



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

It Takes a Village: Public School Education Requires Improved Cross-Ministry Collaboration

You may have heard, or even used the phrase It takes a village.

The phrase is attributed to a proverb that an entire community must come together in support of children – to contribute, providing for, positively interacting with and teach them - for children to realize the benefits of growing up in a safe and healthy environment. The underlying premise being that growing up in such an environment helps ensure positive experiences and ultimately – success in life.

We reflect on this phrase and its intent often. Public Schools consider all factors impacting the educational experiences and outcomes of children in Alberta, daily. With that, we realize educational success is affected by several elements outside the purview of the education system itself.

While there is no shortage of challenges impacting public schools in Alberta, we know that we cannot be all things, to all people, or to all students at the same time. We can, however, be a collaborative partner in identifying problems and creating solutions that bring various ministries together.

Public School Education is the Foundation of a Strong Alberta

Everyone can agree that all of society benefits from a strong Public School system, one where every student is lifted up and every student has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. To that end, we know that student success increases when their needs across all aspects of daily living are being fulfilled. We also know that those needs cannot be addressed by the education system alone, but rather, within an educative environment that is supported by collaborative cross ministry networks.



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Public Schools are pillars in every community across Alberta, giving us the unique opportunity to identify societal trends, needs and gaps. We can then play a key role in coordinating the appropriate government supports to fit each student's needs.

Public Schools welcome the world – and welcome every Alberta student.

With that, come many challenges and many opportunities. We do see an increasing need for more equitable access to cross ministry supports for students attending Public Schools across the province. Today, Public Schools support cross ministry stakeholders through collaborative discussions and efforts that provide solutions to current issues. We advocate for further collaboration between ministries and public school perspectives so we can play a larger role in developing solutions to current and future issues our students and their families face.

Public Schools are often first to identify problems within the system, and we then help to initiate and lead the facilitation of cross ministry collaboration. By identifying problems, Public Schools can help to evaluate options and create solutions by providing support to students and their families.

Public Schools collaborate with cross ministry stakeholders to develop and implement efficient funding utilization mechanisms.

Being part of Cross Ministry Networks provides Public Schools access to a variety of processes, funding, and programs to better support our students. It allows us and other network stakeholders to take an all-encompassing approach to creating solutions. As a result, we whole-heartedly believe that collaboration between various government ministries leads to student success.

We eagerly participate in cross ministry initiatives to help develop and implement effective funding and programming mechanisms for K-12 education in the province. Public Schools also work with post secondary education facilitators to streamline student transitions to help create the workforce of tomorrow.



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Public Schools believe collaboration with all levels of government and across relevant ministries helps ensure success.

It is increasingly important that Public Schools collaborate with multi-disciplined groups to bring experts together from specialized areas, people who bring different perspectives to an issue and people who can solve the multitude of problems Alberta students encounter. With that, we seek and invite further collaboration with Ministries of Education and Advanced Education, Health, Child Services, Family Services, Transportation, and Finance amongst others, to ensure we have a more fulsome foundation for our world-class Public School education in Alberta.

There has been much discussion and media coverage about K-12 education in recent weeks. Leading up to the May 29 provincial election and we are pleased to see that Albertans are sharing their views and becoming better informed about the important role Public Schools play in our society.

While each district has its own set of challenges and opportunities, we encourage you to become more informed and engaged to ensure students in your region, and across the province, receive the best possible Public School education.