



## Minister of Education/ASCA Webinar April 2, 2020 – Questions

### ***Themes/Topics***

[Appreciation and Kindness](#)

[Communication/Announcements/Press Releases and Relationships](#)

[Consultation and Decision Making](#)

[Education/Curriculum](#)

[Evaluations/Assessments](#)

[Francophone/French Education, Second Language, Newcomers](#)

[Funding/Budget](#)

[Fundraising](#)

[Health/Well-being/Safety](#)

[High School Students](#)

[Inclusive Education](#)

[New School Builds](#)

[Pipeline](#)

[Playgrounds](#)

[Public/Private/Charter Schools](#)

[PUF Funding](#)

[Resources](#)

[School Fees](#)

[School Resuming / 2020-2021 School Year](#)

[Special Needs Students](#)

[Support for Parents](#)

[Support Staff: Layoffs/Rehiring, Rationale, Timing and Communication](#)

[What can Parents do to Support Schools, School Councils, Minister](#)

[Teachers, Teaching, Training](#)

[Miscellaneous](#)

❖ **Note: Questions received after the April 2, 2020 Webinar are included, denoted with ➔**



### ***Appreciation and Kindness***

- Just wondering how you are doing and how are you holding yourself together in this challenging & unprecedented times? David Haastrup
- Private message for the minister - I support your decisions and fully understand how this is not just a business/provincial decision but also a fiscal one that is difficult but necessary! Thank you for your diligence and working so hard. Marley Mayo
- I am seeing so many negative comments and much anger. I however wish to express my gratitude. I am so pleased with how hard you are all working to help make these things happen in the best way you can. This is a very difficult and unprecedented time for us all. Please know not all of us are angry and negative. Some of us completely understand the need to make incredibly difficult choices to balance funding to help with other areas in need. I am grateful for all the hard work being done and wish all of you safety and good health. Tena Stewart
- Thank you for all that you are doing. There has been no dress rehearsal for this, there is no policy in place. I feel the government is doing it's very best with "today's" information. The decisions have not been easy to make, not been easy to hear and implement, but necessary. April Bauer
- Minister, I do not have a question, only a statement of support. I find it hard to believe that some of the people in the CHAT screen at this meeting are actually part of a parent council. Everything you have said, and every lay off fits financially and optically. There are lots of people in many careers being laid off, and they can now see that the government is also doing that. Well done. Kenton Shilka
- Thank you Minister. Underlying your service is a love for students and a respect for education. Please pass along thanks to all your staff as well. Anonymous Attendee
- Thank you for your time. Shauna Gibbons
- Thank you Minister!!! I'm appalled at some of the comments that were made in the chat, please DON'T read them all. You have communicated very well here. Marley Mayo
- Thank you so much for meeting and for your message of kindness, and how keeping ourselves & our families well comes first. - Our Lady of Mount Carmel School Council. Katrina Semeniuk
- Still, thank you for your hard work. Monica Doherty
- Thank you for this chat. It is great all the work teachers are doing to work with kids. Is there any plan to improve internet for all citizens whether urban or rural as this crisis continues. It is imperative for learners and business to be able to connect to the world. Can you advocate for this much like our telephone system started? Penn Loughheed
- So glad you support Public Education - Awesome job Minister LaGrange! Thank you for this forum! Penn Loughheed
- First off, thank you for taking on and continuing on with this tough role especially during a time of such adversity. It is certain that you have some tough decisions to make that affect others. Tricia Pope



- I HOPE at some point, the school and teachers, specifically, will be THANKED for the tremendous job they are doing keeping our children — our students — engaged in learning. These school routines are vital not only for learning but for our mental health at this time! Wendy Fath

→ I would like to thank the CBE and the Minister of Ed for all the work they have done with regards to online schooling. I know this cannot be an easy task, but to date, I have been impressed with how my children's schools (Westgate / Bishop Pinkham) have been conducting themselves and with the way they are attempting to provide ongoing education for the students. Carol-Ann Titus

→ Thank you to all that made the meeting this morning possible. I am grateful for the opportunity to listen in. I must say that I was disappointed that this call was not designated to actual student learning and education questions. I do feel compassionate towards all people who have been laid off and with that said, government workers are no different.

When employees can not be utilized they should be treated no differently. Then any other worker and so it seems very obvious why bus drivers and EA 's were laid off. Why would the minister continue to answer questions over and over again regarding employment. Couldn't there have been a separate meeting for your administration and workers.

Eg. Why not answer education questions and explain course development; what young children do without a lap top; where people can get laptops that don't have them; an appeal for donations?

I just feel that it was more of a political conversation rather than an educational one.

I love the idea of updates like this one on zoom it works great. Now let's see if we can have a meeting dedicated to our children's actual learning process. There was absolutely no information on strategy of marking or upgrades to curriculum and technology that was detailed only very vague statements. Thank you for listening hope my comments can be passed on to Minister. Sharon Ryder Unger

### ***Communication/Announcements/Press Releases and Relationships***

- Why did you feel the need to belittle the work of teachers in your Facebook post after the latest PISA results were released, which indicated Alberta's high standing? You made changes to your original post, but did not apologize to teachers for the insulting tone behind your original message? How are you working to improve your relationship with the teachers of this province? Amber Cahill
- Why did the minister not attend any of her education engagement sessions? I attended assuming there would be opportunity to engage directly with the minister. Sarah Gaven
- We are experiencing an unprecedented time in the world. I appreciate that your department is making decisions the best they can. However, I think the delivery has been creating much more anxiety and stress than these decisions need to. Could the welfare of families, teachers and students be considered as these decisions are announced? I think it would be better to be kind and thoughtful and follow a different protocol, like contacting school boards, who contact school administrators, who contact families. This way people can think of questions or concerns and maybe have some answers that many of us need or want. Thanks for taking this into consideration. Marion Enns



- Why did premier Kenney make this announcement of laying off of all these support staff during a Saturday on spring break, with little detail, making the spring break a mental health crisis for these who had to hear through others who may have heard this. Do you agree with this type of communication? still the EA's know little information, what exactly is going on? Savi Houldin
- How is her Ministry working with health and Childrens services to align support strategies for families and teachers with young children Christy Ford
- Why are all press releases of educational news given on Friday afternoon, or on the weekends? Are you actively trying to avoid questions about the bad news you relay? Amber Cahill
- Why was a press release issued in the early afternoon on a Saturday that affected employment of 20,000+ education workers? Sarah Gaven
- How can the minister say she values staff who work in education while allowing them to find out on social media that they are out of a job? Sarah Gaven
- What prompted the minister to announce there will be no further reduction in funding on March 15 and then not even 2 weeks later announce cuts resulting in layoffs of over 20,000 jobs including EAs? Kerry Bodell
- Why was the announcement to cut support staff done via text/email, rather than a proper press conference? The method of announcing the cut 2 weeks after announcing no cuts came across as cowardly and cold-hearted. Jillian Bishop
- Minister LaGrange why do you fail at every turn to respond to your constituents and parents? Why did you announce a layoff of 1% of the Albertan labour force on a Saturday without consultation or a press conference? What kind of accountability is that?
- Can you please apologize for the error your government made in you going to the media on a Saturday to make this announcement? This needed to be done when we could have supported the staff with this blow! Sonja Dykslag
- Why did they drop this cut on a Sat. and give school boards barely any time to respond? Vinna Vuong
- Why did you not have a proper media press release when announcing the layoff of 25,000 Albertans that serve our public sector? Do our hard working Albertans not deserve that? Anonymous Attendee
- when will you announce about the school division. I m a parent. because its not good for normal life. not only for education Agalyaa Sundaesan
- when will you announce the next situation to start the education - parent from me yokumin school Agalyaa Sundaesan

### ***Consultation and Decision Making***

- What are the criteria/priorities that are being used to make education policy decisions since this government was elected? Sarah Gaven
- Can you describe the extent of consultations and discussions that were performed with school boards, teachers, parents and education workers that supported your decision to lay off education workers amid a global health and economic crisis? How does being laid off help education workers



and parents stay safe since losing one's job will negatively impact one's mental health? Wing Witharana, PhD, Vice Chair, School Council, Ecole Broxton Park School, Spruce Grove, Parkland School Division, No 70

- Who is part of the decision-making process? Sarah Gaven
- I am wondering if you see any merit in consulting with stakeholders such as AECEA and ATA before making such decisions or do you think it is best that they just sit back and trust your expertise? Tricia Pope
- Why were school boards not informed of this decision until 15 minutes before it became public? Sarah Gaven
- Why does this government keep changing the rules by which school boards have to make decisions? Yesterday's announcement means boards who have spent the past two weeks developing their game plan to support children like my own now have to go back to the drawing board, three days before they were supposed to have plans ready for parents like me. Sarah Gaven
- Elected Trustees and school boards autonomy is clearly ignored. Arbitrary decisions are imposed on boards and district administration with no consultation process. Please explain? Stanley Haroun
- Were school divisions given any input into this decision to remove funding? Greg
- Why weren't the parents and all school boards consulted with prior to making this decision in order to receive a complete consensus of the needs of all school communities? Dyanne Chippa
- Hello, I am asking from Grande Prairie. My question is related to the decision to reduce funding to students with disabilities. Why would a decision like this be made without including all stakeholders including the parents of those students? Often this is the only health and developmental intervention these students can access. And the health regions have not been made ready to absorb the referrals. Katie MacFarlane
- I am very concerned about the decision to cut school board budgets based on the assumption that certain staff, namely education assistants, aren't being utilized at this time. I would like to understand whether this was done with any consultation with schools, school boards or teachers? Heather Ganshorn
- Did you seek any input from the school divisions when you made this adjustment to funding? Greg Wondga
- Why did you consult superintendents when considering keeping schools open/closed yet NOT do that same consultation for the support staff? You had no idea whether EA's were working or not. This lack of consultation shows your true colours and I guarantee your voters will never forget it. Vicky Qualie
- With whom did you consult in order to ascertain that online classes were not using the same resources as regular classes? Sarah Geisler
- Why has the decision been made to cut funding for educational support workers before all of us, school staff, parents and kids, have a chance to understand what we need from those staff? This massive shift has barely started, and we don't know what we are going to need and not need at this time. Dawn McMaster



- Minister, you claim boards reached out to you to let you know EAs had no work to do and weren't needed at this time. We have now seen multiple boards dispute this so which boards did you consult with? Ashley Falkenberg
- Also, which of our Province's school boards were the ones who asked to layoff staff? Anonymous Attendee
- EAs are generally available for children who need the extra support. Our school is entirely students with additional learning needs. As a parent "home schooling" now, I can say my child would benefit from some additional screen time with someone trained in how to support her learning. Was that considered before removing those staff?
- I was wondering why our LOCALLY Elected trustees and our school admin weren't involved in the decision to cut funding. As you know, their suggestions may have made a difference here. J N
- If your daughter or son was making the decisions that are being made in public education, would you be proud of them? Anonymous Attendee
- How was it difficult decision when we were given notice on a Saturday and the districts were barely notified ahead of us? The news conferences featuring you or Jason Kenney go in circles in why this decision was made. You said in a conference that all staff who were laid off will get our jobs back. Is that before or after the 2020-21 cuts that you know as well as anyone else are coming? Anonymous Attendee
- It is deeply alarming for citizens when a government makes major decisions based on political ideology instead of direct empirical evidence. Your "confidence" that things will be all right means nothing. Evidence-based government is all that matters. Anonymous Attendee
- Again, why now? We are all role models for our children, and this change caused chaos. Why not take time to consult? Shauna Gibbons
- Schools were being very creative in getting all hands bust with this new style of learning. Bus drivers were delivering food, Ea's were meeting virtually with students. It is a lie to say that staff were underutilised, you are making assumptions. Why would you make these significant decisions based on assumptions? Kristine Edgington
- Your responses to these questions are sounds insincere. You present the distribution of your department's dictate as if it were consultation. But there is no excuse for failing to consult deeply and widely with the professionals at the coal-face of education. Why wouldn't you speak to the professionals? You repeatedly cite your daughter. As a matter of record, does she support your decisions about throwing EAs out of work? Anonymous Attendee
- Why did the Government not allow the school districts themselves to make the decisions on where their districts needed to allocate funds, based on their community needs, in order to address the new challenges? Heather Sample
- Was ASCA included in your Monday March 30 meeting with the education partners? You mentioned CASSA, APSB, ATA... Krista Scott
- I would like to know what school board voiced that their Educational Assistants weren't required? Morgann Tomlinson



- Thank you for being transparent as things move so rapidly. Who will be supporting the schools in identify and having a standardized way of identifying which financial decisions/cuts will be made in the short term? Anonymous Attendee
- Why was there no consultation about redistribution of funds? Vinna Vuong
- How much consultation before making these decisions are being made with groups such as parent councils, ATA, etc.? Are all stakeholders being allowed opportunities for input before such drastic decisions are being made? Tarynne Angell Leduc, AB
- I think a large part of the frustration that is coming from these decisions is the complete lack of notice and the complete lack of consultation. Do you not view school board trustees as a major partner in education? If so why was this not discussed before plans were made including EA's. Parents that have kids with special needs are being left behind and it's hard to not feel angry right now. Liz Kalisvaart
- Which Boards approached you about not utilizing EAs? Shauna Gibbons
- Can you name these boards who approached you? I think we are owed that information. I don't think this is accurate information, as many trustees have said that you are not being honest.
- Which were the boards that approached you with these concerns?
- I would like to know which boards approached you to let you know that they could no longer utilize their EA's. I would like proof that this was the case. Kristine Edgington
- In the interest of transparency, will we be provided with some information about which school districts asked to lay off staff? No school has ever turned away money as every dollar can most definitely be put to good use in the interest of our students. Anonymous Attendee
- How many school divisions within our Province asked for you to re-allocate the funds? I think that transparency in this "unprecedented" time is absolutely something that this government needs to do better. Anonymous Attendee
- You speak of this \$128M being redirected to fight covid-19, but the amount of money you just gave to a failing industry does not add up. Oil and gas are not the only industries losing their footing. I would like to know how many school boards contacted you saying they wanted to lay off their support staff? Vicky Qualie
- The Premier said that school boards asked for the ability to implement layoffs yet most school boards have come out with official statements stating that layoffs were not something they were considering. Which School boards were consulted and how? Is there some form of official documentation of the consultation that the ministry can share?
- Understanding you, the AB Government, are trying to make the best decisions you can as quickly as you can to a fluid unprecedented situation, if any of these education decisions are shown in the coming fluid days and weeks to not be the best for our society, will you reconsider them and be willing to reinstated services such as EA's if the need of their lost services are evidently needed. Heather Au
- As creative collaboration will be essential for educators during this time, which members of the opposition do you work most closely with and take input from? Ashley Falkenberg



→ Can anyone be willing to identify which School Divisions Ms. LaGrange was speaking about when she said, 'a number of school jurisdictions had contacted the ministry about laying off EAs and other supporting staff? So many have come forward and not one board has claimed to have spoken to the government regarding this decrease in assistance to children. Bruce Kaufman

→ Why are you laying off thousands of education staff during a pandemic emergency?

We need those people to help support our children. You were elected to create jobs, not Throw people out of work. You are basically making the federal government pay to keep those people from working. At the same time, how can you afford to spend billions of dollars on a pipeline? I pay taxes to support public services that benefit all Albertans. I don't pay taxes to buy pipelines and fund War Rooms (aka PR agency for oil and gas) that should be funded by private industry.

Why does your government have such contempt for teachers, doctors and public servants?

When this is over Albertans will remember how you used the crisis as an excuse to push through your radical agenda of gutting public services and making life worse for working families.

Sincerely, Paul Oss

### ***Education/Curriculum***

- How would you recommend we deal with parents who are up to this point not ensuring that the work being sent home is being completed? We as a faculty understand the importance of this work being done to be able to provide an accurate report card in June. Lynne Harris, Director, First Steps and Beyond, registered private school, Red Deer
- What measures is Alberta Education putting in place to minimize student regression now that many school authorities have no choice but to lay off staff who actively supported students requiring additional assistance? Kristi Rouse
- How can the Ministry and educators justify pushing children through the system and advancing them to the next grade, when they are losing half of their year? What were the parameter and considerations utilized to make this decision? Has any considerations been given to how detrimental this will be for many children? What were the considerations, if any? Jessica
- The current interim model for student learning is not sustainable for long term academic delivery and is diminishing student learning all together, what is the Ministry doing to develop more suitable long term contingencies? Jessica
- Looking to the summer, if the cases of Covid 19 are low or are lowering in communities. Would the Education Minister allow schools to return early (say mid August), for students, particularly high school, to have opportunity for review and have personal instruction in the subjects they feel they are struggling in? Tara Kitchen
- Teachers are currently in a holding pattern where they don't want to invest too much time in developing plans and resources for a curriculum that will change. They want to start with the new curriculum but there has been no official messaging about when it will be implemented. When can teachers implement this new curriculum? or... When will an announcement be made about this?





- Is it possible for kids to catch up in July and Aug if the pandemic slows down. According to the health experts prediction the pandemic should slow down in summer as the virus are heat/UV light sensitive and fall it may come back. So is it possible to have summer school? Chan
- Quelle est le plan du ministère pour les élèves en difficultés d'apprentissage avec des plans d'intervention pour l'an prochain? Ces élèves auront besoin d'un support supplémentaire car il est déjà difficile pour eux de suivre en temps normal, maintenant avec le retard a rattrapé ce sera insurmontable s'ils ne peuvent pas avoir de l'aide supplémentaire.
  - *English Translation:* What is the ministry's plan for students with learning difficulties with intervention plans for next year? These students will need additional support as it is already difficult for them to follow in normal times, now with the delay caught up it will be insurmountable if they cannot have additional help. Geneviève Denault, présidente CE à l'école francophone d'Airdrie
- Do you think that Alberta Schools, or does/had Alberta Education already had intention or interest in moving towards online learning in the future, regardless of our current situation? Was this in the plans previous...For example, As a cost retention piece. Or to effectively transition to more educational consistency between regions...So on and so forth...Will utilizing key features of online learning become more prevalent in our education system? Is online education a future solution? Brandy Nelson
- What is the government's plan moving forward once the crisis passes to ensure equity -- there will be some students who have been able to meet curricular outcomes but others who will not -- perhaps a more than usual number of the latter, so what is the plan? E.g. Do you imagine some form of benchmark assessment at that time? Do you imagine holding a larger number of students back to complete a grade or half a grade? Do you imagine more money needed for extra instructional supports to bring students up to grade equivalencies? Wendy Fath
- Is the online learning currently being worked on being put towards final grades? If not, will there be penalties for students who are not online doing all the asked work? Anonymous Attendee
- What would your recommendation be, in the case of parents not ensuring that the school work being sent home is being completed? We feel as a staff that this work, when returned to the school, will aid us in completing the June Report Cards. Thank you. Lynne Harris
- What is happening to ensure that the kids are getting the necessary support for their education at this time? Kandy Ekstrom
- To follow up, is it possible to explain what is being done to make sure that the 1 hour of work assigned is being adhered to. I have four children, and all of them in K-6. Some have 3 hours, some 1 or 2 a day. Krystle Linc
- Just wondering why the students are not expected to complete online work in order to move ahead in grade or graduate. Even if they put in a effort Passing them. Anonymous Attendee
- Why were we so quick to just "move" every student along. We already move students each year who have not mastered curriculum. In light of the recent cuts, some students are not being fully and properly supported and all students are learning in a very non-ideal way. In the event that students are out for the rest of the school year, why would they not stay where they are. Schools could delay



kindergarten next year and post-secondary could function for a year with lower attendance.

Anonymous Attendee

- Good morning Minister, My Daughter needs her diploma exam done to join military in the trade she wants to do. Is there anyway she can write her exam and/or rewrite 1 of her exam to get the score to be in the trade she choose? Thanks. Clement Lapointe
- Students especially with learning needs will fall behind. There is not enough support now how do plan to adjust when we return? Courtney Pruski
- Is there any measures that will be in place for students that struggle with distance learning? Marley Mayo
- How can parents working, still ensure their child's education when they don't have time to sit and review nor are they aware of what should be taught. This week has not been helpful, as children not sure what to do and me as a working parent does not have time to sit and help. Nadine Ternovoy
- What sort of oversight is there to the teachers and assignments to their students? My Grade 8 niece received an assignment on D2L today from her Humanities teacher asking for a Current Events Report on COVID-19. My brother-in-law is a front line worker and my niece had a breakdown, stating "10,000 people have died around the world!" Do you think this is in poor taste for the mental health of our students? We are in the thick of this - this cannot be discussed as lessons at this time. How can this be resolved? Lori De Witt
- Why is the education minister not using the education Model used by St. Paul's academy and the Center for learning at home (out of Okotoks) for teaching kids at the moment? I believe the program is called "first class" having had a child go to that school, their online format works wonderfully. cindy mairs
- Is it true that you changed eligibility criteria for Code 47's and eliminated all FOPS programming? A colleague who works for an ECS organization is laying off many staff because their PUF funding has been cut by 60%. Amanda Chapman
- Young students are being overwhelmed with the amount of school work they are now doing. It seems each school and division has interpreted your vague guidelines you have given for school work. What are you going to do to make sure that schools aren't overwhelming students with the amount of work they are being asked to do online? Sharon Layton
- What recommendations from the Government Curriculum Review Panel is this government planning on implementing, and if increasing standardized testing of additional grades is one of them, then which grades, and will there be additional funding to specifically cover the cost of these tests? Medeana Moussa
- Why are elementary school students only receiving 5 hours of curriculum a week. How are we expecting students to be prepared for the next grade level with minimal curriculum? Anonymous Attendee
- Will teachers be holding virtual training in the coming weeks? Is there a mandate besides the number of hours to ensure children get the right learning. Nadine Ternovoy
- How are you identifying and leveraging best practice across the province, based on global best practise examples Christy Ford



- How are teachers going to follow up with students that are not participating online? Edward Tse
- How do you define online learning? Is this called online learning when no any online instruction time scheduled or homework be assessed? Else Zheng
- What plan is there to support the learning discrepancies that will surely result from this break in traditional school come September, and is the government planning to invest in private sector delivery of education to help with this challenge? Medeana Moussa
- On a positive note, the teachers have done a very good job of getting the curriculum online in a very short time. Do you feel this type of format will be integrated a little more completely into our education delivery. Stephen Goodall
- Hello Minister, how do we ensure that students are really ready for the next grade? Will there be a curriculum readjustment or a way to ensure continuity of learning when schools reopen? Joanne Bouchard
- As the role of public education is to provide an equal quality and care of education to all students regardless of background, what efforts are being made to make additional supports available to assure the education children from at marginalized homes or populations? Aaron Myradon
- Looking forward, does the ministry think that the kids will be able to catch up next year with online education being so different for the kids? would repeating the grade they are in today make sense to ensure that the children are successful? > Kids with learning challenges are no longer receiving supports especially now that school districts are laying off EA's. cindy mairs
- Should the diploma exams from Sem. 1 be removed from students marks as it is not fair to students who are trying to enter competitive programs in University. If they are having more of their courses that count towards the program with diploma exams while others trying to enter the same program would have less of their courses using diploma marks. For example a student entering nursing writes Math 30, ELA and Biology in sem 1 where other students write these same courses in Sem 2 and don't have diploma marks included. Provincial average between diploma exam marks and school based marks approaches a 10% difference. This could cause students to not be accepted into programs they otherwise would have qualified for. Jamie Foesier
- How is 5 hours a week of learning suitable for our children? How will this prepare them when they get into their new grade next year? Only having 5 hours a week seems little, how is this preparing a child going from elementary to junior high and from junior high to high school?
- What makes you think that 5 hours a week of learning is enough for children, especially for the children that are going from elementary to junior high or from junior high to high school
- First, thank-you for your efforts in this evolving crisis. Is the continuing education being reviewed at some point in time? I don't feel that 5 hours a week is enough, if we are still not back at school in a month for example, will there be additional subject matter sent home? Claire Miller
- Is there a plan in place for the kids to learn the last half/2nd semester of 2020 in order to continue with the current learning of 2020/21?
- can we consider school catch up in July and August? From a medical perspective the pandemic will likely slow down in the summer but probably return in the fall. It would make sense to move vacation time to overlap with the usual peak flu seasons. David Sun



- The Minister mentions over and over again that ""you can't force people to learn"" but what about every child's right to an education" Krista Scott
- What specific actions are being taken to ensure that students who fall behind don't give up on their education all together? Edward Tse
- Is it going to be mandatory for students to put an effort into completing school work teachers hand out? Tanya Wright
- Bonjour Mme la Ministre comment assurer que les élèves sont réellement prêts pour le prochain niveau scolaire? Aura-t-il un réajustement du curriculum ou une façon d'assurer une continuité de l'apprentissage?

- *English translation:* Hello Minister, how do we ensure that the students are really ready for the next grade? Will he have a curriculum readjustment or a way to ensure continuity of learning?

→ I am representing parent from Medicine Hat community, specifically I am Chair for Parent Council of Notre Dame, MHCBE. Question: We have witnessed some option classes, like French being terminated right away, due to government giving instructions that only core subjects should be delivered on line during COV-19. Would you support termination of some options now anticipating that the schools will need more time in September to catch students to the level they should be? Really, nobody knows what assessments standards will be anyways, and I believe that's what Minister said, it is yet to be determined. Ana McFadyen Chair, Parent Council NDA Medicine HAT, CBE

→ What is happening to ensure that the kids are getting the necessary support for their education? And, what supports are in place for kids that were in the middle of determining if they have add/adhd ? Kandy Ekstrom

→ I would have appreciated hearing from the Minister an acknowledgement of the work being done by School Districts and specific schools to meet the needs of students in the current crisis - a thank you with examples!

I want to know how quickly the Minister will have a plan in place. Schools have been expected to have lessons up and running very quickly, so what is causing the delay from the Minister to create some strong guidelines for School Districts/schools to report progress on implementing lessons, reporting issues schools are coming up against, ensuring that her promise to ensure that students' progress to the next grade level can be met . . . ? Has she actually solicited any information from schools/school districts about how things are actually working and what challenges they are facing?

Anyway, hopefully we can have more dialogue with the Minister because the impression I got from the session that, while the Minister made a commitment, it's been left up to school divisions to scramble to implement it. Wendy Fath

### ***Evaluations/Assessments***

- During these times, how do we know how the kids can be evaluated properly. Personally I see the kids meeting with their teachers all together on hangout, for the kids that were helped at school for learning disabilities, are the teachers mandated to take some one on one time with them to work on their issues. Melanie Meyer, President of the School Council of Ecole le Ruisseau, Brooks



- Having a simplified curriculum with reduced screen time seems like the way to go. How will this be monitored/reported/assessed/measured? Mary Bergeron School Council
- We've been getting lots of questions from parents (mostly high school parents) on how the students will be graded from here on out? Parents & teachers are left in the dark on this situation. Christine
- How is assessment going to be handled across grade levels? Are we focusing more on formative assessment at this time? Nicole Stogrin
- Will the learning done during this time be graded and reported on as per usual? Anonymous Attendee
- How are students going to be evaluated during this time?
- Minister, do you believe that all the materials that students are completing each week should be submitted to the teacher on a weekly basis to be marked, to make sure that everything is being done correctly, like a more one on one with the students? Diana Chmait
- Will the results from June report cards be used for benchmarks? If so, can you please elaborate? Shauna Gibbons
- I think parents will do their best to support their children with this learning online... however I think that making proper/ full assessments of our children (by their teacher) is going to be challenging... so come September will there be a process and support for teachers to ensure that children are supported as they enter a new grade (have they achieved all the outcomes they needed to reach successfully?) - I am not just asking about money... but rather actual plans/process... guidelines about how to get all kids assessed and up to necessary par. Sandra Rosano Koeller
- In light of the U of A and Nait providing pass/fail final grades, is the Ministry going to provide some direction to junior high and high school teachers about how final grades should look? Pass/Fail? Credit/no credit? A percentage grade? Fred Kong
- Does the PATS the grade 6 are not going to be doing affect anything? Anonymous Attendee
- Are you still planning on reinstating PATs for grade 3s next year? If so, is there any standard research to show that standardized testing is effective for enhancing the curriculum
- In addition to diploma exams being cancelled, what is the fate of provincial achievement tests (PATs)? Anonymous Attendee
- Will PAT's be rescheduled for a later date or just cancelled?
- When can we expect learning plans from teachers? Maryse Lessard
- Will the ministry consider holding off on their push to reimplement grade 3 PAT's due to the loss of learning time this year? Anonymous Attendee
- Will jr high final exams be cancelled? Jody Deckert
- Can you please provide rationale as to why the high school AP exams haven't been cancelled? Tracey Tully
- Is there a plan for assessing where students are at when in class schooling restarts and catching them up to grade levels? We (parents and teachers) are all doing our best but this is a slapdash solution



currently even though it was the only possible approach given circumstances. I'm concerned about current students falling through the cracks and never being given the education they would have received under normal circumstances Amanda Coleman

- une autre question qui a été soulevée est de savoir comment le troisième bulletin va être évalué et qu'elle va être sa validité? Comment le system d'éducation va aider les enfants en grand besoin ?

- *English translation:* Another question that has been raised is how the third bulletin will be evaluated and what will be its validity? How will the education system help children in great need?

→ How are assessments be done with the children? Maria Villamiel

→ Some children start off slow but as they become more familiar with the subject area, they tend to improve tremendously. I am afraid that predictive grades don't compliment all students. Is this the method of assessment that will be used or will there be some form of online testing to allow students to acquire their necessary grades. If parents are not comfortable with their children's progress, will they be allowed to repeat the grade level? Concerned parent Donna Thorpe-Walsh Riley

→ If students are not going back this year, I am wondering how the CBE will (the schools) will be providing grades for this year? Will be solely be based on the first semester? Carol-Ann Titus

→ I am a concerned parent that is still waiting to hear more from the Alberta Board of Education regarding fair and equitable standards for students. How can some school districts put out notices that students can be finished with their current marks but opt to continue learning to help increase their mark but it will not negatively impact their mark by having to work online. (CSSD - has adopted this) Whereby other schools are forcing kids to do online school, teach themselves the courses, complete all assignments and exams and all marks will affect their marks (positively or negatively).

Some students cannot work effectively online, some students have poor internet connections, some students do not have the economics means and some students do not have parents at home that can help facilitate the "at home learning". How is the Alberta Education making this fair and equitable across the provinces? Right now it is not even fair and equitable within cities of Alberta.

Can the Alberta Education Minister please make an announcement about how things will work going forward. They have stop school over 3 weeks ago and we have heard nothing from Alberta government since. Which is very unacceptable when kids are struggling right now. The individual school boards are making their own decisions and they are very different and some children will be penalized whereby other students will benefit. This is not fair and equitable across our province. Please I look forward to a response as do all parents in this province.

I did find out that another district in Alberta is also taking students last grades as of March 31st and making that their final grade, allowing kids to continue online learning to improve their mark if the so chose and have the ability but their mark will not go down and online learning will not negatively impact their grade. The mark on March 31st is the lowest possible mark the student will receive. Other schools are initiating online school and forcing kids to teach themselves the courses, (30 level subjects like calculus and physics) have quizzes tests and final exams. All which can negatively impact their grades depending on the students ability to online learn and self teach. The province needs to standardize this across the province. It is not fair for



students going on to universities in the fall. This could severely impact a grade 12 students 5 course average for admissions. Please I hope the Alberta education Minister need to help. Thank you so much. Kelly Hollstein

### ***Francophone/French Education, Second Language, Newcomers***

- Is there any French instruction coming? Penn Lougheed
- Good morning my name is Pierre Asselin. For Francophone schools, we as parents are worried about the ability of our school board the conseil scolaire centre nord being able to offer the assistance with helping francophone kids with weak french language skills improve so as to maintain their language. We are concerned that a long period of time without this resource will impair several children who need this help. Can you confirm whether there was consideration given to this program which is particular to the francophone school board and how it can be maintained while we are doing long distance learning. Pierre Asselin
- How do we support our French and second language learners when the parents do not speak the language of instruction? How can those parents support their children with reading if there are no books available at home nor library access and/or writing when the student does not have a French dictionary at home? Jocelyn Zoller
- what about newcomers parents who still are learning about the school system and is expected to provide support to their children for their online classes? What supports are available to them? Lucenia Ortiz

### ***Funding/Budget***

- Prior to covid-19, UCP had already announced cuts to education and healthcare and increased funding for oil and breaks for corporations Albertans did not vote for these cuts, can you share your defense on these decisions? Anonymous Attendee
- Why do you continue to say that Education funding has been "maintained" when it is clear from school budgets that all districts are dealing with significantly less money than in previous years? Amber Cahill
- While schools will utilize information received in the spring when planning for the fall, how will the ministry fund/allow for changes that occur between spring & beginning of each new school year? Schools' enrollment numbers change enormously over the summers & as each school year begins.
- Regarding the Funding Models to the schools. Can you please explain how funding will continue to the schools to relieve pressure on the School Councils need to fundraise? My Grade 3 child came home from school this year and said "the government has taken all our money and there's no money for paper anymore. I need to bring my own paper to school". A) My child does not need this pressure in his brain; B) Why does a school have a spending freeze on basic things like paper and pencils? Isn't those the basic school supplies that the school should receive funding for? Lori De Witt
- The new "three-year average" model for funding schools seems to disadvantage school boards with growing populations. Do you have any plans for leveling this discrepancy? Amber Cahill



- Does your government continue to fund the war room during the COVID-19 pandemic? Jenice Fukushima
- Why? Why did you lie to every Albertan two weeks ago, and assure us that Education funding would remain in place? Parents are left in the dark regarding supports for our children, and during a time of stress, and uncertainty, you feel that cutting 20,000 jobs is the solution? Kelly Cunningham
- Dedicated fund for children living with mental health conditions and requiring specialized supports.
- In emergencies, Governments maintain and increase budgets for essential services. Education is essential service that is undertaking unprecedented transformation to teach and support kids, including special needs, and their families who are in total isolation, fear and confusion.
- Instead of cutbacks, funds should be redirected by elected school boards to meet those extraordinary challenges in their immunities, challenges which are based on unique local needs.
  - So, where do governments get the money from in a crises situation you may ask?
  - As you may know, there are two common tools:
  - Borrowing, interest rates are at historical low.
  - Quantitative easing.
  - Case in point, during the financial crises in 2009, Canada and the US provided interest free loans to car manufacturers to stop their imminent collapse. In other words, they were nationalized. Both Governments applied quantitative easing to provide these loans.
  - The economic climate improved and the loans were paid back.
  - Education is not GM, but should at least be treated equally!
  - What is your view on that issue? Stanley Haroun

### **Preamble:**

- There were major cuts to funding for public education in 2011-12 and one of the many repercussions is that the Calgary Board of Education had to drastically cut social workers, mental health councillors, and systems navigators who could work with families to access the resources they needed so their kids could arrive at school ready to learn. Those positions were cut in a major way during the massive cuts to public education in 2011-12, yet the funding levels of public education in the 2018-19 school year were still *below* what they had been back in 2011-12.
- In the meantime, there has been a well-documented increase in children living with mental health conditions and requiring specialized supports.
- Yet, despite all of this, the United Conservative Party chose to further cut funding for public education for the 2019-20 school year, and had plans to do so again in future school years, which would have meant further cuts to social workers, mental health councillors, and systems navigators.
- Things were already dire before COVID-19, but since the pandemic, anxiety and panic have skyrocketed among children and families who were already faced underlying challenges. Studies have shown a direct correlation between economic instability and reported instances of violence in the home. Calls to the Kids Help Phone, domestic abuse hotlines, sexual abuse





hotlines, and to phone- and online-based mental health resources have skyrocketed since March 13<sup>th</sup>.

- This is not something we want our teachers to deal with when students return to classrooms. Teachers need to teach. Other professionals need to be in place to provide support to students who are experiencing sexual abuse, mental health challenges or violence.
  - **Question:** Minister LaGrange, once schools are re-opened, will the UCP create a significant, dedicated fund, over and above core funding for public education, that is dedicated to ensuring that every child in the public education system can access the social work, counselling or system navigation resources they need in order to fulfill their learning potential? Prepared by the following 17 CBE schools: \*\* Chinook Park, Henry Wisewood, Elboya, William Reid, Bishop Pinkham, Jennie Elliot, Canyon Meadows, Eugene Coste, Woodman, Haysboro, Lord Beaverbrook, Central Memorial, Louis Riel, Windsor Park, Robert Warren, David Thompson, Sam Livingstone.
- Fully restoring funding for public education.

#### **Preamble:**

- The Calgary Board of Education is Alberta's largest public school board and it is an amazing administrative body. No other school board in Calgary offers a world-class level of education to this wide of an array of students.
- The CBE accepts the most vulnerable students in Calgary. These are the students that no other school board will accept, and the ones who are the most expensive to educate. From children who are not functionally verbal to children who are on parole for a criminal conviction to children who are facing long-term medical treatments in a hospital, the CBE will not only accept them as students, but will give them the very best education possible.
- At the other end of the spectrum, the CBE has to accommodate some of the brightest students in Alberta and provides them with a public education that is unparalleled anywhere else in the world, with graduates going on to excel as entrepreneurs, lead major organizations, and reach the heights of academia.
- The CBE achieves all of this despite massive cuts to public education that occurred during the 2011-12 school year. Despite all the cutbacks that public education has faced over the past decade, the United Conservative Party chose to further cut funding for public education for the 2019-20 school year, and had plans to do so again in future school years. According to Alberta's 2020-21 budget tabled by the United Conservative Party in late February, education spending will be cut 4 per cent by 2022-23, despite growing enrollment.
- The UCP further cut funding for public education on [Saturday, March 28, 2020](#).
- The state of funding of public education was already dire before COVID-19, but now that the pandemic has disrupted everything, it seems that now is not the time to play political points and score political points with the UCP's base by imposing the massive planned cuts to public education.



- We want to ensure that the temporary funding cut announced on Saturday, March 28, 2020 is returned to the public education system, that the planned budget cuts to public education to 2022-23 are reversed, and that, instead, funding for public education is increased.
- We need to understand that our teachers will need even more support coming into the next school year after a fragmented and unexpected end to this one. And our students will also need more supports, particularly those who have lost ground due to the lack of individualized support (e.g., educational assistants, supports for learning disabilities, speech-language supports, etc...). Our most vulnerable students are the ones who will be most impacted by this shutdown.
  - **Question:** Minister LaGrange, given the massive upheaval we are currently experiencing, for the 2019-2020 school year, will the UCP commit to not only fully restore funding for public education but also to increase it? Prepared by the 17 CBE schools\*\*
- Addressing the budget shortfall through revenue adjustments.

#### Preamble:

- In Alberta's 2020-21 budget, which was released in late February, on page 169 there's a chart that speaks volumes about the province's fiscal dilemma. Albertans, as the graphic titled "Alberta's Tax Advantage" illustrates, pay the country's lowest taxes. The chart lays out precisely how much less revenue the provincial government has, compared with other provinces, as a result of those low taxes. And what it shows is that, if Alberta had the tax code of Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Ontario or any other province, our province would not have been running a deficit in early March 2020. Instead, our province would have had a huge multibillion-dollar surplus. As the Alberta budget helpfully points out, if Alberta had the same tax system as Ontario – Canada's second-lowest tax province – the UCP's provincial government would be bringing in an extra \$14.4-billion this year. That would have left Alberta with a \$7.6-billion budget surplus.
- This is worth remembering as the United Conservative Party government grapples with an ever widening fiscal gap, which it has chosen so far tried to bridge with spending cuts and a long-term plan to downsize government. Keeping taxes ultra low while cutting on essential services such as public education and health care is not an illegitimate choice, but it is a choice. There are other roads available.
- Given the upheaval caused by the pandemic, this is the time to re-consider the other roads.
  - **Question:** Minister LaGrange, as a key member at the Cabinet table, will you commit to voicing the need for bringing our Alberta revenue system in line with that of the tax code of Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Ontario or any other province, so that we can remain a "have" province that can continue to fund public education during and beyond this pandemic crisis, instead of a "have-not" province that can no longer afford to run a world-class public education system? Prepared by the 17 CBE schools\*\*
- Does the Minister understand that this is the second significant cut to school division funding that has occurred \*after\* the beginning of the school year, and that mid-year cuts like this are not fair to our school divisions, our school staff, or most of all to our children? Joy Morris



- How will the SLS grant in the new funding framework better address classroom complexity for students with special needs when school jurisdictions were already running significant inclusive education deficits? What accountability measures will be added to ensure the principles of inclusive education are upheld? Kristi Rouse
- How do they expect to support our most at risk and vulnerable students with reduced funding? Vinna Vuong
- Where's the money going for laying off the support staff/existing staff? (Is it being funnelled elsewhere- like to pay EI claims? Mary Bergeron School Council
- How will this effect funding for next year? These kids will be returning and needing more help then ever (both special needs and typical children). What is the plan to make sure they are supported once they return? Mary Bergeron School Council
- With the way the CBE is being funded, more responsibility for providing more and more basic items are being requested of the council. Knowing the current economic situation in our province, it is also getting harder and harder to fundraise, especially at the high school level. Can there be more money allocated per student or in a lump sum to each school to help with aging technology or programming, such as Kurzweil, to help ease the burdens for our schools and councils? Marion Enns
- - En ces temps difficiles, où les familles ont besoin d'un soutien accru. Nous, les parents de l'école Boréal, sommes très préoccupés par votre annonce de coupures financières. Plus que jamais, nos enfants on besoin de soutien. Qui va s'occuper d'assurer le suivi personnalisé des élèves en défi avec une classe de 25 élèves en plus de la préparation, Google hang out et corriger ?
  - *English translation:* In these difficult times, when families need more support. We, the parents of Ecole Boreal, are very concerned about your announcement of financial cuts. More than ever, our children need support. Who will be responsible for providing personalized follow-up to students in addition to preparation, Google hang out and correct?
- Why does the government insist on keeping with their budget when, as you stated, the situation is fluid? What is the purpose of forcing through a budget with projections that are no longer accurate? Andrew
- The Minister has said that support staff will be returning in September. Will the budget for 2020/2021 be based off of the number prior to March 15th 2020 or will it reflect the 14% reduction? Anonymous Attendee
- will there still be cuts to education for the following school year? Jessica Zylinski
- What will you provide as a guarantee to the parents you are speaking to today that education funding will TRULY return after the COVID19 pandemic? You claimed funding for education would not be cut just two weeks ago and then your actions back-tracked on these words. It is fair to say that parents do not hold public trust for your claims considering these broken promises. Also, do you have records and documentation to prove that these funding cuts of ~\$128M will actually go towards helping with the COVID19 pandemic seeing as health care cuts and physician funding were also cut, as announced in a provincial bulletin in the late evening of Monday, March 30th. Wing Witharana, PhD, Vice Chair, School Council, Ecole Broxton Park School, Spruce Grove, Parkland School Division, No 70



- How is the WMA system for calculating allocations to schools an equitable model? We suggest a hybrid. Ditch the new WMA system and go back to the per student funding for growing urban schools; for declining and rural schools, apply the WMA system. Cheryl, Strathcona School Council
- Our parent council (registered society) has spent ten's of thousands of dollars on technology at our school of 950 students with the majority of that money being allocated for chrome books. The provincial government is relying heavily on the use of those chrome books during this time, with the expectation that every students has access to technology- asking schools to send chrome books home so that every students has a device to use for online classrooms. How will the province take this into account when considering funding for next year? How will Edmonton Public have enough money to cover the funding for replacement chrome books given budget constraints for next year already?
- Casino's are a huge revenue support for schools - our council earns upwards of \$80,000.00 by coordinating nearly 40 volunteers over 2 days and nights to operate the Casino. With Casino's being closed, where will that large financial support come from? How will the province plan to make up for that loss of revenue?
- Overall education cuts: what actions are you taking to fight for Alberta students and against the cuts to education outlined by the province slotted for next year. We have saved the province over a million dollars in education by shutting down our schools from March-June and funneling that money to healthcare after being promised our education budget would remain the same until June. If the province even considers moving ahead with cuts, what action will you take? Jody Deckert, Vice Chair, Parent Council, A. Blair McPherson School, Edmonton, AB
- Education dollars are not fungible. How do they think that they are going to be able to justify stealing people's property tax dollars that are specifically allocated for Education? Katherine Campbell
- We'd like to say a big thank you to all the teachers out there for being so flexible and doing their utmost to deliver quality education to our kids. We hope the government knows how hard they are working in these times of uncharted waters. Will the EA funding be restored at current levels or higher as there will be some challenges acclimatizing kids back to classroom time given potentially 6 months of varied levels of at home learning? Thank you from the school council at Dunstable School, Busby, AB
- Specifically, where is the \$17.5 million reduction of money that was directed to support our children going? How was this \$17.5 million reduction calculated? Why isn't the \$17.5 million going to support transition of our children into the next year knowing that it will be a challenge for them since they did not attend a full school year the year before? Dyanne Chippa
- The government has announced a roll-back of the Education budget. Are schools finding that there are extra costs associated with the current modes of service delivery? If so, in what ways, and how is this being addressed, especially given the recently announced cutbacks to Education? Wendy Fath
- I am a parent of a special needs student who needs access to an aide during school to keep him on task, watch for seizures, as well as to take him outside, with his service dog. What is the government going to do to make this money sent used by the school for the child and thereby his service dog (since there will be more service dogs coming into the schools, and since are no policies in place for funding) instead of what we've had in past. In my understanding, the money now goes into the school's general fund instead of assigning it to the student. Stacy Palmer



- Why did the Minister reduce funding for Education after the promise was made to maintain funding?
- With a lot of schools looking at 5-10% funding differences in the coming year, and with the shut down of school now, how are schools and councils to do any “own funding” through our planned fundraising events that are now cancelled? Will the government be looking at reviewing these funding changes for school boards and budgets? Natasha Chiam
- I know the new school budget had come out, then came covid. things changed. I would like to know if the budget dollars will change come September. As our classes grow we have more and more children coded or have a disability. Will there be increased funding to hire more EA's to assist our teachers. Jason Gunther Chair St John Paul II High School in Grande Prairie
- We need to understand that our teachers will need even more support coming into the next school year after a fragmented and unexpected end to this one. And our students will also need more supports, particularly those who have lost ground due to the lack of individualized support (e.g., educational assistants, supports for learning disabilities, speech-language supports, etc...). Our most vulnerable students are the ones who will be most impacted by this shutdown. Minister LaGrange, given the massive upheaval we are currently experiencing, for the 2019-2020 school year, will the UCP commit to not only fully restore funding for public education but also to increase it? Susan Vukadinovic
- How is funding being planned for the fall? Will it assume in-school or will there be a contingency funding plan for online learning? Lisa Smith
- One thought I have that I would like to be voiced is in response to LaGrange's recent statement in correspondence to the ATA: "I believe it has been well received overall by parents" - in speaking of the funding cuts to education. I am not sure how she came to this conclusion, as the parents I have spoken to are appalled at this decision. It is leaving the most vulnerable of our school populations at risk in terms of their education and learning abilities, and it is also cutting off income for support staff in education which will inevitably leave them in difficult positions, many of whom often have children. LaGrange making this decision is extremely irresponsible and short sighted. Anonymous Attendee
- This Question is from a parent in our school: With the recent cuts to education funding that I believe fully eliminates educational support staffing in the province that go with the already previously announced cuts/freezes in the budget, will there be an immediate review of funding to education once schools are re-opened? Is this a temporary measure? Chelsea Casault
- Once schools are re-opened and classes resume I believe it should be imperative that funding not only be re-instated but increased so that we can make up for the educational losses suffered by not only my daughter but all our children and the school system during this down time. The longer this goes the more critical the need will be. The expectations of our children as they go through the school system and enter the work force are constantly being raised. We need to be able to help them meet those expectations. Chelsea Casault
- Can the rationale for pulling funding from education and moving it to other sectors be explained? From our point of view, it makes more sense to roll this funding over to schools for the fall. Anonymous Attendee
- But the staffing levels were already funded? Why now? Shauna Gibbons



- In respect to "Temporary adjustment to education funding-how much and will that amount be added to the budget next year on top of the planned education budget as there will be need for additional supports coming out of this. Adam McArthur
- I have a special needs child that had extra support funding through her coding. What extra supports will there be for me now teaching her at home and supporting her eLearning? The school is still receiving the extra funding for her coding - how does that flow to my student now? Lori De Witt
- how much are we saving by temporarily laying off all the workers? can that money go to next year instead of fighting this pandemic (which is getting support from other provincial and national govt) Abby Kahlon
- Families who home school receive the money a school board would normally receive for their child's education to pay for their home schooling activities at home. Different school boards get different funding. If we decide to remove our children from school formally and home school until June, can we apply for that funding? Anonymous Attendee
- What "normal" funding do you mean? When will we have an opportunity to discuss the March budget and debate it? Shauna Gibbons
- Cuts to education at this time are not well thought out. Teachers are working long hours right now and could use all EA time to help!!! Many teachers have said they are working 18h days all through spring break!! Can these funds be re-installed and quickly?? Gordon Gale
- Ms. LaGrange, I am a financial analyst and I would like to know how the funding reduction was calculated considering that there are still costs associated to transferring educational delivery to alternative online methods? Does your calculation include the new costs rather than just the costs that was already proposed in the last budget? Maria Burke
- In March, prior to COVID-19 closures, we heard that funding for EAs and support staff such as occupational therapists was already tabled for deletion due to budget cuts in September. Is this simply a means of getting one piece of bad news out early? Michelle Lovell
- Will there be additional funding put forth next year in consideration of some of our most vulnerable children in trauma and crisis who will more than likely be showing even more signs of trauma as schools, teachers and EAs are their safety net and it has been removed. Leanne Thompson
- How are we ensuring that Private Bus Contractors will be able to have the funding to keep their buses maintained and ready to go when schools are back in? Anonymous Attendee
- Why was funding for supports for the most vulnerable students cut when those students require that support now more than ever? Kelly Malo
- If the school opens this year, how will you get back the money that is being released? Vijay Iyer
- Where exactly is all the money going? Specifics Pamela Prosser
- Thank you for answering these questions we have. So some staff could possibly be left on, but it is up to each district how they deal with the PUFF funding and special needs funding? Could you classify which exact funding? Jessica Zylinski
- How can you say its short term and temporary when next year's budget funding has been cut and it was likely that a large number of staff were being reduced next year as it was.



- We disagree that the budget funding was maintained. 70+ EPSB parents Shauna Gibbons
- Why does Minister Lagrange continue to deny the cancellation of grants including transportation, classroom improvement funds, and school fees are anything other than a cut? Jillian Bishop
- I realize it was a difficult decision. However, when the announcement was made that in school participation would be cancelled did you foresee that the budget would still be able to afford bus drivers and janitors?
- Why is it that public workers are the first ones to feel the cuts when useless operations, like the “war room” are still being funded?
- Why does this short term funding have to happen to the disability community? How is that fair? The first cuts always come to the most vulnerable, is this because we make up fewer voices? Anonymous Attendee
- Where can we find documentation to trace how this money that has been cut from education will actually go towards COVID19 response, as a measure of accountability? Wing Witharana
- 128 Million - how exactly Pamela Prosser
- and how are the laser doing their part then? have there been salary cuts?
- Why isnt the money being returned to our vulnerable children? To help them transition back to school after this traumatic experience from the pandemic? Dyanne Chipipa
- Funding has not been cut" is only half of the story....grants which were necessary have been cut. You promised on March 15 that funding would be maintained till the end of the school year. How can we trust you and your government when you continue to make tell us one thing and then go back and do the opposite? Anonymous Attendee
- What assurances, in law, do we have that funding will be restored? Shawn Mueller
- How can we as parents trust that the money is going to COVID resources when the following Monday we gave a large amount to private industry that at this point is likely not functioning as we all go through social distancing? The optics of the timing of announcements and the continually changing and often contradicting pieces of information is becoming concerning to parents and guardians, as well inducing a lot of needless additional stress. Would it be possible put out a summary paper that clarifys where educational funding stands? Nicole Stogrin
- Will there be additional funding put forth next year in consideration of some of our most vulnerable children in trauma and crisis will more than likely be showing even more signs of trauma as schools, teachers and EAs are their safety net and have been removed from their lives for months. Martina King
- What is the actual dollar value of the wages cut by the government May and June? What aspect of the Covid19 fights are these funds allocated to and why? Jennifer Bergstreser
- What supports is the government willing to put in place to help students and teachers recover next school year from the unexpected school closure? There are likely to be many students that are less prepared for their grade than they would normally be. How can we prevent students from being left behind, given schools and teachers are already being asked to do more with less (same funding but increases number of students in school system which means reduction in per student funds). Will



there be any extra funding for TAs, or other support staff to help ensure every student in Alberta is able to overcome and thrive after the school closure? Meghan Odsen

- Some students will fall behind in their schooling during these difficult times. Will there be any considerations taken for extra support funding when school starts back up? Kerry Bodell
- With PUFF funding not being affected, would this include the funding for specialized services (such as psychology, speech pathology and occupational therapy)? Before covid 19 funding for this was cut and i would like to know what this looks like in the new school year. Courtney Nisbet
- Will the funding be given back for running schools in September? Vinna Vuong
- Twice-exceptional students need special education support. When do you plan to re-direct funds back to schools so we can offer students consistent support from teaching assistants? Katarina Galic
- Can you clarify specifically where the money being "diverted to COVID support" is going? For university-based vaccine research? Toward supporting Albertans losing their jobs (in the educational sector or otherwise)? School Bus drivers, custodial staff, and EAs still have families to feed and bills to pay. Blanket statements on "funds diverted to COVID support" do not provide Albertans with your government's rationale on why these decisions were made... Tara Antosh
- My question for Minister LaGrange: I've already been hearing from some parents concerns that the new online delivery and the cost-savings it promotes could prompt a "new normal" once the pandemic is over. Can you guarantee that there won't be further budget reductions to education once students have returned to their schools? Anonymous Attendee
- How will the SLS grants help schools acquire sufficient funding when FSCD caseload is part of the calculation, and not all children with disabilities access FSCD??
- Going back to the available funding, how can local Catholic school Foundations access these? We are in the best position to distribute the funds and possibly get matching funds from donors. Janet Lymer
- I would like to know the exact parameters for school authorities relating to the redirection of funds for CoVid response. The announcement Saturday was unclear and arbitrary. The discretion of school authorities must have parameters. What are they? The minister is referring to needs being met under the new funding framework and the new envelope. My understanding is CoVid response redirection of fund impacts that envelope. How exactly? Devon Marshall
- with the cuts in the 2019-2020 budgets, What does the government expect to do to recover that money next year? With school fees increase? Bussing costs? cindy mairs
- Will the schools be given additional funding once students are allowed back in the class to ensure smaller classroom sizes and more EA support to fill in the educational gaps left by this health crisis. Laura Henning
- Does this mean there will be additional funds added next year to help with the short falls? Or are you expecting the teachers to again, work harder with less. Ashley Bresden
- Minister, we started the 2019 school year with budget constraints that made it difficult in many schools. How do you envision having "all hands on deck" in September of 2020, when the funding won't be there? Cheryl Ashworth





- I appreciate the desire to ensure special needs students have support past their pre-kinder and kinder - can you please explain what this will look like? What I am currently aware of is a drop in pre-kinder classes from over 100 to 9 in the Edmonton catholic system as of next year. Given the research backing up the importance of kindergarten readiness, can you explain exactly how that shift in funding will improve supports for these children in their later learning years and what research suggests this is a better use of funding? Can you explain how pre-kinder classrooms will remain inclusive with so few classes existing? Laura Winton
- Are you in a position to commit that school divisions will receive the same funding for the upcoming year and not encounter any unexpected reduction based on this temporary reduction? Anonymous Attendee
- Why couldn't the ministry have diverted some of the funds gained from layoffs to support the school districts in delivering remote curriculum? Sarah Arkison
- Hon. Minister LaGrange, thank you to you and your department for all the hard work. However, without per student funding how can schools address the increased health, growth, learning and physical spacing needs arising out of the present situation moving into 2020 and beyond? Will the minister consider restoring per student funding to our growing urban areas to address the significant challenges we will face when in-school learning returns? Finally, when it comes to allotments, why is funding increasing from 70% to 100% for private schools and reduced for public schools through the WMA formula? Jeremy Derksen
- This government has made major cuts to the education budget since being elected. Has any other department's budget been cut to support the covid-19? Brent Bromley
- I'm glad you're starting to think about the additional needs once we come back to regular classes. Will you add additional temporary funding to school boards to help them adapt to overcome the gaps in education as a result of the closure. Mark Woods
- How would the return to funding date alter for year-round schools? Would it remain July 1? Megan Andruik
- You do not have record funding in education. Anonymous Attendee
- Can the Minister clarify what she means by "record funding" for Education? Record compared to what? Anonymous Attendee
- You sight 'record funding' in education: Can you provide a calculation of funding per student? Adam McArthur
- You keep commenting about your "record funding levels" but you are still not funding for enrolment growth. Do you genuinely not understand why that's an issue? Amanda Chapman
- Would you consider sitting with a few public school principals to show them where this "record funding" is? Anonymous Attendee
- Why do you say to parents who felt like the previous funding model protected school boards from incurring cuts mid-year? Lesley Lawson



- A question was asked about more money per student for funding. As a rural community I strongly believe that rural students need even more funding to allow them to have even a small amount of what large rural schools can offer their students. Leanne Thompson
- We disagree with your characterizations about the funding model and its reduction of red tape or meeting district needs. When will we have an opportunity to discuss the 2020-21 funding model changes? Shauna Gibbons
- You often describe education funding as "record funding." This is confusing given the budget indicates no increases in funding but there are increases in student populations, meaning the actual per student funding has reduced. You suggested there have been reduces in red tape. How much more money are you expecting for schools and schoolboards to receive for helping students from these reductions in redtape? Meghan Odsen
- What are the exact parameters for school authorities relating to the redirection of funds for COVID response. The announcement Saturday was unclear and arbitrary. The discretion of school authorities must have parameters. What are they?" Krista Scott
- Can you please go into specifics on how this new funding model is sustainable, predictable, and flexible? Can you please show one, anonymous school division with actual numbers of students and the actual funding they will be receiving next year, as a transparent example of how this new funding model allocates more funding to a school division. Anonymous Attendee
- Minister; is there a change to the funding model that is being used to define funding levels? Students will need more support in the fall when ALL the students return... is this being factored into the model . Greg Gentile
- Does the government believe that predictable funding is more important than per student funding? Given urban growth statistics, how can a WMA possibly continue to support increased demands on the system? Jeremy Derksen
- How will the COVID response affect the 'weighted rolling average' approach to education funding? The minister has said that the new framework ensures sustainable and predictable funding. Surely the COVID response affects this. Devon Marshall
- Is the provincial government committed to completely funding transportation for schools? Rural School boards continually are underfunded as we have a lower population density than transportation is currently funded at. Megan Jegou
- What \$\$ have other ministries with non essential staff given up, If Education is giving \$128Million, W Leanne Thompson
- It has been explained by respected economists that suggesting the funding from education is being redirected to COVID is a misrepresentation of how finances of the government work in times of crisis. In fact, money to fight the crisis will be there in some way shape or form regardless of whether education was cut. If this is true, why cut education funds to pay people who are working which adds to parents, children's and albertan family's anxiety and stress? Why use the crisis as an excuse?
- Sustainable, predictable funding is not that same as adequate funding. Once schools are re-opened, will the UCP create a significant, dedicated fund, over and above core funding for public education, that is dedicated to ensuring that every child in the public education system can access the social



work, counselling or system navigation resources they need in order to fulfill their learning potential?  
Sheila Hobday

- The Alberta School system is an extremely successful system and it is that way as a result of the quality of individuals throughout the entire system. All of us in education are very special people who care deeply and give of ourselves, above and beyond any job descriptions. While I can appreciate the unique situation our province/world is in, I cannot understand why our successful Alberta School system for all children is being compromised at such an important time. Having the school community as the hub of support for students and families is an obvious way to connect people at such a dire time. Why would a reduction in funding (EA's, etc) even be considered, as it adds even more pressure/stress on families and students already at risk?" MIKE HUMBKE
- The new funding model provides sustainable funding for rural school schools where the school population is declining. It does not provide sustainable funding for those school districts where the numbers of children increases every year (i.e. Edmonton school district). Could the government consider a flexible model that would go back to the per student funding model for growing urban schools and the WMA model for rural and declining schools? Megan McDougald
- Will Treasury allow school divisions to utilize their reserves as they see fit as school resumes? Bill 5 would have restricted their ability and now that conditions have changed, there may be more latitude needed. Anonymous Attendee
- Hello. In a post pandemic world, will you encourage your Cabinet colleagues to consider the revenue side of the budget in addition to the spending side. Will you and the government consider bringing Alberta more in line with other provinces who have tools to raise revenue needed to continue (and increase to the levels required) funding our world class education system? Anonymous Attendee
- the government has recently announced it will no longer be funding a lot of the out of classroom learning that has previous been an option in the past. is the government now seeing the irony to that now that we are ALL depending on distance learning during this crisis? Has the government since rethought this decision for moving forward after this crisis has diminished? Anonymous Attendee
- School Boards asked for adequate, sustainable, and predictable funding. Your new framework using a weighted moving average is very difficult to understand in the best of times. I would suggest that the covid response and redirection of funding affects all three of these indicators. How will you factor the covid redirection of funds into the weighted moving average? Krista Scott
- High schools don't need playgrounds but still have financial need. How do we get extra funds that are freely given to the elementary schools? I fundraised for ALL the playgrounds in my urban neighbourhood. Marion Enns
  - Will there be refunds that will take place? Maria Villamiel
  - One of my main concerns is with the withdrawal of funds from the Education budget that was previously promised to the school divisions. One of the main concerns is that by removing these funds, the learning of students with special needs are going to see major reductions in their ability to access customized learning with their Educational Assistants. To say that EA's are not working during this time is showing unawareness of how important these educators are.



I am not understanding the rationale of why millions of dollars is being moved from the public education system, sacrificing thousands of jobs, as billions of dollars are put into a pipe line during a pandemic.

What resources are there going to be in place for parents who are struggling to support their children with exceptional needs at home? Heather Taschuk

→The Minister stated that funding is being maintained at unprecedented levels. Then why have all but four public jurisdictions across the province (including those experiencing student growth, those experiencing student reduction as well as those having stable numbers) had very significant reductions in their grants? Rick Massini

Currently, Alberta Education provides about \$400M dollars of support to private, charter and homeschooling. On the other hand, the government says it cannot fully-fund public education. This is all rationalized by, "Alberta has a proud history of providing CHOICE". No one would deny the right to choice, however, there comes a time (now) when those who want more(???) than what the social contract provides should themselves pay for their choices. Further, just how proud are Albertans of this arrangement? Nonetheless, in terms of private and charter schools, who really has the privilege of Choice? Certainly not the vast majority of Albertans who can neither afford the tuition, cannot meet the stringent acceptance requirements or who "do not fit with the culture" of the institution. Why then should Albertans fund these institutions? The \$400M provided to these institutions would go a long way to eliminate the roughly \$470M shortfall for public education. Rick Massini

### **Fundraising**

- Why has school fundraising become a line item in the provincial budget? What will happen if schools are unable to raise those funds? Will they plan to take money from school council accounts that have traditionally been spent at the discretion of the school council? Amber Cahill
- How can this government expect school boards to fundraise to cover cuts to education? School council is already fundraising heavily to make up for underfunding. How much money does the minister think parents have left to contribute when we're already paying out the nose for lunch supervision, bussing, field trips, etc. Offloading costs into communities is causing irreparable harm. Sarah Gaven
- Sent by another attendee. I have the same question. "Most School Parent Council depends on casino funds, is there anything you know that is going to change with that? if so, is there a support in place for that funding replacement?" Nerissa Lomibao
- In the recent budget there was mention of schools using "own funding" to support needs of schools. What specifically does "own funding" mean, how are these funds meant to be raised, particularly with the new economic reality we are all facing, and what can these 'own funds' be used for and what can it not be used for, and how is the government ensuring equitable funds for all schools with this "own funding" directive when different schools have varied capacity to fundraise? Medeana Moussa
- Over recent years our school council, with the assistance of ASCA, has successfully brought our School Council operating procedures and School Society bylaws in line with current School Act legislation. Is the government reaching out to School Societies for financial assistance, and has the



government explained to school boards that funds raised by school councils are subject to Service Alberta spending guidelines and not available for their use (now or in the future). Michelle Lovell

- In light of this unprecedented situation, can we make changes to how schools are allowed to use casino funds?
- what about the schools that should be having the casino fundraisers now? how will those schools get that fundraiser money? i know that alot of schools depend on this funding for their schools. Kandy Ekstrom
  - ➔What about casino funding. I know schools depend on casino for a lot what will happen to the schools that are supposed to have their casino fundraiser's during this time!?! Kandy Ekstrom

### **Health/Well-being/Safety**

- I know that for our small school, a social worker was coming to see some of our kids for a bi-weekly appointment, is there a possibility to have this option continued over a video call to keep our kids that need it? Melanie Meyer, President of the School Council of Ecole le Ruisseau, Brooks
- How does the Minister plan to keep school division staff who may have to go into their workplace from time to time, safe in the absence of custodial and maintenance staff to clean and maintain buildings? Joy Morris
- If your student was scheduled for a Psych Ed assessment that was cancelled due to school closures, will it be considered urgent to get done when school resumes. Pamela Foley
- How many mental health workers are there? Pamela Prosser
- Would you agree we are already facing a mental health crisis? If so, laying off 20,000+ education workers, would you agree, will have its long-term effects on not only education workers but the students and families they support? In times of crisis, we know chances for abuse and neglect increase, increasing the bodies stress response system, which increase the chances for disease and illness.
- For some At-risk youth it is their EA who they have built that, school-based, secure attachment to, not the teacher. What advice would you give to a teacher in supporting At-risk youth, while supporting 30 others within line learning? Michelle Cavanagh
- Four days ago, you (Minister LaGrange) stated "Our number one priority continues to be the safety of all Albertans, including our students and teachers." Can you address how children who were depending on bus drivers dropping off food packages will be safe now that these bus drivers will be laid off? Do you have any alternative plans to ensure children who were relying on the public school system to meet their basic needs can now stay "safe"? Wing Witharana, PhD, Vice Chair, School Council, Ecole Broxton Park School, Spruce Grove, Parkland School Division, No 70
- I would like to hear how the children who rely on breakfast and/or lunch programs are being fed right now. diana brecka, Branton, Calgary
- My kids are in grade 6 and had the first of their two HPV vaccinations earlier this year, the second was scheduled for this spring. Will you be suggesting that parents schedule the second set of vaccines on their own to maintain the vaccinating schedule?



- What supports is the province providing for families who are vulnerable and don't have access to technology, food and security that they may have been getting from the school Christy Ford
- Why are we using school administrators to support nutritional programs while students are at home and subject to social isolation? Is their job not to administrate education? Should nutritional funding not be being administered through agencies such as Child and Family Services? Michelle Lovell
- In the initial stages of COVID planning before classes were suspended, the cleaning supplies and hand sanitizers that were available in schools were ineffective against viruses. (ie. not greater than 60% alcohol). I understand that this was for the protection against poisoning. Will there be plans to look at better protection within schools with appropriate hand sanitizers in the future? Amy Kantor
- Will new concern about social crowding will there be any consideration to capping class sizes in the future to protect students on an ongoing basis from spread of any and all illnesses? Amy Kantor
- What specific things are being done to actively monitor the mental health of students online? Edward Tse
- What does the ministry plan to do to ensure that our children will be protected from a possible second breakout of the coronavirus? cindy mairs
- How can mental health be supported when people have lost their jobs and now relying on a lesser EI income (that is also difficult to access now)? Wing Witharana
- Pediatrician are saying two hours a day for screen time this is defeating their words how will this work. Megan Phillipoff
- It appears that SAS choices for program delivery are being made ad hoc by teachers and school divisions. What are you doing to ensure information privacy and security for our students personal information. Carol Collinge
- How can we have confidence in a government that renegs on funding that was already tight without any discussion or concerns for the well-being of children at home? Vinna Vuong
- Families with special needs children are particularly vulnerable at this time. Often their strong bonds with their EAs are the KEY not only to achieving learning outcomes but also to their safety and wellbeing. Teachers that are tasked with moving instruction to online platforms literally overnight will not have the time to maintain daily contact. Losing contact with their EAs at this critical time places special needs children and their families at significant risk of mental health distress and even family violence. How can you effectively address this? Heather Sample
- When will you provide adequate mental health supports other than the kids help phone line?
- Minister, you tell us to love ourselves and care for our children. But if our government doesn't give the system the resources to do so, then do you believe that advocacy for maintaining a robust education system IS the way that parents are caring for their children? Wing Witharana
- How do we handle personal and private information online? How do FOIP regulations apply to online data? If a student shares a video of their home how is that information protected? What regulations does student data fall under? Edward Tse
- Unfortunately before the pandemic there weren't mental health supports readily available, with months long wait lists, those supports are being bombarded and few are actually able to access



them. Is there a plan to improve/increase mental health supports? It's not a reasonable answer given inability to access it at the best of times. Shandra Carlson

### **Homeschooling**

- Why aren't homeschooled students given a diploma? Why aren't we addressed? Carolyn Yewchuk

→ I would like to ask given that now all Alberta students have made the shift to homeschooling through online classes, how it is fair that senior high school students attending online courses, will be credited student awarded marks, all while not having to write the diploma exams, when Alberta students, who are already in homeschooling programs that follow the Alberta curriculum to a tee, are not granted the same opportunities for graduating with an Alberta Education diploma. Why is it that homeschooled students, who do just as much work and more as students in public school, are seen as unworthy enough for a diploma, a student awarded mark, or credits for their work? Why are homeschooled Albertans stigmatized this way? Even after the tireless hours, months, and years of studying, writing diploma exams, and being reviewed by high school teachers, and principals; homeschooled students are still not given a diploma, which negatively impacts their abilities to get into post secondary education. My daughter is a parent-directed homeschooled student, she is extremely intelligent, and had written intelligence examinations yet in elementary, and had an impeccably high score for her age, and she has impeccable Grades. She truly works very hard, and she takes her student career very seriously; in fact, my daughter is in the process of launching her jewelry and fine art business as well; she is also the youngest employee for NASA, and works alongside physicists, doctors, and engineers in her solicitation research! She is an award winning writer, and filmmaker, and has competed in several NASA competitions including The Project Mars competition (where she was the youngest competitor among other credited and respected film and production companies), and she place 2nd worldwide last year in her age category for her poetry. My daughter's teachers via homeschooling have used her classwork as a resource for other Grades multiple times, and she has also been asked to come and teach the classes, because she has such an amazing understanding of the key concepts of education. And she, alongside other homeschoolers like herself are working to try and change the system, and pave a better future with less stereotypes, and more equality for students Province wide. I believe that it is time for homeschooling, and it's students to be given the recognition it deserves. Many of us chose this route in education because the public education system could not provide the kind of challenges that our students needed, and now we are being stigmatized by the decree that homeschooled students cannot get a diploma. This is unfair, and unethical. There are some other provinces of Canada that will award homeschooled students a diploma, but not Alberta. So my question to you Minister is what does the Alberta Government plan to do to ratify this? Will my daughter be able to look forward to a diploma when she graduates high school next year? Carolyn Yewchuk

### **High School Students**

- How will the grade 12 students be evaluated and how will this affect their entry to a post-education institution? Karen Lambert



- Please define “On track to graduate.” Awarding a student a P will not grant a student admittance to a post-secondary program. How is allowing all students a pass, or P, an effective way to reflect their ability and allow them to continue on after this year, with their post- secondary plan? Sandy
- How high school students getting a “Pass/Fail” grade would impact admissions. Per the AB Education website, it says students will get a final grade, which I took to mean a % grade....but maybe that’s not the case? I’d love to know, specifically for high school (Gr 12) students, if the expectation right now is for them to get a % grade or not. Joy Cavin
- Thank you for taking my question Minister LaGrange. I would like to ask how it is fair that Alberta high school students in public schools who are graduating Grade 12 through online classes, will be awarded a diploma complete with credits, without even having to write the diploma exams, when parent-directed homeschooled students, who follow the Alberta Education curriculum to a tee are not granted the same opportunities for graduating with an Alberta Education diploma. What does the Alberta Government plan to do to ratify this? Do I get to look forward to receiving my diploma when I graduate high school next year, so I may be accepted into University? Carolyn Yewchuk
- As a parent of a Grade 12, we were told the grades they had prior to closure is the grades they will receive. My daughter would like to know why she should continue online work? Angie Gauthier
- How are children in higher grades going to receive career and educational planning as they prepare for transitions to work and further education and training? Nicole Stogrin
- For Grade 12 students, since they will not be required to write the final Grade 12 diploma, how will this impact their final mark and will this impact their acceptance into post secondary? Stephen Goodall
- What about high school students with special needs? Morgann Tomlinson
- How do students graduating this year able to enter into the appropriate program at the university if they received a pass/fail grade for courses. Anonymous Attendee
- You mention the “gap in learning” that will occur in this new way of learning. You will have extra resources available to assist with his when school’s resume. How can we find assistance for all Grade 12 students that will not be in our school system to receive this? Catherine Wilson
- Assessment and Measuring student progress at the high school level need to be clarified. The school boards has not been clear on this for their students. I believe students' mental health is most important. How can students get more clarification? Anonymous Attendee
- What extra supports are being put towards those students that are trying to obtain the 100 credits to graduate? With the schools closed some of those credits may not be accessible Anonymous Attendee
- What about high school students who will now be without assistants?! Morgann Tomlinson
- For the grade eleven students taking diploma courses this year, will there be consideration from post secondary next year when these students go to apply?? I understand they will for this fall, but what about next fall too?
- Will homeschooled students be awarded a diploma upon graduating Grade 12 just like public school students? Carolyn Yewchuk





- Why are homeschooled students stigmatized and not given an Alberta Learning Diploma after Graduating Grade 12? Carolyn Yewchuk
- Why is it justified that parent-directed homeschool students are not given a diploma, or student awarded marks, even after writing diploma exams? This makes it extremely hard for students to get into post-secondary education. What does the government plan to do to ratify this? Carolyn Yewchuk
- Can you touch a bit on what post secondary institute outcome based funding will mean for those grade 12 students currently trying to move forward into their career education? How will we ensure that our high school students are in the position to move forward? Anonymous Attendee
  - ➔ My son goes to Grade 12 and he is currently enrolled in the full IB program. My question is moving forward how will they be assessed in the future if they do not have their diploma exam. Is there a chance of having some sort of diploma exam for the students. I strongly believe that a pass/fail grade is not appropriate for the students who have put so much time and effort in getting there and they should not be compensated for the current situation. Also, their IB exams are cancelled. Will there be any consideration of having the exams if not in June then postponing it to July or August or September? Instead of just cancelling them. Sunita Ghosh
  - ➔ I have a daughter who is in Gr 12 and originally information went out from Alberta Education that the grades the students had on March 14 were the final grades if they did not go back to school before the end of June. I would like to know if this is still the plan and will the online work they are doing reflect a change at all in their marks? Angie Gauthier

### ***Inclusive Education***

- Would the department consider making changes to funding that would allow support in school for young children diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes? We have a situation with two children from the same family in our school that is really untenable for the parents. With no one at the school trained to look after them, their mother is on call always. We do not feel this constitutes inclusive education and would like to see the government consider assisting families like this more in regards to school. Thank you for your time. Ceri Penner, Chairperson, West Meadow Elementary School Council

### ***New School Builds***

- I am the president of the French school in Brooks. We are currently waiting for our new school that was promised for September 2021. My question is, I understand that we might see a postponement of the first day of opening the new school, but is there a possibility that the construction be cancelled due to the budget being allotted to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Melanie Meyer, President of the School Council of Ecole le Ruisseau, Brooks
- Will the ministry recognize and encourage school districts to utilize inner-city or established neighborhood schools instead of spending millions on building new schools, especially now that the budget cuts are deep with the COVID-19 outbreak? Maria Correa
- Will the schools that were approved for replacement be pushed behind now? Tania Shupenia



- Will the ministry recognize and encourage school districts to utilize inner-city or established neighborhood schools instead of spending millions on building new schools, especially now that the budget cuts are deep with the COVID-19 outbreak? cindy mairs
- Thank you for your time today. My city was designated to have a new high school built. I am curious if the cuts will affect this. Tarah Flynn
- Are new schools that were approved prior to class cancellations still going ahead? Penn Loughheed
- Will new school construction be affected at all?
  - ➔ We are wondering about new schools. We are approved for a new school and want to know if it is still going to happen. Can the minister let us know if Condor and Leslieville will still get new schools? Penni Loughheed

### ***Pipeline***

- How exactly can your government justify cutting education on Saturday and announce investment in oil & gas 2 days later? Isn't an investment in our children's education something that has a guaranteed return on investment? Jillian Bishop
- How do you justify billions of dollars of support for private companies in the oil industry and yet advocate for cuts to education? Do you realize that such actions are evidence of child abuse on a institutional scale? Shawn Mueller
- Why adjust education funding but then buy a pipeline? Shauna Gibbons
- How can you say that this money is going to the COVID response when the premier just committed over \$1b to a pipeline? Lesley Lawson
- This decision on cutting supports to schools while simultaneously funding a pipeline is disturbing. How does your government justify putting big oil (a dying industry) over our children? Kristine Edgington
- Can you explain the ethics behind the decision to lay off public workers followed by investment in the private sector with the Keystone XL pipeline? Anonymous Attendee
- When did you know that cabinet would invest millions in pipeline for 7000 while 25000 education jobs were lost Shauna Gibbons
- Given the massive out going expenses for industry how do you feel justified in further limiting support to the students of this province? How do you justify pipeline spending over students? Aaron Myradon
- How do you justify taking funding away from education and putting 1.5 billion into the pipeline that is still not going anywhere? Kim Liber
- Why is gov giving money to oil and gas while cutting education funding? Teachers NEED their EAs right now. . . more than ever. Gordon Gale
- Minister, you have told us that you saved \$128 million by this measure, and you are indicating that these funds are needed for the COVID-19 situation. But your government just announced \$1.1 billion



US for a company to build a pipeline. How do you justify this apparent prioritisation of the interests of the oil industry over the interests of our children? Joy Morris

- The government cut funding to education resulting in the lay off of about 26,000 valuable workers that are still working and helping our most vulnerable students, yet they announced \$1.5 billion to the keystone pipeline. How do we have money for such an investment when we are pulling already budgeted for money from our students. Why does this government continue to take money from children and the vulnerable. Laura Henning
- Can you please explain why Premiere Kennedy said “all funding levels will remain to schools”, 13 days later the announcement came that the EA’s and Support Staff were to be laid off, and then the very next day, another announcement that your government has invested \$1-billion into the Keystone Pipeline. Minister LaGrange just said yourself in this webinar that EA funding has been redirected to COVID-19 relief efforts. The optics on this are atrocious - it just doesn’t add up. Can you speak to this please? Lori De Witt
- Why was money taken from the education system to use for covid-19 and not taken from provincial investment in the Keystone pipeline? Anonymous Attendee
- If the government has access to \$7Billion dollars to invest in Keystone XL pipeline, why does the Education budget need to cut \$128million for this health crisis? It seems the Alberta government decided to just download costs to the Federal government. Do you agree with the ethics of this decision to prioritize private industry over education and to take advantage of Federal Emergency Funds that are intended for the private sector employers not for government use? Medeana Moussa
- Please address the fact that the UCP has suddenly found 1.7B to invest in Keystone pipeline Leslie Street

### ***Playgrounds***

- I love that your view is that playground is as important as a gym. Yay! I totally agree!!! Penn Lougheed
- What about old playgrounds? Kareena Zanolli
- What about maintenance of playgrounds? Who will be responsible for that? Anonymous Attendee
- Regarding playgrounds as the Minister mentioned, older schools still have to fundraise significant funds for a playground. Our school is currently looking to fundraise approximately \$800,000 for our playgrounds that are mandated to be rebuilt by the city. How can these schools be supported? Melissa Giroux
- Can you please clarify your statements regarding playground funding and it being as important as a gym? Shauna Gibbons
- School Councils should not be fundraising for anything education related. The minister’s comments on playgrounds are misplaced here. Playground funding is necessary and all that has been done is that a necessary course correction was made. Does the minister believe that school councils are in the business of fundraising? Krista Scott



### ***Public/Private/Charter Schools***

- Support for public education

**Preamble:** Growing number of parents are wondering whether the United Conservative Party values public education. We're wondering how the Province can make such huge cuts to public education as enrollment increases, and why public funding for private schools hasn't been eliminated as an austerity measure.

- **Question:** Minister LaGrange, what is your philosophy on education delivery and tell us what you think about the value of public education. Are you in support of privatizing education? Do you include private schools and charter schools in your definition of public education? Prepared by the 17 CBE schools\*\*
- Speaking on my own behalf and not on behalf of my school council, I would remind the Education Minister that Alberta's 70% per-student subsidy to private schools is the highest in Canada, and that many other provinces, including Ontario, do not fund private education at all. Given the financial constraints we are facing, will she consider reducing or eliminating public funding to private schools so that this funding can be reallocated to mitigate some of the cuts to public education? Heather Ganshorn, Richmond School Council, Calgary, AB
- Why has the government increased public funding for private schools to 100%? Private school costs should not be supplemented by public funds. Cheryl, Strathcona School Council
- Question: Minister LaGrange, what is your philosophy on education delivery and tell us what you think about the value of public education. Are you in support of privatizing education? Do you include private schools and charter schools in your definition of public education?
- I would also like to understand whether these cuts were applied evenly across public, charter and private schools, or whether they are being applied to public boards only? Heather Ganshorn
- AB Ed was in the process of asking about choice in education and potentially changing funding models to provide more funding to private and charter schooling. Will the minister support public education and align our public education funding to those of our Canadian counterparts and reduce the funding of private, exclusive schools so that the limited dollars you claim we have can be focused to support the greatest number of students? Vanessa Padoani
- Minister LaGrange, Can you please maintain the integrity of publicly funded education in Alberta? In this time of extreme financial insecurity, public education is the best investment for our future. I urgently request that you stop funding private and tuition-based schools and direct all public funding to public education.
- Were the funding cuts applied to private schools as well? Wing Witharana
- Would you consider finding money that is necessary for COVID19 by removing government funding for private schools? Seems this would be a logical solution. Wing Witharana
- Can the Minister explain why funding to private schools was increased? Shouldn't public funds go to public education? Are there any results of the online consultations available to the public? Natasha Martin



- When will the private school funding get cut if the province is in such a financial trouble as the minister stated?
- There seems to be a lot that has and continues to be downloaded to School Divisions without much support from the Ministry. Students will definitely be "behind" when students return and will need supports in many areas. Can you say that the "gaps" that are being created won't be evidence to the Ministry and government that Public Education is substandard and that more support is needed for private and charter schools? Anonymous Attendee
- Can you explain the justification for 100% public funding (up from 70%) for private schools? Why do we even have this option with public dollars. Cheryl Chetkiewicz
- Why are we supplying funding to private schools. Why is not 100% of the funding going to public schools? Carol-Ann Powell
- If you fully support public education then why has funding for private education increased? Continued cuts to education and health care, no matter how you try and spin it, will result in a less educated and unhealthier community for those who aren't born into privilege. Anonymous Attendee
- If you believe so strongly in Public Education why are public funds being invested in Private schools? Medeana Moussa
- Why do you think charter schools, which charge high fees to parents should also receive public funding? Anonymous Attendee
  - ➔The Minister stated that she supports "public education" and that she has no intention of supporting privatization. Yet, all indications would suggest the opposite. Perhaps the Minister does not support privatization, but what where does the Premier and Cabinet stand on this issue? Rick Massini
  - ➔Why is public funding going to private schools? In regular times, I don't believe public funding should be provided to private schools; however, in times like these, I am wondering even more so why public funds and my tax dollars are going to fund private schools especially when public schools are struggling. Carol-Ann Titus

### ***PUF Funding***

- You said in a news conference that PUF would remain an important part of the funding model. My son accessed PUF funding when he was 4 years old. When he started his program, he couldn't say his own name. When he left, he could have full conversations with strangers. If he were to enter that same program next year, he would only qualify for half of the funding that he actually received. How does this represent the "importance" you place on PUF funding? Why did you then cancel PUF funding for Kindergarten? Why did you verbally attack a group of mothers (like myself) who were speaking up about the importance of maintaining PUF funding? Have you apologized to those women when it turned out their fears were realized? Amber Cahill
- Accessibility and availability of Program Unit Funding (PUF).

### **Preamble:**

- Program Unit funding (PUF) provides developmental therapies and support in a school setting for up to two years of preschool (and, up until recently, also for Kindergarten). Our incoming kindergartners



and Grade 1s this year can be expected to need extra assistance in adjusting to school. This will be especially true for those whose PUF was lost recently. For these children who have lost 5-6 months of therapy support, this is a huge setback. A strong argument can be made for re-instating PUF for Kindergarten and to extend PUF support for first graders who missed out on their kindergarten supports.

- **Question:** Minister LaGrange, because children who have lost 5 to 6 months of PUF therapy support will experience a huge setback, once school resumes, is Alberta Education able to extend Program Unit Funding (PUF) so that is accessible for three years, rather than two, and so the entry age is extended from less than 6 years of age on September 1 to less than 7 years on September 1 for eligibility? Prepared by the 17 CBE schools\*\*

**Preamble:**

- Program Unit funding (PUF) provides essential developmental therapies and support in a school setting for children with significant challenges affecting learning or managing school. When concerns are identified early, studies show that rapid and consistent educational intervention can have a significant positive impact on children's functional outcomes. The cutbacks to preschools, and therapists who serve preschoolers and kindergartners with developmental delays will cause irreparable harm to delayed and disabled children and increase the economic burden on our society.
  - **Question:** Honourable Minister LaGrange, to ensure that nobody is left behind (as your finance minister promised) – especially not our children and families who need extra support, will Alberta Education commit to deleting proposed cuts and restrictions to Program Unit Funding (PUF)? And, because of disrupted service during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, will you extend funding to all students current receiving PUF for their following academic year? Anonymous Attendee
- Minister LaGrange why are you attacking children with disabilities and their parents by defunding PUF for kindergarten?
- When will you apologize to the parents you have called liars and "shameful" for suggesting that you would cut PUF, when that's exactly what you have done?
- If you are providing PUF funding still then why would Educational Assistants be laid off. The PUF funding is in place to provide Educational Assistants. Nicole Sobus-Jensen
- what system is in place to ensure that school boards are in fact paying benefits to laid off staff and keeping educational assistants employed through PUF - I know for a fact that there are divisions that have laid off all educational assistants that were employed by PUF and have informed them that no benefits will be paid after April? Anonymous Attendee
- What about students without PUF funding but that required speech therapy? Will they get online SLP time?
- PUF funding continues - that is great. However, PUF funds in our division are used to hire Educational Assistants and paraprofessional staff (OT, PT, SLP and Behaviour Teams) to work with these students. Those EAs deliver that programming for students. The funding will not be able to be used as intended. Was this not considered? Savi Houldin
- Is the minister aware that PUF funding is only available for children 5 and under? Katherine Campbell



- You stated earlier that Program Unit Funding has not changed. Does this mean that children will be eligible for a 3rd year of funding now? How can all these people facing layoffs be employed again when schools reopen when funding has been cut? Cindy Camp
- I am finding what you are telling us here is vastly different from previous announcements. Before covid19 there was huge funding taken away from PUF. In the last week Premier Kenney and yourself stated cuts to re direct money to covid19. But now you're stating there are no changes to PUF funding. Can you please clarify? What exactly is being taken away from education funding and what exactly is staying? Deana Bell
- Will the cut off date for PUF in the fall be moved to allow parents time to get all the prerequisite exams done? Most exams can not be completed at this time do to coronavirus, and parents are worried that they will not be able to get everything done before the Sept. 31 cut off. Since the PUF funding model has been changed, if children miss their first year they will only be able to get PUF for one year which is not long enough for these kids. Megan Jegou
- Just wondering, because you just referenced not making any cuts to PUF funding, but you have cuts FOPS programming. Is that money just being redirected into other PUF supports. I'd love to see a breakdown of PUF funding compared year over year. Where can I find that? Amanda Chapman
- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the disruption to educational services for young children will be particularly hard for families of high needs children. Those currently relying on PUF for their therapies, can be expected to be in even greater need of assistance when returning to school. Remember that a 6 month break from service represents a large percentage of a preschooler's or kindergartner's life. The lost opportunities can never be remediated. The time cannot be made up. Please also remember that parents cannot replace skilled therapists who are unavailable during the pandemic. Question: To ensure that nobody is left behind (as your finance minister promised) – especially not our children and families who need extra support, will Alberta Education commit to deleting proposed cuts and restrictions to Program Unit Funding (PUF)? And, because of disrupted service during the ongoing pandemic, will you extend funding to all students current receiving PUF for their following academic year? Alice Holub
- Can you clarify, was money moved out of PUF to add more into other grade levels, or did PUF stay the same and money from other sources was repurposed over the other grade levels? Lindsay Spadavecchia

### Resources

- How is your ministry supporting students with special needs or low-income families who do not have access to technology or online supports, especially now that many of these students will not have support from their educational assistants? Jenice Fukushima
- Lack of information technology resources

**Preamble:** Many families and schools are making efforts to provide homeschooling using internet-based resources. The challenge is that many families do not have the technological hardware in their homes. Even comfortably middle class families that have multiple devices are finding that mom and dad are using the best computers for working from home, leaving kids to share Ipods and small tablets that



would be hard to make use of for significant learning. For this reason, online learning may be incredibly challenging to roll out in an equitable fashion.

- **Question:** Minister LaGrange, given the disparity in the information technology available to students stuck at home, what non-computer-based learning resources do you suggest for students? Prepared by the 17 CBE schools\*\*
- Regarding the new way of delivering education to our students is there going to be a platform launched that will enable students to see, interact, and speak directly to their teachers, and possibly fellow classmates. I can only speak from conversations with a few other families that I am in contact with (through texting : ) that students are feeling disconnected. I wonder if providing this platform will not only provide an educational component to students, but also a familiarity for our young people (K-12) with a system that they were quickly removed from and have no further connection with. Rhonda Webster
- How will students without technology (no wifi, no devices) access their schoolwork? Our schools are offering lending of devices, but what if there are not enough and parents can't afford to purchase them? Mary Bergeron School Council
- Why are only electronic and app based learning platforms being pushed? Why are schools not actively providing supplementary learning material to parents and students that supports non-electronic learning and academic time? It has been widely documented that screen time is detrimental to children's development and wellbeing, why are children's wellbeing being completely disregarded? Educators are consistently directing parents to online resources. Parents are left to navigate the resources blindly and in many cases subject to user fees or subscription fees. Educators are now expecting parents to do their jobs for them, why is being permitted to happen? Educators have pre-planned lesson that draw on previously compiled pools of resources, activities, worksheets, etc., why are these resources not being shared with parents to advocate student learning? Jessica
- With the current situation highlighting the greater need for resources for distance learning; what commitment, if any, will the government make to help bolster and expand those resources going forward? Kerry Bodell
- Who should we phone with questions specific to our school if all support staff is laid off? Anonymous Attendee
- How do you plan on supporting students during this time who do not have internet access? Lesley Lawson
- Many families and schools are making efforts to provide homeschooling using internet-based resources. The challenge is that many families do not have the technological hardware in their homes. Even comfortably middle class families that have multiple devices are finding that mom and dad are using the best computers for working from home, leaving kids to share Ipods and small tablets that would be hard to make use of for significant learning. For this reason, online learning may be incredibly challenging to roll out in an equitable fashion. Question: Minister LaGrange, given the disparity in the information technology available to students stuck at home, what non-computer-based learning resources do you suggest for students?





- Minister LaGrange thank you for your efforts in these unprecedented times. My concern is around the Digital Divide. What are we doing to ensure that Remote learning is happening for all students. Edward Tse
- What is the obligation of each school to provide learning materials and information to parents? Some schools still have no communication to parents besides stuff is coming. Edward Tse
- Many of us live in rural areas where internet is sometimes not adequate. Could we see a future investment in helping our families with these issues. melanie meyer
- It is wonderful that the important nutrition programs will continue but how will food parcels, along with learning resources physically get to children in need, particularly those in rural areas now that the bus drivers who were delivering them have been cut? Ashley Falkenberg
- Will additional funds be directed to schools for technology purchases, support and resources for online learning?
- How is the ministry promoting Active Learning through online creation? To build 21st Century skills needed for Future Jobs. Many are passively consuming videos and e-textbooks. Edward Tse & Martina King
- Is there any plan to mandate and purchase mobile hotspots and loan student chromebooks to students that don't have access at home? Edward Tse
- Is it possible for teachers to use online apps such as Zoom where teachers & students are able to have close interactions just like in a real class? They can discuss around.... They'll be able to see each other & teachers can see who's in it or who left. They can also take attendance just like that instead of posting school works on School Zone because it's awfully challenging to keep the kids being self initiative on their own especially teenagers. They can respond better if they can see each other & deadlines of works scheduled. Ling
- What can parents do to help each other around this time? Can we have webinars/tutorials on how to best use the technology? Edward Tse
- I am concerned with HOW school boards will be able to provide and facilitate kids getting the remainder of their education without proper funding. Additionally - schools may need to print off more homework packages, and have higher material costs during this time, and not all students have a access to a computer, printer, scanner etc.. afford additional costs that will likely be incurred with at home learning??- Will the responsibility to fund these support materials be left up to school councils? Anonymous Attendee
- changing topic, it appears that virtual teaching has been limited at high school level. Small amounts of VoD, and few worksheets are the only things delivered by educators. It appears the school system is not prepared to deliver online learning of 21st century learning. Is there a plan to evolve this to deliver adequate learning for our children? Anonymous Attendee
- How are students being supported when at a disadvantage with technology? 3 or 4 students in one home all expected to now learn online with only 1 device? Especially if a parent is also remotely working from home and needs said device to work. Rebecca Stendie



- Will parents have access to reclaim cost such as paper and printer ink? or even buying needed equipment such as laptops or iPads or headsets? Can they claim some of the expenses? Marc Theriault
- For those that don't have online access, will there be clear directions, timelines and communication going out as to how their kids can stay caught up? Kerry Rasmussen
- Can the government regulate the ISP providers to make the internet more affordable for low income families? Can the province provide a rebate or other subsidy? Martina King
- Is there a plan in place for rural students who have little access to reliable internet services?? Our students are able to sign out chrome books to "connect" but this is challenge especially when families have more than 1 child and/or parent who is trying to access the internet. Anonymous Attendee
- Can the province talk to internet providers to make sure all families have wifi free for a few months? There are students with no wifi access at all and cannot access their work! Gordon Gale
- Online education is both technology and labour intensive. Will the Alberta government live up to its responsibilities and provide substantial aid monetarily and materially to Alberta families who are taking a major hit to provide materials and assistance that have been cut from the budget already? This is inconsistent . Shawn Mueller
- A lot of our students are already starting online learning leaving parents scrambling to find the equipment to give their children access to this learning. Are there any suggestions to support low income families to obtain this technology equipment now? Susan Schrieber
- Is there any way the LearnAlberta.ca website will be updated or easier to navigate for parents to use? Nerissa Lomibao
- Is the Ministry in communication with internet service providers regarding offering free Wi-Fi so all students can access their online learning materials? Fred Kong
- If someone has a school lap top that they no longer need how could they return so someone else could use Sharon Unger
- Could there be a drop off zone for laptops and equipment to be donated to families in need they could be disinfected on receiving Sharon Unger
- Is the province going to be providing teachers with home internet so they can practice social distancing and best practice by staying at home and still have the ability to reach their students. What about providing monetary help for cell phone/home phone bills? Laura Henning

### **School Fees**

- Are you recommending that school fees for the remainder of the year be returned to parents?
- Are parents going to be reimbursed for unused bussing? Rebecca Stendie
- We have received many questions from our parent body in regards to school fees that may no longer be applicable, such as lunch room supervision, cancelled field trips, etc. How will those fees be managed?? Lori King



- What is happening with the school fees that have been paid this year. Can parents expect to see some money back? Anonymous Attendee

### ***School Resuming / 2020-2021 School Year***

- Have school divisions been given a definite date for when school is closed until? Devon Marshall
- Along with plans for supporting students, are plans being developed for back to school? Eg. how much lag time between announcements of allowing social mingling to when classes would go back. Plans for re-entry procedures, etc.? Those issues may not be top of mind at this point, but should be addressed long before we get to that point so that schools and parents and students can get prepared. Emily Meetsma
- IF schools have the opportunity to return this year, is there any consideration to extend teaching/learning throughout the summer OR Is there consideration to return earlier than September? Krysta Inch
- Any way the school will open on September is that confirm? or not on September too- Agalyaa Sundaresan
- Lets say if classes resume in June, can we extend the year until July so that the children can get the learning that they missed?
- The information provided has been: Is school cancelled for the rest of the year? At this time, students are no longer attending in-school classes until further notice. However, schools are refunding fees and returning children's items – are schools closed until September? Chantelle Moore
- What timeline are you currently planning to for a return to in school education?
- When will we be back at school Anonymous Attendee
- Do these decisions mean that there is no chance of the children returning to school this semester? Anonymous Attendee
- If the 128 M cut for the remainder of the school year i.e. until June 2020...mean that we don't expect classes to resume until at least Fall 2020? Annette BruisedHead
- Our Question is will we be keeping the schools closed until at least September 2020? This information will help with some stress people are feeling not knowing when the kids could return to school and go back to work when they do? Marc Theriault
- If the province sees a substantial flatten/decrease in the Covid-19 curve, will school resume at their institutions before end of June 2020? What is the likelihood at this time of school resuming before the end of June? Megan Foster
- Est-ce confirmé que l'école en établissement est canceller jusqu'en septembre?
  - *English translation:* Is it confirmed that the school is to be canceled until September?
- What will the protocols be for students transitioning to new schools. Will new schools be contacting parents, etc. For example, Grade 6 students moving to Grade 7. Grade 9 students moving to high school. Noelle Williams



- What kind of format do you foresee for the 2020-2021 school year should school closures continue into the fall? How does this impact teachers and staffing procedures as well as funding for schools? Jenice Fukushima
- If schools are going to reopen in the fall for regular classes, students are going to be behind. How does the minister anticipate adapting curriculum and assessing students on a large scale?? Will there be a ministers review or consultation?? Lisa Mace
- What is the projection as to when students can actually return to school? Are we optimistic for a September start? Mary Bergeron School Council
- Given predictions that Covid 19, may recede in the summer and return again in the winter, looking towards the next school year, is the Education Minister willing to amend the school calendar? Increase instruction hours? Reduce the number of early dismissal days, PD Days, and other non instructional days? Give the students opportunity to be ahead, in case another closure is needed? Tara Kitchen
- What are the contingency plans in case the virus lockdown continues longer than hoped? What might be done to ensure the next school year is not impacted in this way, or that students get more instructional hours? Ceri Penner, Chairperson, West Meadow Elementary School Council
- Can we start school in July if the situation is back to normal? Covid19 may come back in November. Thanks James Sun
- I am wondering how classroom curriculum will be modified next year for the students to "catch up" from the disruption this year? Is anything being worked on right now? Krystle Linic
- Dealing with this crisis is not the only thing on the plates of school boards and school admin, we do have to start planning for next year. Can we count on the funding model to be what you projected so we can start to make the plans needed for a successful 2020/2021 school year? Sonja Dykslag
- There will be gaps for some students who are going to fall behind. Will there be an increase to the budget for 2020/2021 school year to help get more supports in place for those students and close those gaps? Cherie MacEachern
- Are there plans to extend the 2019/2020 school year into July and August of 2020? Jessica
- Is the government willing to amend the school calendar going forward starting in the fall to limit PD Days, non-instructional days and early dismissal in order to get ahead of fall learning in case we have a "winter" outbreak of COVID 19? Tara Kitchen
- Is there a possibility of summer school to catch up on these missed months now? Kerry Rasmussen
- If there is a plan in place to integrate the last half of the 19/20 school year into the new 20/21 school year, what does that look like?
  - ➔ If by chance if school resumes before the end of the school term is there a possibility of having school over summer? OR If it doesn't get cleared until summer break, is there any consideration to return early and start with review? Krysta Inch
  - ➔ Will Grade 9 students be allowed to host a Grad of some sort in Sept if the Middle School is willing to put one on? Carol-Ann Titus



### ***Special Needs Students***

- We have serious concerns about how students with special needs will be supported . . . and with the disconnect from the physical classroom, this support is needed now more than ever. How are children with diverse needs going to be supported? All our classroom teacher was able to tell us this week is that IPP's aren't finished. Please advise! Melody, Concerned parent of a child with unique needs, Auburn Bay School Council and Fundraising Society, Communications Team
- What support is in place for the kids that were in the middle of getting tested for ADD or ADHD? Before schools were closed? Kandy Ekstrom
- How are we to support the kids with special needs and learning disability during this time. Megan Phillipoff
- What services are being offered to parents for children with higher needs, how are we supporting these families? Averil Geoghegan
- How will teachers now be supported to reach students with special needs? We were planning with EAs to reach all students. Jillian Bishop
- How do we support those students who have IPPs who require 1-1 support with scribing from their teacher and differentiation of instruction, work expectations and samples? Jocelyn Zoller
- Our School Council would like to know specifics on what extra funding there is for special needs children. We are being told by our administration that there is none. Anonymous Attendee
- How does Alberta Education plan to support special needs kids during this time, if their education assistants are no longer working with them? Heather Ganshorn
- I would like to ask the Minister how we can ensure that our children who received EA support will be supported for the remainder of the school year. Our kids who receive EA support have complex learning needs. I understand that PUF support will continue for the remainder of the year however, I wonder about our kids from grade 1 and beyond, who rely on EA support, to be successful. How can they be successful in a virtual classroom without the support of their EAs? Amelia Robertson
- We use our EA DAILY, we need one on one education for my Special Needs son. How do you expect parents will know how to be teaching and assisting? Anonymous Attendee
- The children I work with do not like change, I work with 36 children that have needs. They are all starting online learning from April 6th, what extra supports are we offering with at home learning for parents? Averil Geoghegan
- The EA's can easily work with individual students via different applications on the computers. Being there are already so many limits on our disabled students, how are they expected to learn? Anonymous Attendee
- Are there mechanisms in place for parents to submit requests for special needs supports for children, that are unable to manage with the cuts as they have been planned initially? Anonymous Attendee
- Minister, despite that these cuts are short term, are they worth the loss of education of children with special needs and the impact on their families? The teachers don't always deliver the lessons, some students need 1 on 1 which now falls to their parents who will lose time to deliver those materials



and several other kids will fall further behind which could potentially have long term effects  
Anonymous Attendee

- So it's teachers responsibility to do one on one calls to special needs children? Arshila Makhani
- PUF funding is only for pre-k and kindergarten students! What about the inclusive special needs students in Grades 1-12?/ Anonymous Attendee
- PUF funding is only for Kindergarten level, what about our students with complex needs Grade 1 and up? Stephen Goodall
- PUF funding is only available to students until they are 5 yrs of age? How are we helping those students who are coded from grade 1 thru 12? PUF funding doesn't help them. Veronica Sirtonski
- The PUF funding only support younger children and it does not cover EAs for Grade 2 and above, which are the majority of the school age children. Anonymous Attendee
- PUF EAs are to continue, that funding is limited by age which therefore those kiddos past that age usually kiddos going to Grade 1 and up. Non PUF kiddos doesnt mean less support are required to help these kids succeed. How can we ensure the most needing kids will get what they need? Cheri Desabrais
- PUF funding only supports up to age 6... what about kids in grade 1-12 with highly special needs Devon Marshall
- The older children with special needs also need the same support in terms of their learning, especially during this difficult time. Anonymous Attendee
- You have stressed that PUF EA's will continue, and while I agree that these early intervention programs are incredibly valuable, can you please explain why a child in Pre-K is promised their support, but a child in a cohort high school class with hundreds of students is being left with no additional support above a few teachers.

### ***Support for Parents***

- How are working parents being supported when students are being expected to be supervised with home studies now? Parents are now expected to parent, work and teach. This is too much to put on parents and students in crisis! Rebecca Stendie
- Students with the most complex needs are not being supported, I am currently connected with over 600 Autism families in the Central Alberta region through online support social media groups. These families are IN CRISIS, they have not received the children's services (FSCD & PDD) supports since April 2019 when the UCP government was elected, they have been denied the support they require to parent these children and now they are being tasked with teaching them as well, WITHOUT the support of educational assistants. This is TOO much for teachers to have placed on their plate. What would you say to these parents as they continue to struggle with less support and no end in sight, and very little trust in this government? Jessica Schurman
- The teachers are not in front them they through a computer us parents are doing it on our end to help the with their special need parents have not gone to school for this. We are struggling helping them through this. Megan Phillipoff



- What supports will be in place for parents who have children with ADHD and other learning disabilities to help ensure children get the right learning at the right time? Nadine Ternovoy
- As a parent of two coded children working from home not receiving any additional supports that they were receiving at school, how do you suggest I help them when I don't possess the skills? Greta Gerstner
- For special needs students who require a one to one aide and truly rely on that support, what is going to happen to them if their parents are unable to help them with their mainstream learning? Anonymous Attendee

***Support Staff: Layoffs/Rehiring, rationale, timing and communication***

- I feel that the support staff in schools is invaluable to my children's school experience. When you announce in a press release on a Saturday afternoon that they are all being laid off, what does that say about the value that you hold for these important members of the education system? Why did you not even have the courtesy to make an announcement in person? Amber Cahill
- Why do you think the EA's are not working from home? Have you spoken to an EA to see what they have been doing to prepare for the online roll out? Sherry Maclsaac
- Where is the money going that was allotted at the beginning of the year to pay EA's? Sherry Maclsaac
- Contracts are signed at the beginning of the school year - Aug30-June 28 for permanent (EA) staff. Are these contracts not being honoured? Sherry Maclsaac
- Our "at risk" students have a connection with their EA's (some even refer to us as their second mom/dad). Who do they have to turn to in this difficult time? Please don't say there are crisis lines to call. These kids need someone they know and can trust? Sherry Maclsaac
- Can you guarantee job security (salary and respecting collective agreements) for teachers moving forward during this period of distance learning? I feel that many are working hard to meet the needs of all students, despite large classes and diverse learning needs. Can you guarantee government support in this area? Jenice Fukushima
- The people who you laid off, many of whom found out over social media, have been working tirelessly to continue to give the children of Alberta the best chance at education they can get. Swooping in, and blindsiding those who are still working to ensure our schools are maintained, cleaned, and kept functioning is heartless. Can you give Albertans a guarantee in writing that these jobs will be reinstated come Sept? Not that your word means anything to most Albertans at this point, considering all of the written contracts, and promises that have been broken over the last year.
- I'm not anticipating a response from you, considering this is the third time since you've been appointed that I have written you, and still have yet to hear a response to any of my emails. I do hope you find the time to address the Province, and the people who were counting on you, to ensure our children received the best possible education.
- I hope your children, and grandchildren, never have to feel the pain that these cuts inflict on us middle class folks. Kelly Cunningham



- Our education system supports a high number of students who are at risk, lack family supports or have special needs be it complex or mild-moderate. The Educational Assistants were supporting these students to relieve anxieties, assist them with learning, provide virtual 1-1 support, keep an eye on those with questionable and sometimes even dangerous home lives as educators were asked to do in the minister's most recent letter address and so much more. They have been kept extremely busy navigating students and parents through these strange new waters. As a parent, I see that teachers are working into the night to support the high numbers of students they have and were counting on the EA's to provide more regular and routine support for these higher needs students.
- The perception is that not having students in the building means that the EA's do not have work and responsibilities. Hearing from teachers and parents, it is clear that this last week has actually meant a redefining of their roles and they are in fact quite busy and needed.
- Teachers are already working at maximum capacity. With the announcement of the educational assistants and other support staff being cut, what supports does the minister plan to put into place to support and protect these students and my own children so they can continue to progress and make gains the remainder of the school year? Tarynne Cable
- Our School Council has questions regarding the recent EA layoffs.
- For those students with disabilities, whereby the educational assistant was providing adapted learning and support online, how do you propose that these children now are supported at home without this additional assistance?
- Why was this decision not discussed with the school boards prior to the decision being made?
- Why was a debate refused by yourself regarding the decision? Melissa Giroux
- How can the Minister justify cutting back school division funding for EAs, custodial staff, etc., after \*promising\* all of us and our school divisions in the initial announcement that funding would not be changed, a promise that school divisions relied on while creating their plans for remote education? Joy Morris
- How does the Minister expect children with special needs to be adequately supported if school divisions are forced to lay off educational assistants, while parents are trying to cope with working from home and simultaneously supporting their children's education? Joy Morris
- What about special ed students that have built a trusting relationship with their EAs and rely on them to get through their education. Irina Rajakumar, West Springs School Council Chair
- What is the plan for high needs kids? With the layoff of the Educational assistants, many of those kids are losing the only person who truly knows them and who the students actually trust. How are they to keep up with a variation of "normal" if the only person they know is taken from them? Mary Bergeron School Council
- Does temporarily firing 20,000 staff during a pandemic make sense when businesses are being directed to try and keep staff employed? Can we get a written guarantee that all staff that have been temporarily laid off will indeed get their jobs back when schools re-open? You did say schools would remain fully funded and two weeks later cut funding so I'd like a more certain guarantee that they will be rehired. Yes, I know the situation is fluid during this pandemic. Andrew





- I am very concerned about the decision to cut school board budgets based on the assumption that certain staff, namely education assistants, aren't being utilized at this time. I would like to understand whether this was done with any consultation with schools, school boards or teachers? I would also like to understand whether these cuts were applied evenly across public, charter and private schools, or whether they are being applied to public boards only? How does Alberta Education plan to support special needs kids during this time, if their education assistants are no longer working with them?  
Heather Ganshorn, Richmond School Council, Calgary, AB
- One of my friends spent 35 hours on hold with the EI office this week to access her file. Your sudden move to lay off education workers will now throw them into this stressful situation of scrambling for support from the federal level (presumably lesser than their salaries). Can you address how this will be healthy for education workers?
- Can you address how the EA-supported alternative learning delivery plans for children with special needs will now be provided in the face of the layoffs of EAs?
- How do you address the fact that laying off EAs and education workers will now create gaps in education program delivery to children with special needs, thereby breaching the Education Act that states: "WHEREAS the Government of Alberta recognizes the importance of an inclusive education system that provides each student with the relevant learning opportunities and supports necessary to achieve success?" This violates the basic right of every child to access equitable, barrier-free education. Wing Witharana, PhD, Vice Chair, School Council, Ecole Broxton Park School, Spruce Grove, Parkland School Division, No 70
- If Educational Assistants and School custodians are being laid off, how will our high needs students be supported and how will teachers be able to access any items from the school for online delivery - example, science supplies for a lab or demonstration? Greg
- Budget Reduction for 2019-2020 made during COVID-19 Pandemic. Why is the government impacting some Alberta families trying to support their children's learning during this difficult and stressful period? Why can't funding be restored? Suggest restore funding for Education Assistants who work with children and their parents through regular telephone check-ins. Cheryl, Strathcona School Council
- Does the government actually have any idea as to the amount of work that the support staff does and the services that we provide? Inclusive education would not be possible without us. Katherine Campbell
- How can we believe that support staff will be hired back when this government consistently breaks their word and they have cut the budget? Katherine Campbell
- EAs have played a large role during the COVID-19 crisis. EAs are working 1 on 1 with students who need the extra support. The teachers alone will not be able to provide the extra assistance these students need. How do they plan to support those students in grades 1-6 with the extra support they require to be successful? Kerry Bodell
- I want to begin by thanking you and your team for your hard work during these uncertain times. I have a 16 year old daughter with Down Syndrome, who is currently in Grade 11. Since classes resumed online, she has benefited from assistance from her Educational Assistant. Her EA has helped her to complete assigned tasks in Numeracy and Literacy. Unlike her colleagues and my two younger



children, she is unable to complete these tasks independently (she receives the same supports at school).

- As a result of this UCP decision, unemployment is going to go up by \$20,000 jobs, people are going to have their incomes slashed, economy will suffer because no one will be to buy or anything or support local economies. Their budget is short sighted. Why do this at this time when it will impact children and families in an already stressful time? Vinna Vuong
- Today our family received an email that based on your announcement on Sunday, this support will no longer be available. Your decision is going to have a significant impact on her education. Like all other Albertans who are still gainfully employed, my husband and I are required to work from home. We provide her with some support in addition to the support from her EA. The absence of support from her EA means that she will not be able to get the same level of education that her non-disable students are getting. My question is: Would you please reconsider your decision to lay off all EAs? I have a couple of options in mind. Work with the School Board to come up with a plan specific to the needs of each school so EAs currently providing support on ongoing basis will be retained. Verification: All of my daughter's contact with her EA to assist her to complete assigned work are recorded in Microsoft Teams. Your office can easily verify what EAs are doing with their time. I hope you will reconsider your decision because students with disability should have access to education as other students. Besides, it will be impossible for my husband and I to step in and provide services that her EA has been providing due to our work load. Thank you for your time. Edna Djokoto-Asem
- I'm the mom of a 11 year old girl with autism. Currently, my daughter's EA is supporting my child's homeschooling online. It was very difficult for parents to homeschooling our child as we are still exploring the way of systematic academic learning at home. This is completely new to us. Our EA provided very important help by staying online, video conferencing and answering our questions in a prompt manner. This greatly benefited both the parents and our child.
- My husband and I are currently working from home. The great support we received from the EA after the school closure enabled us to continue to work and assist in our child's learning at the same time. It also helps to relieve our child's anxiety as she is able to keep some of her routines with a familiar person at school, after significant changes to her routines. Without the EA support, great pressure would also be placed on parents, especially the working parents.
- I'm extremely concerned about the loss of the EA in the month of May and June. I would greatly appreciate if such decision can be reviewed by considering the interests of the children with special needs and their families. Thanks Wendy
- Educational Assistants truly make a difference and are valuable for supporting students. How are these students going to receive proper support when these staples are removed from their life and they are already having a difficult understanding on how to navigate this on-line learning? How are we able to give them what they need when we are no longer working with them? In the short time of working from home and working closely with teachers and students, we have incorporated on-line learning and staying connected by helping students navigate the "new normal" by using google classroom, Dojo, google meets, zoom and many other on-line learning tools. For example, I am personally working one on one with a child that is non-verbal by having regular zoom meets using his words through a touch chat device with show and share times. We are then moving towards his ISP goals to make him more successful. Cutting educational assistants, not only takes away jobs, but also



takes away a safe person that these students look up to and can count on during an extremely scary and anxiety-provoking time. Cynthia Latreille

- Dear Honourable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education

I appreciate your time in advance in meeting today as well as allowing time for questions. In this time where children and families are experiencing the downfalls of the traumatic experience from the pandemic as well as economical downfalls, there was an unexpected layoff occurrence that added additional stressors on the City of Edmonton's education system that will impact our children. With this type of event I as a parent would like to have a voice in this and would request the money to support our children in the education system where the money should be, and have it directed to support our children's needs through this difficult time. In this time more than ever, is where our children deserve high quality learning, and in knowing that they will transition to the next grade, without this quality learning in place. When I say this, I am suggesting quality measures in education, with a cut in budget it will only limit what can be implemented in our children's education. You stated last night in the Legislative Assembly that our education is quality education, but without our supports in place and collaborate efforts with the school system, such as TA's, a single teacher and cannot lead a quality education for all children with a sudden change their teaching, now delivered to 50 or more children. I have great concerns in this as I do not believe quality learning is this alone and with the parents at home attempting to homeschool for the first time.

- Will the support staff be coming back to school when school is back in? Kandy Ekstrom
- Because the money is being taken from the school budget or funding for the government, would that affect the coming school year for rehiring Educational Assistants or what do you think that will look like for schools and staff? Averil Geoghegan
- I am a pre-kindergarten teacher that works in a large school board in Alberta. I teach three and four year olds with developmental delays and rely on the support of a multi-disciplinary team that includes: early ed facilitator, speech language pathologist, occupational therapist, emotional behaviour specialist, early childhood psychologist, and multi-cultural animator. With the newest developments in layoffs to support staff, I am worried that I will no longer receive the support I need from my Multi-disciplinary team to best support families and students in their journey to remote online learning. About half of my 40 students qualify for PUF funding and have severe delays.... they desperately need this support. So, Honourable Adriana LaGrange, are early learning multi disciplinary team members affected by this lay-off? And if so, who will be helping me support these children with severe developmental delays? Anonymous Attendee
- If schools are to operate as close to possibly normal on a virtual platform, how does reducing supports for marginalized students, through the reduction of educational assistants, support learning for all learners? How EXACTLY is Alberta Education working directly with school authorities to help navigate through these difficult times? Tina Belzile
- How can you justify layoffs of staff with no guarantee they'll be rehired while purchasing an enormous stake in a pipeline? We aren't sure oil is going to be profitable again and those jobs aren't guaranteed, while we know for certain we need educational support staff. Lesley Lawson
- If custodians are laid off, how will the school be kept clean for those who are required to be in the school? Jane Taylor



- Minister LaGrange - what direction did you give school boards in regard to continuation of benefits for support staff that received layoff nominations this week - there are financial supports in place for salary replacement through the federal government, but in light of the fact that Alberta is in the midst of a health pandemic it seems that benefits would be most definitely required at this time. It appears that throughout the province some boards are paying benefits and others are not, which is disappointing that it is not consistent. Stacey White
- With the cuts to support staff - why is there no recognition that they too are able to be on line helping students. They are crucial to this new type of teaching. Pamela Prosser
- Why were EA's who were working to support online education delivery laid off? Amanda Chapman
- Our School Council would like to know more about the Saturday budgetary announcement, specifically with respect to EAs and why it is suggested that they are not working. Many of them are and are still adapting material for children needing additional assistance. This support is still needed for distance learning. Anonymous Attendee
- How many other provinces have cut support in education for the Covid-19 help? Pamela Prosser
- My 8 year old daughter has severe ADHD and severe ODD and she has had an EA with her since half way through grade one. I consider myself a competent parent and am working to do the best job possible that I can in furthering her education with the help and guidance of her grade 3 teacher while schools are closed. However I am in no way a full replacement for her teacher and EA who both have the proper education and training to teach my daughter and her class. So she and the majority of her class mates and fellow students across the province will suffer a set back in their learning as they automatically advance to the next grade level. My daughter has shown remarked improvement by having a plan in place as well as the support her teachers and EA have provided for her. Her confidence in herself and her ability to learn and look forward to her goals has grown since she has had this support. Chelsea Casault
- Why would you cut resources to schools during this time of drastic change when students are most in need of support? Kristine Edgington
- Minister LaGrange, will you guarantee that everyone you laid off by press release will get their jobs back in the fall? Brendan Wade
- Why would you lay off thousands of important support staff on a Saturday?
- Will GOA top up EI for lay-offs? Anonymous Attendee
- Have you considered that school custodians and EAs are still necessary at this time? Greg Wondga
- Minister LaGrange, will you guarantee that all the temporarily laid off EA's and support staff will be reinstated? That this is not a method by your government to reduce Support Staff in our schools? Lori De Witt
- I'm afraid to tell you that EAs are still working one on one with their students. Anonymous Attendee
- Why is the province encouraging employers to maintain links with employees but it won't stand behind it's own employees. Our EAs are working hard to support parents with students with exceptionalities. They are a valuable asset to the learning team. Crystal Genier



- This "temporary adjustment" does nothing to address the needs of vulnerable students who rely on EAs and support. What do you say to the parents of students who are struggling to adjust to online learning with no support? Cheryl Ashworth
- What are you doing to support the teachers who now have to take on the role that EA's were taking in the classes? Are you aware that the out of classroom learning will go beyond April?? There's still May and June for these teachers to get through. This is the exact same speech you gave at the Legislature last night and I hope that you answer questions more clearly than you did last night. Anonymous Attendee
- EA's are needed more now than ever, kids with challenges need consistent help and parents are not able to teach their children at the best of times. Children have been having one on one meetings on zoom or hangouts with their EA's Why does your government think that this is not important? Did your government consider that EA's are actually being used more now than ever? cindy mairs
- With the temporary lay off of EA's what is or has been put in place for those parents that have students requiring additional help? Tanya Fox
- Will we have our jobs back in September Michelle Shiloff
- Do we still have our benefits Michelle Shiloff
- Can educational assistants not also go on-line to help students? Pamela Prosser
- Zoom and Google Hangouts allow the EA's to help the children. Why is the government not recognizing that this is just another way of helping "one on one"? cindy mairs
- you stated that staff being laid off will be rehired when school returns, However, before the pandemic, Jason Kenney cut education and we were already worrying about our jobs come September. So are you telling me that when I get laid off this month, that I will definitely have my position back in September (or whenever we go back)? Anonymous Attendee
- Teachers develop the programming and Educational Assistants deliver this programming. Many Educational Assistants are modifying and delivering programming to students with needs via video conferencing. How do you expect these needs to be met? Savi Houldin
- It is a monumental task to set up online learning, and many teachers have very large classes. We need our EA's to provide support to those teachers - join the video conferences with the teacher. Just like the medical field, it needs to be all hands on deck right now. Will the Minister reverse the funding cut for "non-essential" education assistants and let them be redeployed in their best service to schools. Anonymous Attendee
- Most of the support staff at small rural schools like ours are supplementing the income made on their farm. Given that commodity prices are falling around the world, this supplemental income is needed more now than ever. They have been told they cannot collect EI since they own more than 40% of the voting share of their farm/business. Is there any plan from the provincial government to help these employees and others who do not qualify for EI? Megan Jegou
- Why would you expect those "very important" EAs to return, when you have just shown that this government does not value their contribution? Cheryl Ashworth



- How can you say that EA's are very important but you treat them and all education professionals with such disrespect? Anonymous Attendee
- Why do OT, speech therapists etc still stay on when EA's are the ones who are with these kids every single day? Michelle Shiloff
- What about the assistants and bus drivers who are driving food to remote and rural locations? Shauna Gibbons
- Do you not think EA's are very important? do you not think they are needed the most during transition times for their clients/students? Do you not think parents of these children are not going crazy right now trying to cope as well? Do you really think this is the best way to help the students and keep them safe, as I think its the complete opposite? Anonymous Attendee
- Will issue a guarantee that all those now laid off that their jobs will be there? Shauna Gibbons
- EA's help support students and families during crisis. How can you justify their removal and what are you planning to do to support the mental health, social supports and emotional stability of these kids? Rebecca Stendie
- I understand the situation is exceptional and requires exceptional measures. However, this cut affects the most vulnerable children. If teachers have to quickly adapt to online teachers, why would not the EAs do the same thing and support children with learning difficulties to go through this difficult time? Maria Castro
- To clarify means the second cut/second round of lay offs...this will be my second this school year. Morgann Tomlinson
- Will your government reconsider the education support staff cuts until the end of this school year to ensure we have time to adjust to the reality of what education is going to look like for the foreseeable future?? Dawn McMaster
- Many of us are only just now starting online classes, how do we even know how we could be using our EA's for our students when there hasn't even been a chance to figure it out yet??
- why are some school boards refusing to lay off their staff and others are not? Does each division have their own choice? you say your daughter is an EA in Red Deer, and I just read that they are refusing to lay off their staff. Anonymous Attendee
- Minister; is there a date when you can commit to a return of funding for EAs ? Albertans appreciate the difficulty however the optics of cutting funds to support staff is terrible. Greg Gentile
- I am an Indigenous Support Worker in the Wetaskiwin School Division. Our whole program has been laid off and told we may not have a position in September or would have to reapply for our position back. Is this what you have directed to the divisions? I work with 250 Indigenous students and families on and off reserve and have done this for the last 7 years. I will guarantee you there will be gaps! That is why I was hired. I have been asked to pass off all essential information I have this month and then deemed non-essential after. Words cannot explain my concerns when we know domestic and child abuse cases are on the rise. Latisha Dingman



- Whereas parents are not professional educators, Given that education is a provincial responsibility, can you say with pride and confidence, that temporary lay offs for Educational assistants provide the best means of supporting children of this province? Anonymous Attendee
- Minister, how can you in good faith, sit and say students will receive all the support they need when you have just told boards to lay off tens of thousands of people who provide that support? We know teachers are working as hard as they can to support students, but you have not addressed those students who have relied on one-on-one support. Cheryl Ashworth
- The relationship will not continue! How? Pamela Prosser
- So I am the equivalent of an FSLW but because my title is not that, I got laid off. Please let me know if this is your direction. Latisha Dingman
- Teachers are being expected to relearn how to teach virtually, be available for technical support, and also emotionally support students. Is it fair to place additional demands on teachers without adequate support including EAs? PUF only covers up to age 6; what is your government going to do to support our school divisions in providing services at home to our students age 7-18? Jillian Bishop
- So they work for free?? Come on. Pamela Prosser
- Some school boards will not make the staffing changes despite this loss of funding, at the cost of their reserve funds, which they have already accessed to cover the enrolment increases this year. This demonstrates their deep belief that the support staff are necessary to the education continuity plan. What would you say to them? Jennifer Bergstreser
- Do you think it is fair to expect EAs like your daughter to provide support for free to students? Anonymous Attendee
- You mentioned that your daughter, a TA is checking in with her students while laid off. Is the expectation that laid-off staff should continue working for free? Allen Gould
- Are you suggesting that EAs contact their students without pay? Lesley Lawson
- It keeps being mentioned that this is a short term measure. Since it is so short term, can consideration be made to at least keep the EA's who are front line and are delivering education to students? Summer conversations are social. They are not regular and/or mandatory. School year relationships are purposeful and forward moving. Short term can equal the greatest losses with our most fragile students. Tarynne Cable
- Minister LaGrange, did you just suggest that EA's volunteer their time to continue to support students? Are you also willing to volunteer for the next three months and offer your salary to help with costs associated with Covid-19? Kristine Edgington
- we have been told not to contact students at all. only the teachers Anonymous Attendee
- So you are saying that we are still allowed to keep in touch with our most vulnerable students?!? Michelle Shiloff
- You repeatedly cite your daughter. As a matter of record, does she support your decisions about throwing EAs out of work? You have just told us that she intends to continue working for no money. Is this really your plan for the Province? Not everyone has your daughter's privilege of being able to work for nothing. Anonymous Attendee



- And would specialized team (psychology, speech and OT) be able to also support other children in the school not just the PUFF program? Courtney Nisbet
- Will your daughter now be providing continued support to her students' learning on a volunteer basis? Is this what we expect of our EAs now... connecting with the students they care deeply about to continue to offer support, as unpaid volunteers? Monica Doherty
- Alberta families need all the support they can get at this time. Connection must come before curriculum. You mentioned that you expect EAs to continue to maintain relationships with their students, are you therefore asking them to work for free? Heather Sample
- Thank you for answering the questions sent in. I did have one more question related to EA funding, why was the decision made to cut EA support for special needs students in the higher grades, whereas funding was still kept for PUF students. EA support is essential for all students, of all ages. Melissa Giroux
- Teachers are working, I would argue, more than ever. They are learning new platforms and ways of teaching. Can you please explain how leaving them without an EA and support for them and the students in the classes decision was made. Who was involved in this process?
- Teachers have been slammed since the UCP government came into office. They feel disrespected & taken advantage of with respect to their pensions & the threat of cutting their pay. These teachers do so much for our children both during their their working hours & their countless 'out of hours'. What is the government going to do to ensure that the teachers are heard , respected & valued? Rachel Iverson
- Since students have strong connections with EAs and SEL and mental health are so important, are we not increasing isolation in addition to disproportionately affecting those who are less likely to be independent learners? While you're daughter's volunteerism is admirable, are you suggesting those whom we have just made even more financially and emotionally vulnerable (EAs) to contact students? Ethics? Privacy? Anonymous Attendee
- My son and some of his classmates had an EA in their class supporting them and their requirements as per their IPPs. The School has let parents know that all EAs have lost their jobs. Can you let parents know why EAs were included in the layoffs, when they are an integral support for students. EAs are able to assist students remotely and are so important for students with learning disabilities. Sarah Arkison
- I wonder what's in place for Indigenous schools, students and so on? I am involved with the Northland School Division and have heard nothing from anyone yet. EAs are extremely important in our schools because they provide that important link to our out -of- town staff especially in terms of language and culture. Ernie Grach
- I heard you say that post covid-19 you will fully re-install of these positions, I take that to mean you will not cut back on any of this. Isn't reestablishing all of these supports in the future going to cost more than if you just kept people on in the first place? Anonymous Attendee
- Respectfully Minister, we need those staff now, not in the fall. We are making these adjustments on the fly, as you have acknowledged, and cutting the resources available to schools and school boards as they make this massive adjustment is not beneficial to our children. Dawn McMaster





- Do you stand behind Jason Kenney saying that EAs were not working and that it was the board and super intendants decisions to layoff their staff?? He blamed our schools and they fought for our jobs to get them back. Anonymous Attendee
- How will it be possible to hire everyone back when schools are having to cut the budget for next year?
- Many school boards have come out and said that they were planning to move forward with the full funding allotment and that the cuts came as a major surprise. They said most people were working and being used to help with efforts to complete the massive switch to online learning. Why layoff people who were working?
- Can you address your thoughts on the Premier stating that the lay offs were people who "weren't working" despite contrary evidence. EA's are vital for many at risk students and they are working very hard. At what point will you stand up for the teachers, assistants and students instead of merely following the orders of the UCP? Jessica Schurman
- At what point will you stand up for the teachers, assistants and students instead of merely following the orders of the UCP?
- Can the decision to lay off the EAs still be reverted? With students on online lessons, EAs are valuable to assist teachers and parents in ensuring continuity of learning as much as possible. I have seen how challenging it was for teachers to manager grade school students during the video chats and lessons. Lucenia Ortiz
- Can you address why EAs were included in the layoffs? The premier indicated school staff who were not working were included in the layoffs. How does this apply to EAs? They provide support to students with IPPs and assist the teacher. EAs are able to work with students remotely, just as teachers are doing when they deliver the curriculum Sarah Arkison
- You mentioned your own Daughter is an EA...has SHE lost her own job? Anonymous Attendee
- Hello Minister LaGrange, Thank you for your tireless efforts during this unprecedented time. I do not envy your position, and I am sure you are getting backlash for the difficult decisions you have had to make with ever changing information during such a turbulent time. My question is: what assurance is there that all positions that are being temporarily let go for May and June will have a job when July comes around? With changes happening daily, decisions are being changed all the time. It would be nice to know that this is one decision that will not be changed. Ginger Hassett-Koza
- A dear friend who is a single parent has 3 children, 2 with special learning needs. She is working from home and completely overwhelmed at the thought of teaching her children without the support of EAs. I have been trying to set up a volunteer to support her children with their learning. There will be so much inequity across the system for children with reduced support. I can appreciate these are difficult Times and decisions. But I think the decision to let go of EAs was shortsighted. Monica Doherty

### ***Teachers, Teaching, Training***

- Will you be hosting a Zoom meeting for teachers? There are many questions that teachers would like to ask you directly. Krista Shandro



- Will the government hire new teachers this year? Saira Ali
- The Alberta School system is an extremely successful system and it is that way as a result of the quality of individuals throughout the entire system. All of us in education are very special people who care deeply and give of ourselves, above and beyond any job descriptions. While I can appreciate the unique situation our province/world is in, I cannot understand why our successful Alberta School system for all children is being compromised at such an important time. Having the school community as the hub of support for students and families is an obvious way to connect people at such a dire time. Why would a reduction in funding (EA's, etc) even be considered, as it adds even more pressure/stress on families and students already at risk. Mike Humbke
- As the teachers have different technological skills - Is the province providing any help for teachers? Dotun Aderoju
- Will teachers and administration be asked to take a wage roll back with the expectation of 10 hours of instruction per week? Devon Marshall
- Are you aware that option teachers' jobs are in jeopardy now since only core subjects will be delivered on-line, and once the students come back to regular classrooms there will be more need for personalized education and more funding for it. Option teachers are losing jobs now as schools are needing more funding for September for personalized education, and the schools are doing staffing now for September. Snezana
- how about non core teachers? there is no mandate on non core subjects so why are their salaries not being affected also? the--more than EAs and support staff have nothing to do at this time and they cost more
- What types of teacher supports and re-training is the department going to provide to guide this new way of teaching Christy Ford
- Teachers have not been laid off so why are they only teaching one class a week and just sending videos. Why cant they zoom? Dana Larson
- What are the expectations for teachers while teaching from home and looking after their own kids at the same time? Are principals deciding how many hours they have to be "on-line"? Pamela Prosser
- Given that this meeting has several staff helping with the technical side of this call, what support is being given to teachers who have to do these kinds of calls daily for the next several months? Anonymous Attendee
- From my personal experience and fellow parents to date, there is not a significant amount of tangible evidence to support that educators are working fulltime to deliver further material and support parents and students. How are educators being held account for work hours, productivity and work quality? There is now no consistency in the delivery of educational material from school to school and from teacher to teacher. How is the ministry monitoring and auditing that all students are receiving the same caliber of instruction and educational opportunity? Jessica

### ***What can Parents do to Support Schools/School Councils/Minister?***

- Are there any tangible things parent councils can do to support their schools? Heather Janett



- Thank you for this meeting. What can we as school council do to help families during this time? Rae Rankin
- What are parents, teachers and schools to do to help during these unprecedented times. Kim Semeniuk
- What does the Minister need from our Council members? Jennifer Hollman
- How can parents help support teachers and admin and school boards during this time? Devon Marshall
- what should i do about this? Anonymous Attendee
- Minister LaGrande - What can parent councils do to support "schools/teachers" to help keep school communities connected to one another and on track to with learning? Joanne Bouchard

### ***Miscellaneous***

- What is planned to address equity for students who are already at a disadvantage - gap in skills, lack of technology, food, safety at home? Irina Rajakumar, West Springs School Council Chair
- When is this government going to start standing by their word and stop cutting the legs out from underneath people? Why is this government's favourite tactic distraction when their MLAs and Ministers are involved in inappropriate activities? Why does the Premier keep saying that schools are closed? Schools are not closed, education is still being provided for our kids. Katherine Campbell
- Going forward so the education is not caught off guard to this scale again, what is the Ministry doing to develop a more cohesive and succinct response for long term school closures due to extraordinary circumstance? Jessica
- With recent increases of insurance rates covering schools and their contents, do you think that the government should have; a. stepped in and limited rate hikes or b. worked with the boards to help seek out a way of securing better rates? Kerry Bodell
- Est ce que le ministère est conscient que dans certaines familles les deux parents travaillent toujours a temps plein même s'ils travaillent de la maison rendant difficile l'enseignement a la maison par les parents?
  - *English Translation:* Is the ministry aware that in some families both parents are still working full time even if they work from home making it difficult for parents to teach at home? Geneviève Denault, présidente CE à l'école francophone d'Airdrie
- May I respectfully suggest that this would be a great time for the minister to get some media time to identify and make public ways in which school districts -- specific examples -- are meeting educational needs of students in the province. This would be an opportunity for good news stories. I think we need to be hearing from the Education Minister during this crisis since education is a huge part of our social system. Wendy Fath
- Would all the questions sent by emails be answered? Anonymous Attendee
- What is the Education Minister's personal experience with her schooling? Where did she attend her Primary, Secondary and Post-Secondary schooling? How often are meetings held with the Premier



(with ALL UCP cabinet ministers) and do you attend all these meetings? It seems as though it is not documented to have happened very often. Jarrod Leach

- What is the status of the Ministerial Order? Was it revised after the parent engagement?  
Anonymous Attendee
- Why have you not closed Elementary schools completely? Many parents are frustrated at having to facilitate their children's learning with many younger kids at home as well. It is understood the reason older children in grades 7-12 are still in school. Krystle Linic
- Can you please provide the quote for "ahead of the game" from CBC. Please cite the source. Shauna Gibbons
- What are other jurisdictions saying? What do they mean by "interesting"? and who are they? -  
Shauna Gibbons Ross Shep EPSB
- Minister LaGrange when will you and your government stop blaming Dr Hinshaw for the layoffs of 25k substitutes and educational assistants? Minister LaGrange why did you lie in the legislature saying that school boards requested layoffs of 25k educational assistants?
- Are you also then taking a TEMPORARY pay cut since you're not looking after a full education portfolio? Anonymous Attendee
- Why not take some time over April while students adjust? Shauna Gibbons
- Why are you blaming the boards for this decision for the layoffs? Are you siding with Jason Kenney?  
Anonymous Attendee
- We as parents don't even have fscd right now!! And now loosing the help in school how is this supposed to help us. Megan Phillipoff
- First off, thank you for not canceling school. Our children need to continue their education and frankly need the normalcy that comes with it. I also think it is helpful that the schools are open and answering questions - thanks for that. J N
- What specifics will make us come out of this stronger than ever? Patricia Olson
- What about your grandchildren? Are any of them in need? Shauna Gibbons
- What are you doing to invest in robust Emergency Management Systems across school boards for consistency in these situations Christy Ford
- Have you ever been a teacher? Pamela Prosser
- We have record unemployment of degree holding male youth. Things are about to get a lot worse from the employment perspective. How are we going to ensure that students will be employable in a post-COVID19 Alberta? Edward Tse
- Will the Alberta government commit to similar cutbacks starting at the top to use in fighting COVID-19? A similar comparison would be to lay off all assistants, custodians, drivers, and clerical staff involved with the Legislature. Jillian Bishop
- Can Boards count on more flexibility in the future to deal with unintended and unexpected consequences that may arise in the future as we gear up for the fall? Bev Manning



- Ms. LaGrange, how would you define "short-term". Can you give us a more clear answer to your timeline? Who defines short-term? Maria Burke
- describe what short measure time is?? Cynthia Latreille
- Have you or any other Ministers taken a pay cut to help us "all get through this together"? Aaron Box
- Do you think that you can use the pandemic as an excuse to implement the Conservative party's policy of tearing down social institutions to line the pockets of their political base? Shawn Mueller
- excuse me. you say we all need to do our part. what kind of cuts are senior goa staff making to their salaries?
- Minister LeGrange, I had an opportunity to attend the engagement on student learning in which participants reviewed the draft ministerial order. Many attendees chatted informally afterward and determined that the large numbers there in that session were not supportive of the changes to the ministerial order which directs student learning. When and how will the public feedback be released on this draft order? Please provide information on how your ministry will ensure transparency in releasing this feedback. My concern is that if few Albertans actually support the changes and most prefer the previous version of the order, the Ministry has no provision for this scenario. Do you intend to back off if the majority of Albertans who responded do not support?
- Can you please let us know how the Minister and her department are positively supporting Boards, Administrators, Teachers, Students and Councils? Marion Enns
- The needs cannot be met without enough people. Pamela Prosser
- Please respond to the charge that the Alberta government and the Education Ministry of Alberta has dealt and continues to deal in bad faith with the people of Alberta particularly in the area of education? Shawn Mueller
- Why take money out of education? Why not from the expensive war room? Vinna Vuong
- If the covid crisis continues will the school year continue online/packaged learning or will there be an early end date? Anonymous Attendee
- Now as the school is closed, will the school office still be open until the end of school year? Are they working on regular or reduced hours? vijoy prasad
- How do you address that timely and concentrated early education support is important for childhood development? Can you address that SLS framework spreads out funding over later years is actually going against scientific knowledge of brain development? Wing Witharana
- What steps are taken to keep staff that are laid off from being picked up by a different school division (or different province) and losing that connection with their students? Adam McArthur
- When parents have to work and students are too young to manage their own learning, the older students are too busy to do homeworks all due on the weekend. Do you think should the teachers think in parent's shoes and using some good methods to help in this situation? Else Zheng
- What other austerity measures is the AB Government going to take to properly fund our fight against COVID-19? Jillian Bishop



- With the new Block Funding model for small rural schools, what is your take on school divisions still moving forward with Motions to Close during this pandemic time? As families are now needing to concentrate on their household finances, adjusting to homeschooling our children and dealing with all the stresses that come with the pandemic, trying to save their school from being closed should be on the back burner. Anonymous Attendee
- Why does the government not shut down the energy “war room” to send money for the COVID-19 fight than axing 20 000+ jobs? Anonymous Attendee
- Have there been Alberta Education department staff reductions? Kristi Rouse
- Why do you condone the harassment of parents and citizens by your press secretary, Colin Aitchison?
- You are asking parents to put their faith in the two systems - education and healthcare - that your government is dismantling day by day, in the midst of the worst possible circumstances. How can you justify this? Cheryl Ashworth
- You continue to reference that we have support from OT, PT, SLP and Mental Health. How, specifically, do these supports get accessed? I know the wait times in my community are up to 6 months. Funding has been cut for the Regional Collaborative Service Delivery model (which funded our supports in this area). Anonymous Attendee
- What do you think will be the biggest challenge for parents and students during this time? Ashley Falkenberg
- How are school boards reaching out to students in later grades who have been refused apprehension by CFS due to age (14+) but who have not been returned to their parents due to safety concerns. Many of these students are under Family Enhancement with Youth Agreement and unable to obtain legal identification needed to register in any school other than the one arranged by their parents. Will this be a concern during this crisis? Michelle Lovell
- Can we have another question and answer time like this once school resumes and the new budget unrolls? Taneill Selinger
- "AB is a leader in the world in Education"- why did you then downplay the PISA results that reflected that? The Choice in Education Act seems to be an attempt to provide \$\$ to private and charter schools. Parents are the child's first educators, and are currently doing it (again). Maybe when you hear from more parents about this situation, you will have a better understanding of the challenges the education system is facing based on your governments' decisions. Anonymous Attendee
- too politically focused - would have appreciated more about our KIDS, TEACHERS, FAMILY support Joanne Bouchard