



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

February 22, 2023

## **Strengthening Public School Education to Strengthen Alberta**

There's an election coming. Let's talk about Public School Education.

Have you heard? There will be a provincial election on May 29, 2023.

The political parties and local candidates are gearing up for the campaign period which will officially kick off the end of April. Unofficially, the campaign has already started.

Many candidates are out door-knocking and meeting with local residents in communities across the province. We all have an opportunity to share information and help them become better informed and more knowledgeable about the important role Alberta Public Schools have in our society.

*Public School Education is the foundation of a strong Alberta.*

Consider this. Public Schools are where professionals (doctors, nurses, engineers, lawyers, IT developers, etc.) develop their foundation for learning. Public Schools are also where skilled trade workers get their start. Essentially, Public Schools provide a foundation for any and every career path chosen by Albertans.

Connecting the dots, one can see that Public Schools provide a foundation for a diversified workforce, driving a diversified economy. While economic diversification is a challenge our province continues to grapple with and a labour shortage threatens to impact economic growth, Public Schools become an important part of the solution.



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Alberta's Public School System has been recognized around the world for achieving excellent outcomes. In addition to providing the foundation for academic achievement, Public Schools offer so much more, with students benefitting from a vast array of cultural, wellness and skill-based programming. With that, Public Schools truly help enable and empower Alberta students to be and to achieve their best.

*Public Schools are pillars in every community across Alberta.*

Public Schools are often the first schools established within a community and in many cases, the only schools supporting Alberta communities. They welcome the world – and welcome every student.

To that point, it is important to note that while all Alberta schools are publicly funded, all Alberta schools are not Public Schools. To clarify, Alberta has six school systems which are all publicly funded, but not all publicly funded education is equal. All schools in Alberta receive government funding on a per student basis. However, not all schools in Alberta are required to accept and accommodate the needs of every student. Only Public Schools welcome and accommodate to all students needs and programs and are in fact the only system required to do so. It is then clear the implications of this legislative directive are numerous.

Provincially Funded Education						
School Jurisdiction	Public	Separate	Francophone	Charter	Private	Home Schooling
Funding Structure	Education Property Taxes & General Revenue Fund	Education Property Taxes & General Revenue Fund	Education Property Taxes & General Revenue Fund	General Revenue Fund	General Revenue Fund	General Revenue Fund
Eligible Government Funding Split	100%	100%	100%	100%	70%	\$850 per year
Charge Tuition	X	X	X	X	✓	NA
Accepts all Students	✓	X	X	X	X	NA



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*Public Schools have an important role in helping to solve problems.*

Leading up to the election we will provide you with additional information, delving into the challenges our Public School system faces. From supporting students dealing with mental health issues and families facing increasing affordability pressures, to simply getting students to school every day – Public Schools collaborate and contribute to the creation and delivery of much needed solutions. Due to our community presence and our insights gained directly from classrooms and parents, we have a unique and important point of view to consider. As willing and capable partners, we look forward to working across government ministries to ensure Alberta students achieve their best outcomes supported by an effective and efficient Public School System.