

Media Release

PSBAA releases review of K-12 education funding in Alberta

June 3, 2021 (Edmonton, AB) ... The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) today released a comprehensive review of K-12 education funding in Alberta.

"This will be a useful reference document that examines the current environment of K-12 funding in Alberta and where we are heading," said Curtis Riep, PhD, the author of the study. "I think it could be helpful for a wide variety of individuals, from school administration, to trustees, to school families and anyone with an interest in school finance in Alberta."

He noted his report, *A Review of K-12 Education Funding in Alberta*, is evidence-based, using available data from the Alberta government's Education department. The review includes a history of K-12 education funding from 1994 to 2020, an analysis of education funding now – including the Weighted Moving Average funding formula, and some important conclusions and recommendations.

The conclusions and recommendations include:

1. *Funding for public education is fragmented*
2. *Cooperation and shared resources should be the goal, not competition between boards*
3. *Private school funding levels should be re-examined*
4. *Charter school redesignation*
5. *The financial health of school jurisdictions' operating reserves should be consistently monitored, assessed, and reported*
6. *Continued investment in program supports and services are key to care for the most vulnerable students*
7. *Further pre- and post-evaluation of Weighted Moving Average funding formula is required*

"This document provides added value for our member public school boards," said Cathy Hogg, PSBAA President. "The PSBAA is a key hub for collecting sound research that can help inform our decision-making as locally-elected school board trustees. We believe this document will be a valuable resource for our members, and we are pleased to make it available to them."

The report is posted on the PSBAA website at <https://public-schools.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/A-Review-of-K-12-Education-Funding-in-Alberta.pdf>.

The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta is the only provincial association representing and advocating for Alberta's public school boards, and public school education in Alberta.

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