kids a world-class education. Funding has increased by seven per cent from last year increasing the total amount of taxpayer dollars going directly to our school divisions to \$7.4 billion. In addition, a new Classroom Complexity Grant will be implemented which provides \$126 million over three years in new funding to help school authorities hire more educational assistants to help our teachers manage classrooms that are increasingly more complex with more students with diverse learning needs. As well, our hardworking teachers will also receive a two per cent salary increase this September as part of a deal reached with teachers last year and finally, we are providing \$414 million in new funding, a 32 per cent increase, to help bus another 80,000 students to school.

2) We are hiring more teachers and staff in our classrooms.

As students head back to class, they may start to see new friendly faces in their school. Budget 2023 provided funding to hire up to 3,000 new educational staff over three years, including teachers, educational assistants, bus drivers and other school support staff such as speech language pathologists and psychologists. Ensuring students have the supports they need to succeed in and out of the classroom is a top priority of mine.

3) We are focused on improving student mental health.

Alberta's government is supporting almost 80 mental health pilot projects across the province, with an investment of \$50 million. These projects will encourage student well-being through new and innovative approaches to providing supports and services like counselling, social and emotional learning, student assessment and training for school staff. For more information, please click [here](#).

4) We will continue to lead the country in early literacy and numeracy assessments.

As a father of two, I want to know how my girls are progressing in their academic journey and I know many of you want the same. In September of 2022, Alberta's government implemented new mandatory literacy and numeracy screening assessments for all students in Grades 1 – 3. These assessments will help identify students who are struggling with literacy and numeracy skill development and inform teacher intervention lesson plans and techniques to improve student skills. Based on school reporting, these interventions are working. I am very proud of the work that is being done here. Please know Alberta is leading the country with this type of early assessment and screening and will continue to foster new and improved ways to improve the education system. For more information, please click [here](#).

In closing, I want to thank and acknowledge all our hardworking teachers, educational assistants, principals, and other school support staff. The work that you do is deeply acknowledged and appreciated by Alberta's government and I want to express my personal appreciation for your work. I look forward to serving as our province's Minister of Education for our great province and am confident we can continue to provide every student with a world-class education.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Nicolaides". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education

From: **Alberta News** <alberta.news@gov.ab.ca>

Date: Fri, Sep 8, 2023 at 1:01 PM

Subject: News Release: Funding on the way for new school buses

Funding on the way for new school buses | Un financement prévu pour de nouveaux autobus scolaires

September 08, 2023 [Media inquiries](#)

A new initiative will allow school boards to purchase buses and extend transportation services to more Alberta students.

To improve the student transportation system, up to \$20 million in future funding is now available to school boards that manage their own student transportation fleets. These funds are expected to support the purchase of up to 115 new buses.

“Alberta’s conservative government is taking real and practical steps to help more students find transportation. By advancing these funds, several school divisions will be able to purchase more buses sooner and help get more kids to school. This will help increase the number of kids taking school buses, reduce ride times and save Alberta families money.”

Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Education

The school bus advance funding program is part of a larger set of actions Alberta’s government is taking to improve the student transportation system. Budget 2023 increases student transportation funding by \$414 million over the next three years to accommodate system improvements.

The one-year initiative is set up as an accelerated program, which brings forward provincial funding from future years, so it can be spent now when it is needed. Recipients will see the advanced payment reflected in future funding allocations, spread out over 10 years.

Funding increases will allow school boards to add additional bus routes to support increased ridership due to transportation eligibility criteria changes that come into effect on Sept. 1, 2024. These changes will mean an additional 80,000 students will become eligible for school transportation services. Of these students, 47,000 who currently pay transportation fees will become eligible for provincial coverage, saving parents and families more than \$20 million.

School boards that are interested in accessing the funding should submit their application as soon as they have confirmed their bus purchase plans. Applications will be processed by the department as they are received. The application deadline is Oct. 31.

Quick facts

- New school buses are expected to cost about \$170,000 each.
- Twenty-four of 63 school boards (38 per cent) partially or fully operate their own school bus fleet and may be eligible for the advanced funding to purchase school buses.

Related news

- [Safer, more affordable school transportation](#) (March 14, 2023)

From: **Alberta News** <alberta.news@gov.ab.ca>
Date: Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 10:14 AM
Subject: News Release: Supporting students with disabilities

Supporting students with disabilities

September 12, 2023 [Media inquiries](#)

Alberta's government is investing \$5 million for the 2023-24 school year to support students with low incidence disabilities.

Low incidence disabilities affect approximately 7,500 students in Alberta, or about one per cent of the total student population, and include students who are blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, deafblind, or those with complex communication needs.

Low Incidence Supports and Services (LISS) funding allows school authorities to hire and train specialized professionals and provide equipment and educational resources, offsetting the high cost of the specialized technology and services some students require to fully access their education.

“With this funding, schools will be able to hire more specialists to help students with low incidence disabilities. Alberta's united conservative government firmly believes in protecting and supporting our vulnerable students. As a result of this funding, schools will be able to cover the costs of services and equipment that is needed to help those who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, deafblind or with other complex communication needs.”

Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Education

In recognizing the diverse needs of the Alberta student body, and to ensure that funds are directed where they are needed most, funding will be provided directly to public and separate school boards, public charter schools and francophone regional authorities that identify need for additional supports. Funding for each school authority will depend on the number of students who meet eligibility criteria and the locations of school authorities to ensure appropriate funding for rural and remote regions.

“The Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD) is thankful for Alberta Education's continued support of students with unique learning needs. The ability for CCSD to provide specialized staff

and resources for these students makes a significant impact on their learning and helps them realize their full potential.”

Bryan Szumlas, chief superintendent, Calgary Catholic School District

Quick facts

- The *Education Act* requires school authorities to identify students with low incidence disabilities and provide the necessary supports they need for their education.
- LISS funding comes in addition to the annual Specialized Learning Support grant provided to all school authorities, which helps to meet the different learning needs of children in their schools.
- Examples of eligible expenses:
 - Services provided by the student’s school-based learning team, which could include:
 - teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing
 - teachers of the blind or visually impaired
 - educational audiologists
 - sign language interpreters
 - orientation and mobility specialists
 - braille assistants
 - occupational therapists
 - augmentative and alternative communication specialists
 - speech language pathologists
 - psychologists
 - Assistive technology, resources, materials and environmental modifications to meet student-specific educational access needs.
 - Professional development, training, workshops and conferences that align with training needs for the specialized staff who directly support students with low incidence disabilities.

Related News

- [More funding for students with disabilities](#) (Feb.1,2023)

From: **Alberta News** <alberta.news@gov.ab.ca>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 12:21 PM

Subject: News Release: Talking to Albertans about new social studies curriculum

Talking to Albertans about new social studies curriculum

September 18, 2023 [Media inquiries](#)

Alberta's government is beginning a transparent and collaborative process to engage Albertans and education partners to redraft kindergarten to Grade 6 (K-6) social studies curriculum.

Using the valuable feedback Albertans have provided over the last two years, Alberta Education is redrafting the K-6 social studies curriculum to ensure content builds students' critical thinking and communication skills, enhances Indigenous, multicultural and francophone perspectives and is age and developmentally appropriate. To inform the redrafting process, the ministry is engaging with Albertans and education partners through a comprehensive and phased approach.

"Social studies is a critical component of Alberta's K-12 curriculum, which is why I am proud to announce a new plan to engage with Albertans. As minister of education, I envision a social studies curriculum that will empower students to develop important life skills, such as problem-solving and critical thinking, while fostering their ability to articulate ideas and understand diverse world views. I am confident this engagement process with teachers, parents, Indigenous, Métis, multicultural and francophone leaders, subject matter experts, school boards and others will build a comprehensive curriculum that sets our students up for a lifetime of success."

Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Education

Earlier this summer, the education minister met with various education partners to build an understanding of the new engagement approach and process for curriculum development going forward.

Alberta Education is beginning the next phase of engagement and will gather information about what Albertans would like students to learn in the social studies curriculum through a survey and discussion guide online, which will be available until Oct. 16.

This fall, Alberta Education will meet with education partners, teachers, multicultural organizations, Indigenous and francophone communities, and other education specialists to inform the development of the scope and sequence of K-12 social studies curriculum and the content of draft K-6 social studies curriculum. Curriculum scope and sequence is a planning tool for curriculum developers that outlines the focus for student learning from kindergarten to Grade 12 and informs the development of curriculum content.

In early 2024, Alberta Education will begin public engagement with Albertans, where they will have the opportunity to provide feedback on key learnings within the K-12 social studies curriculum and view the draft K-6 social studies curriculum to provide additional feedback.

Throughout the 2024-25 school year, teachers will be able to pilot refined draft K-6 social studies curriculum in classrooms and provide further feedback as part of the final phase of engagement.

Collaborating with education partners and Albertans at different stages of the engagement process will ensure their knowledge and perspectives are considered at the right time. This targeted approach will allow the government to hear from a diverse range of stakeholders and leverage their expertise for curriculum development and implementation.

“Teachers must play a key role in curriculum development in order for implementation to succeed. Comprehensive, thoughtful and authentic engagement with teachers, education partners and the public is critical to the process. This new plan puts social studies curriculum development back on track and headed in a better direction. It provides a model for moving forward in other subject areas and on other issues facing education.”

Jason Schilling, president, Alberta Teachers' Association

“Alberta’s students deserve a rich and diverse curriculum that supports them as they become contributing global citizens. ASCA’s member school councils welcome this meaningful collaboration to redraft the K-6 social studies curriculum through broad consultation and thorough review. Understanding the complexities of classrooms, the timeline for consultation, review and validation is very much appreciated.”

Brandi Rai, president, Alberta School Councils' Association

“We appreciate the engagement and responsiveness of Alberta Education in designing the new social studies curriculum. This is good news for teachers and school boards. We all have a shared goal of quality curriculum and its successful implementation and learning for students.”

Laura Hack, board chair, Calgary Board of Education

“As a school division, we are so pleased that the expert voice of teachers is going to play a significant role in shaping the new social studies curriculum. This will help ensure that our students learn age-appropriate content that is meaningful and that helps prepare them to be active citizens. We are also pleased that families will have an opportunity to provide feedback early next year. These diverse opportunities for engagement will result in a strong learning experience for our students.”

Sandra Palazzo, board chair, Edmonton Catholic Schools

Quick facts

- Social studies is an interdisciplinary subject area that includes content about history, geography, economics, government and civics. Social studies education can build active, informed and responsible citizens who contribute to their communities and are knowledgeable about rights, responsibilities and decision-making.

Related information

- [K to 6 curriculum renewal](#)