



What is PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION?

Why is it SO IMPORTANT?

Public schools are the first choice of our communities. We believe all children can learn and live the values of democracy together, reflecting our hope and shaping the future of our communities.



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

ONLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROVIDE PUBLIC EDUCATION™



More than ever before, public schools in Alberta need your support. Just because a school is “publicly-funded” doesn’t make it a public school – it is simply funded by the Alberta government.



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND THE PSBAA.**

www.public-schools.ab.ca
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Public education in Alberta has a proud history.

First established in Edmonton in 1881, the public schools in our province today are part of a world-class K-12 education system.

We believe public education is best **governed by locally-elected school board trustees**. Local communities elect trustees to **represent them and reflect their concerns and specific needs**. In turn, **trustees are directly accountable** to those who elected them for the educational outcomes of their students.

Public schools give students a strong foundation and prepare them for the future. Students also have the opportunity to develop the seven dimensions of personal development: attitudes; character; knowledge; skills; practical wisdom; social and self-awareness, and the ability to form positive relationships.

Alberta's K-12 education system must be nimble and responsive, to **anticipate a quickly-evolving future** where tomorrow's students will need skills for jobs that don't even exist yet.

More than ever, our students are counting on us to prepare them for the best possible future.

Only public schools provide public education™.

Essential elements of a quality K-12 public school education in Alberta include:

- A public school as the primary and preferred place to provide education
- Equal access for all students, everywhere, to the same educational opportunities – no matter where they live, their background or ability
- Ensuring the safety, health and wellbeing of each student – on the way to and from school, while at school and while involved in extra-curricular activities
- Assessing each child to ensure their education meets their learning needs
- Reasonable travel time to and from school
- Certificated teachers as leaders
- Optimal teacher to student ratio
- Well-rounded, experiential and creative learning experiences
- An emphasis on pride of first culture, while providing an understanding of and commitment to the common culture of Alberta and Canada
- Appropriate space, furniture, technology and learning or teaching aids as well as teachers, other staff and volunteers
- Accountability of locally-elected school boards to the communities that elected them for the attainment of all educational outcomes
- An open, welcoming and accepting learning environment that celebrates diversity.



Edmonton's first school, 1881

Photo credit:
City of Edmonton
Archives
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DIVERSITY
IS A LESSON PLAN FOR LIFE.®

Public schools look like the wonderfully diverse society that is Alberta, made up of more than **200 different cultures and languages.**