

BUDGET 2023

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA | 2023-26

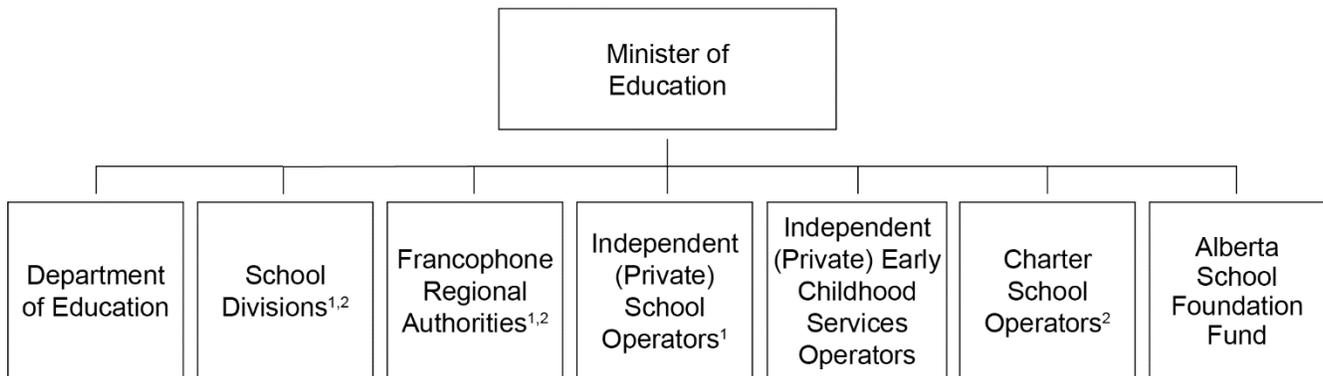
Ministry Business Plan Education

Education

Business Plan 2023-26

Ministry Fact Sheet – Mandate and Structure

The Ministry of Education provides leadership, direction, and oversight in the delivery of a student-centred education system that promotes the success of children and students and provides assurance to the public. The Ministry of Education consists of:



¹Includes supervision of home education programs

²Denotes a part of the public education system

The Department of Education provides oversight by establishing guiding legislation and policy, strengthening assurance, and ensuring accountability for financial and performance outcomes. School authorities provide programs for children and students in the province’s Early Childhood Services to Grade 12 education system.

Alberta Education supports choice within the education system, recognizing that public schools, separate schools, francophone schools, independent (private) schools, charter schools, alternative programs, early childhood services programs and home education programs are integral in providing a variety of options in education programs for students and parents.

Alberta Education works with partners across the province to understand diverse perspectives on the education system and to better serve Alberta’s students. The department shares knowledge and best practices with Canadian and international jurisdictions and organizations to ensure Alberta students remain competitive on the global stage. The ministry collaborates with education partners to improve education outcomes for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students. The ministry also works to ensure that eligible students have access to Francophone education, while encouraging opportunities for French education through French language programs.

The department oversees the planning, prioritization and approval for creating and maintaining suitable educational spaces. To support Alberta’s growing student population, the department maximizes the impact of the investment in school infrastructure through robust planning that provides the best value in addressing school jurisdictions needs; and works with Alberta Infrastructure to manage the implementation of approved school capital projects.

Alberta Education develops and supports the implementation of provincial kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum, which provides the foundation for all learners to achieve provincial student learning outcomes. Through the provision of curriculum and tools for its implementation, teachers are supported to ensure all students succeed in developing foundational knowledge, skills and competencies needed for fulfilling and successful futures. Student progress in the achievement of learning outcomes is monitored through the administration of provincial assessments. Developing and implementing innovative learning opportunities within the education system, such as career education programs, ensures a variety of pathways for students to enter post-secondary education or their chosen fields in the workforce.

The Ministry of Education continues to promote positive student mental health by collaborating with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction to support school authorities in the provision of mental health supports and services. The ministry also supports programs and services to ensure that children and students have access to specialized learning supports that address learning loss and complex learning needs.

The ministry maintains high standards of professional practice and conduct in the teaching profession by ensuring that teachers', school leaders', and school authority leaders' preparation and professional growth focus on the tools needed to help students achieve their best. Teachers and leaders are responsible for applying the appropriate knowledge and abilities to make decisions resulting in quality teaching, leading and learning for all. School authority leaders attend to local and societal context, implement strategic direction, consider policy implementation and manage resources to enable learning supports, quality teaching and leading, and student achievement.

A more detailed description of Education and its programs and initiatives can be found at: www.education.alberta.ca.

The Ministry of Education remains committed to regulatory approaches and program delivery that reduces unnecessary government oversight and emphasizes outcomes, in order to improve access to government services, attract investment, support innovation and competitiveness, and grow Alberta businesses.

Ministry business plans should be considered in conjunction with all budget documents - including the Fiscal Plan, Government Strategic Plan, and Estimates - which work together to provide a complete overview of government's commitment to responsible fiscal management.

2023-26 Business Plan

Outcome 1

Alberta’s students are successful

The ministry supports Alberta’s students in achieving learning outcomes by ensuring that provincial curriculum provides opportunities for students to learn essential knowledge and skills. Through provincial assessments, student progress is monitored, and by providing a variety of pathways, students are able to successfully transition to post-secondary education and the workforce.

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Curriculum focuses on literacy, numeracy and practical skills giving students a strong foundation of essential knowledge while continuing to refine and work towards implementation of other subjects.
- 1.2 Strengthen career education programming and increase collegiate school opportunities to expand students’ pathways into post-secondary education and the workforce.
- 1.3 Develop and maintain comprehensive provincial assessments to assess progress, identify learning challenges and monitor student success, including implementing online assessment capabilities and expanding mandatory literacy and numeracy screening assessments.
- 1.4 Explore strategies to increase specialized learning supports to address learning loss and complex learning needs.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- A total allocation of \$8.8 billion in operating expense in 2023-24 to support instruction and early childhood services programs in school authorities (subsequent amounts in this section are a part of the total allocation).
- \$42 million in 2023-24 to identify and implement strategies that help address complexities in the classroom, including the addition of educational assistants.
- \$421 million in 2023-24 to address ride times and student access to schools, transportation cost pressures and affordability.

Performance Metrics

1.a Performance Measure: High school completion rate (2021-22 data available June 2023)

High school completion is important for entry into the labour force and post-secondary programs. In 2020-21, 87.1 per cent of students completed high school within five years of entering Grade 10.

Targets	2023-24	87.3%	2024-25	87.5%	2025-26	87.7%
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1.b Performance Measure: High school to post-secondary transition rate (2021-22 data available June 2023)

Post-secondary education, through post-secondary institutions or apprenticeship programs, is important for entry into many career opportunities. In 2020-21, 60.3 per cent of Alberta’s high school students made the transition to post-secondary within six years of entering Grade 10.

Targets	2023-24	60.4%	2024-25	60.5%	2025-26	60.6%
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Outcome 2

First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in Alberta are successful

Alberta Education collaborates with education partners to improve education outcomes for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students and help them throughout their learning journeys.

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Strengthen education programs, policies and initiatives for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.

- 2.2 Support partners to gather, analyze and share Indigenous education data, enhance grant accountability and meet updated legislative requirements.
- 2.3 Support relationship-building between Indigenous communities and schools to boost education outcomes for Indigenous students.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- \$8.8 billion in operating expense in 2023-24 under Outcome 1 includes funding for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.

Performance Metrics

2.a Performance Measure: High school completion rate of self-identified First Nations, Métis and Inuit students (2021-22 data available June 2023)

High school completion is important for entry into the labour force and post-secondary programs. In 2020-21, 68.0 per cent of self-identified students completed high school within five years of entering Grade 10.

Targets	2023-24	68.7%	2024-25	69.0%	2025-26	69.3%
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2.b Performance Measure: High school to post-secondary transition rate of self-identified First Nations, Métis and Inuit students (2021-22 data available June 2023)

Post-secondary education, through post-secondary institutions or apprenticeship programs, is important for entry into many career opportunities. In 2020-21, 37.7 per cent of Alberta’s self-identified First Nations, Métis and Inuit high school students made the transition to post-secondary within six years of entering Grade 10.

Targets	2023-24	38.1%	2024-25	38.7%	2025-26	39.1%
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Outcome 3

Alberta has excellent teachers, school leaders, and school authority leaders

Alberta Education maintains high professional practice standards for teachers, school leaders and school authority leaders by ensuring that they have the expertise needed to help students perform their best.

Key Objectives

- 3.1 Provide supports for professional learning to enable implementation of new curriculum.
- 3.2 Work with education partners on strategies to attract and retain qualified teachers and recruit to targeted subject areas and underserved regions.
- 3.3 Improve oversight of the teacher discipline process through implementation of the Alberta Teaching Profession Commission and a single code of conduct for teachers and teacher leaders.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- The total allocation of \$8.8 billion in operating expense in 2023-24 under Outcome 1 supports excellent teachers, school leaders and school authority leaders (subsequent amounts in this section are a part of the total allocation).
- \$87 million in 2023-24 for education system support costs.
- \$47 million in 2023-24 to provide learning and teaching resources to support new curriculum implementation.

Performance Metrics

3.a Performance Measure: Percentage of students who achieved the acceptable standard on provincial achievement tests

Demonstrates the effectiveness of the education system in preparing students for high school. In 2021-22, 73.5 per cent achieved the acceptable standard in Language Arts (LA) and 59.9 per cent achieved the acceptable standard in Math.

Targets	2023-24	LA 74.2% Math 60.4%	2024-25	LA 74.4% Math 60.6%	2025-26	LA 74.6% Math 60.8%
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3.b Performance Measure: Agreement that teachers are prepared for teaching

Teacher education training and professional development of teachers are important to maintain the quality of the K–12 education system. In 2021-22, 73 per cent of teachers and school board members agreed that teachers are prepared for teaching.

Targets	2023-24	74.2%	2024-25	75.0%	2025-26	75.8%
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Outcome 4

Alberta’s K–12 education system is well governed and managed

The department directs the education system and oversees the administration of safe and effective education programs and services, through legislation, provision of funds, and planning suitable learning facilities.

Key Objectives

- 4.1 Support school authorities in fostering positive student mental health and well-being.
- 4.2 Support choice for students and parents throughout Alberta’s education system.
- 4.3 Enhance the planning of school capital projects to address the need for more schools to support Alberta’s growing communities.
- 4.4 Continue to create efficiencies within the education system by streamlining financial, governance, and administrative practices.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- The total allocation of \$8.8 billion in operating expense in 2023-24 under Outcome 1 includes \$40 million in 2023-24 to support student well-being and mental health.
- An additional \$2.3 billion over three years will be spent on capital investment in educational infrastructure to maintain and enhance existing school infrastructure, plan and build new schools.

Performance Metrics

4.a Performance Measure: Satisfaction that school provides a safe, caring and healthy learning environment

A safe, caring and healthy learning environment is fundamental to facilitating student learning. In 2021-22, 84.4 per cent of students, parents, teachers, and school board members were satisfied that schools provided a safe, caring and healthy learning environment.

Targets	2023-24	85.0%	2024-25	85.3%	2025-26	85.5%
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4.b Performance Measure: Agreement that students are engaged in their learning at school

Students that are engaged in their learning are more likely to achieve academic success. In 2021-22, 78 per cent of high school students and parents agreed that students are engaged in their learning at school.

Targets	2023-24	78.5%	2024-25	79.0%	2025-26	79.5%
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4.c Performance Measure: Satisfaction that students have opportunities to receive a broad program of studies

Access to a variety of learning opportunities is an indicator that students have access to a broad education. In 2021-22, 81 per cent of high school students, parents, teachers and school board members were satisfied with students’ opportunities to receive a broad program of studies.

Targets	2023-24	81.5%	2024-25	81.7%	2025-26	82.0%
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STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable		2023-24 Estimate	2024-25 Target	2025-26 Target
	2022-23 Budget	2022-23 Forecast			
REVENUE					
Education Property Tax	2,504,000	2,504,000	2,504,000	2,604,000	2,703,000
Transfers from Government of Canada	125,806	132,671	121,529	120,793	121,819
Premiums, Fees and Licences	173,725	173,725	171,885	171,139	177,886
Investment Income	10,640	14,832	14,396	13,973	13,563
Internal Government Transfers	315,888	315,888	315,888	315,888	315,888
Fundraising, Gifts and Donations	47,774	50,909	50,909	50,909	50,909
Other Revenue	179,309	153,839	161,613	167,468	172,813
Ministry Total	3,357,142	3,345,864	3,340,220	3,444,170	3,555,878
Inter-Ministry Consolidation Adjustment	(315,888)	(315,888)	(315,888)	(315,888)	(315,888)
Consolidated Total	3,041,254	3,029,976	3,024,332	3,128,282	3,239,990
EXPENSE					
Ministry Support Services	6,301	6,301	6,429	6,473	6,473
Instruction - ECS to Grade 12	6,553,569	6,608,364	6,857,244	6,970,202	7,080,879
Operations and Maintenance	750,026	750,026	759,651	773,951	776,351
Student Transportation	386,075	405,375	476,225	528,825	534,225
Accredited Private Schools and Early Childhood Service Operators	316,907	316,907	344,990	364,757	372,557
School Facilities	483,214	537,965	549,430	493,431	493,323
Governance and System Administration	275,900	275,900	275,900	275,900	275,900
Program Support Services	110,650	110,806	111,837	111,826	111,157
Debt Servicing Costs	37,567	37,567	39,721	42,149	41,894
Ministry Total	8,920,209	9,049,211	9,421,427	9,567,514	9,692,759
Inter-Ministry Consolidation Adjustment	(3,769)	(59,338)	(70,980)	(7,389)	(6,929)
Consolidated Total	8,916,440	8,989,873	9,350,447	9,560,125	9,685,830
Net Operating Result	(5,875,186)	(5,959,897)	(6,326,115)	(6,431,843)	(6,445,840)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT					
School Facilities	928,172	742,732	761,206	795,975	625,337
Program Support Services	565	565	565	565	565
Consolidated Total	928,737	743,297	761,771	796,540	625,902