

Parents/Guardians:

Have a say in the future of your children's education

We want to give all students the best possible start in life so that they can meet the demands of living in the 21st century.

Alberta Education is moving forward in the development of new Kindergarten to Grade 12 provincial curriculum in all grades across the subject areas of Language Arts (English, Français, French), Math, Social Studies, Sciences, Arts and Wellness education.

These are exciting times and **we want to hear from parents** about what children should be learning in the future.

During the course of this work, we are exploring opportunities to gather valued and meaningful feedback from Albertans in every corner of the province. The broad based engagement is an opportunity for the many voices of Albertans and stakeholders across the province to provide valued input into the curriculum development process. The Fall 2016 online provincial curriculum survey is the first of many opportunities to gather feedback. The survey can be accessed at: <http://curriculumsurvey.alberta.ca>.

There are two parts of the survey. Part A gives Albertans an opportunity to share their thoughts about the Government of Alberta's general direction for the development of all new curriculum. It will likely take you about seven minutes to complete this first part of the survey. Everyone wanting to participate in the survey will need to complete Part A.

Once you have completed Part A, you have the option to move to Part B where you will answer questions about what you see as the strengths and gaps in our current curriculum. You will create your 'own journey' through Part B based on subject areas of interest. You will be asked to select the specific grade levels and subject areas that you would like to provide feedback on. Part B may take you between 15 minutes and one hour to complete depending on the number of subjects and grade-specific questions you choose to answer.

Albertans without technology are encouraged to stop by their local libraries or learning commons to complete the survey. Additionally, the [Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia \(ARPDC\)](#) will assist people that do not have access to technology to complete the survey. Individuals who do not use technology can obtain a print copy of the survey from their local ARPDC.

The online provincial curriculum survey will run from October 18 to November 18, 2016 and can be accessed from multiple electronic devices. Survey questions are available in English and in French. Français is in French only and is intended for Francophone education. Please note that the Government of Alberta webpages are scheduled for maintenance from November 11 to 13, 2016. This may lead to the survey being temporarily unavailable during that time.

Participation in this survey is voluntary and responses will be completely confidential. Only the combined results from all the survey respondents will be shared. The personal information collected is pursuant to section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (RSA 2000, C. F-25).

In addition to, or instead of completing the survey individually, you can attend face-to-face engagement sessions hosted by the ARPDC in each region of the province from October 18 to November 18, 2016. These sessions will allow education stakeholders across the province to meet and discuss the topics identified in the survey and then complete the survey. Information on how to register for these sessions will be posted on the [ARPDC](#) website as it becomes available. Of course, you can also host your own session for your group to complete the survey.

The survey results will be used by Expert Working Groups made up of teachers and post-secondary educators who have expertise within subjects and across grades. These working groups are made up of a balanced representation of Alberta's geographic and demographic diversity; and will also include representation from Francophone and First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities. Working with Alberta Education staff, in partnership with the Alberta Teachers' Association, Expert Working Group will consider survey results along with literature reviews, analysis of our current curriculum, research on student learning, what other jurisdictions from around the world are doing, and previous work with our stakeholders, such as curriculum development prototyping, to help develop new provincial curriculum over the next six years.

This initial survey won't be the only opportunity for **parents** to provide input about K–12 education in Alberta – or to learn what the future curriculum will look like. In addition to providing input through the online survey this fall, there will be additional opportunities to be involved in the development of new provincial curriculum over the next few years. This includes the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft subject area introductions and draft scope and sequences targeted for May and June 2017.

Information about provincial curriculum development along with additional opportunities to provide input can be found on the Alberta Education webpages at: <https://education.alberta.ca/curriculum-development/>.

Q and As – Curriculum Engagement Opportunities

1. WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALBERTANS TO BE ENGAGED IN PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT OR TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK – NOW AND IN THE FUTURE?

There are many opportunities for Albertans to get involved in provincial curriculum development over the next six years. These include:

- completing the **online provincial curriculum survey** (<http://curriculumsurvey.alberta.ca>) that is available from October 18 to November 18, 2016 (The online survey provides Albertans with the opportunity to share their insights on future direction and to provide feedback to discuss the direction of new curriculum as well as to determine the strengths and gaps in the current provincial curriculum);
- attending **face-to-face engagement sessions** hosted by the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC) in each region of the province from October 18 to November 18, 2016 (These sessions will allow education stakeholders across the province to meet and discuss the topics identified in the Provincial Online Curriculum Development Survey);
- **organizing your own session** - you are encouraged to organize and host your own session. If you like, you can access materials posted on the [Alberta Education](#) website or the [ARPDC](#) websites.
- participating in **organization's presentations** to subject Expert Working Groups in January 2017 (Specific information can be found on our Alberta Education website at: <https://education.alberta.ca/curriculum-development/who-is-involved/>); and
- participating in focus groups to validate draft subject area introductions and scope and sequences targeted for May and June 2017.

2. WHERE CAN ALBERTANS FIND INFORMATION ABOUT THE VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME INVOLVED IN PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT?

Albertans can find more information about the various opportunities on the Alberta Education website at: <https://education.alberta.ca/curriculum-development/how-can-i-be-involved/everyone/how-can-i-be-involved/>.

3. WHY SHOULD COMMUNITY MEMBERS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS COMPLETE THE ONLINE PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM SURVEY?

Parents/Guardians and community members have a range of experiences and knowledge. They have an understanding of society's future needs and what understandings, knowledge, skills, and attitudes students need to develop to be successful in their future. Their insights on the future direction of curriculum and their feedback on the strengths and gaps of current curriculum are important.

Students have in-depth knowledge related to their subject and grade learning experiences that is key for their personal development. Their insights on the future direction of curriculum and their feedback on the strengths and gaps of current curriculum are important.

4. HOW CAN AN INDIVIDUAL OR A GROUP HOST THEIR OWN FACE-TO-FACE SESSION AND WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF HOSTING A FACE-TO-FACE ENGAGEMENT SESSION AND?

There are 2 face-to-face engagement opportunities:

A. Existing Sessions scheduled by the ARPDC:

The face-to-face engagement sessions will allow education stakeholders in the different regions of the province to meet and discuss the topics identified in the online provincial curriculum survey.

Information on how to register for these sessions is posted on ARPDC websites.

B. Organize your own session:

You are encouraged to organize and host your own session. If you like, you can access materials posted on the [Alberta Education](#) website or the [ARPDC](#) websites.

Face-to-face engagement sessions are an opportunity to have rich discussions about future direction for provincial curriculum development and strengths and gaps of current provincial curriculum content while being able to record ideas in the appropriate area within the online survey.

5. WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY OR CHOOSE NOT TO ACCESS TECHNOLOGY?

Albertans without technology are encouraged to stop by their local libraries or learning commons to complete the survey. Additionally, the [Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia](#) (ARPDC) will assist people that do not have access to technology to complete the survey. Individuals who do not use technology can obtain a print copy of the survey from their local ARPDC.

6. WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR NEW PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT?

Targeted Timelines for new provincial curriculum development:

- K-4 development completed in December 2018
- Grades 5-8 in December 2019
- Grades 9-10 (three subjects) in December 2020
- Grades 9-10 (three subjects) plus Grades 11-12 (three subjects) in December 2021; and
- Grades 11-12 (three subjects) in December 2022.

Note that current provincial curriculum remains in effect until new provincial curriculum is approved by the Minister. Implementation dates have yet to be determined.

7. WHY DOES IT TAKE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME TO DEVELOP NEW PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM?

Never before has Alberta taken on renewing six subjects at once. During the six year development process, Alberta Education will also be looking at an analysis of our current curriculum, research on student learning, what other jurisdictions from around the world are doing, and previous work with our stakeholders, such as curriculum development prototyping.

The Kindergarten to Grade 12 subjects being newly developed include:

- Language Arts (English, French, Français)
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Sciences
- Arts Education
- Wellness Education.

The provincial curriculum development process is comprehensive and we have an end-to-end plan.

