

PSBAA releases research paper on Homeschooling in Alberta: Choices, Contexts and Consequences

October 1, 2021 (Edmonton, AB) ... Once an unconventional approach, homeschooling in Alberta has steadily grown to be a program of choice in the *Education Act*. But is it providing the educational outcomes that prepare young learners for a successful future?

To help answer that question, the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) has released a comprehensive review of homeschooling in the province, called *Homeschooling in Alberta: The Choices, Contexts and Consequences of a Developing School System* by Curtis Riep, PhD.

"Since the pandemic began in March 2020, the number of homeschooled K-12 students in Alberta has nearly doubled," said Riep. "Despite the growth in enrolment and the expansion of programs and systems of homeschooling in Alberta, public understanding remains on the fringes. My hope is that this report will add to peoples' understanding."

The report surveys the academic literature of homeschool research and reviews governmental and organizational documents and policies related to home education in Alberta. In doing so, it uncovers recent legislative changes that are altering the home education landscape in Alberta.

"This report is important reading for everyone who supports K-12 public school education in Alberta," said PSBAA President Cathy Hogg. "Deregulating home education in Alberta may have been intended to create more parental choice, but at what cost to students? The PSBAA believes that there is already plenty of choice for all students in the public school system.

The report is posted on the PSBAA website at <https://public-schools.ab.ca/research/>.

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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