

# DRAFT Emergent Advocacy Resolution for ASCA AGM 2024

SPONSOR (Submitting) <b>School Council Name:</b>	Rutherford Elementary School
School Address:	8620 91 St, Edmonton, AB T6C 3N2
Co-Sponsor(s) <i>if applicable</i>	
Contact Name: <i>(will be public)</i>	Rebecca Yeo
Contact Email: <i>(will be public)</i>	rebecca.ej.yeo@gmail.com
<b>Title of Recommendation:</b> Request for EMERGENCY, Multi - Tiered Task Force to ensure Public School Space for ALL STUDENTS.	
<b>Describe the issue(s)</b> to be addressed, aspect(s) that need to change or be resolved	
<p><b>WHEREAS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alberta is facing a school infrastructure crisis, driven by years of underfunding and higher than expected immigration rates.</li> <li>2. EPSB is projecting to reach 100% capacity and will have more students than space within 2 years. (source: 10 year facilities plan). Given projected construction cycle of 3-5 years to build a school, there is not enough time to wait for the next budget cycle's approvals.</li> <li>3. On Apr 5, 2024 CBC reported that CCSD is halting intake for 2 specialized programs including one that supports students with learning disabilities <a href="#">[article]</a></li> <li>4. In addition to the lack of new project approvals, deferred maintenance on existing buildings is ballooning, including over \$1 Billion in EPSB.</li> <li>5. Every student in Alberta deserves access to safe, modern, and well-equipped educational facilities; their future success depends on the actions we take today.</li> <li>6. Every student in Alberta has the right to equitable access to modern, high-quality learning environments, regardless of where they live, socio-economic status, culture and religious preferences, and learning abilities,</li> <li>7. Addressing infrastructure needs proactively demonstrates a commitment to fairness and equity in education, providing all children with the opportunity to succeed regardless of their geographical location.</li> <li>8. Engaging the public in meaningful dialogue about school infrastructure projects fosters a sense of community ownership and accountability.</li> <li>9. Transparent communication with the public and media about infrastructure plans and progress builds trust and ensures that educational priorities are understood and supported by all stakeholders.</li> <li>10. The task force's work will directly impact the learning environments of countless students, making it imperative to approach this mission with dedication, creativity, and a collaborative spirit.</li> </ol>	
<b>Background:</b>	
<p><b>WHEREAS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) has numerous established advocacy policies that already recognize the need for clear, transparent criteria and processes for school infrastructure initiatives including but not limited to:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 08-1 Support for Outreach Schools (2019)</li> <li>b. 08-06 Capital Project Approval Criteria (Revised 2014)</li> <li>c. 09-7 POM Funding Determined by Including Building Area as well as Student Enrollment (2017)</li> <li>d. 10-10 Timely provision of modular/portable classrooms to schools (Revised 2016).</li> <li>e. 17-7 District Budget Consultations with School Councils and Councils of School Councils</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	

- f. 19-01 Funding for Appropriate Physical and Facility Environments to Support Daily Physical Activity Policy Expectations
  - g. 19-09 Change to Funding Model for Schools with Low Student Populations
  - h. 19-18 Comprehensive Education Funding Framework Review
  - i. ER20-01 Emergency Funding for COVID19 and other Emergencies Impacting Schools
  - j. 22-02 Policy Review for Operations and Maintenance Funding
2. The complexity of school infrastructure requires a coordinated approach that transcends political boundaries and aims to serve the educational needs of all Alberta students equitably.
  3. ASCA's historical advocacy for equitable educational resources and emergency responses to infrastructure challenges underscores the necessity for proactive, not just reactive, measures in addressing these needs (ASCA Advocacy Policy Manual, 22-02 and ER20-01, 2023).
  4. On Feb 12, 2024 CBC reported that Edmonton public estimates it will be out of high school space by 2027 [\[article\]](#)
  5. The development of a comprehensive, province-wide strategy for school infrastructure would benefit from collaboration with multiple stakeholders, including governmental bodies, to ensure a balanced and fair allocation of resources.
  6. There is a critical need for public engagement and transparency in the development and execution of infrastructure plans to ensure community support and awareness.

**Recommendation:**

That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocate for the Minister of Education to establish a Task Force with the following objectives and mandates:

1. To develop an Emergency Provincial strategic, province-wide plan for school infrastructure that aligns with ASCA's existing advocacy policies while introducing innovative approaches such as but not limited to Public-Private Partnerships (P3), new funding models, and cost-effective solutions.
2. To collaborate closely with the Alberta Government, school districts, and other relevant stakeholders to gather data, assess needs, and prioritize infrastructure projects based on educational necessity rather than political influence.
3. To implement a comprehensive public engagement strategy that includes regular updates via social media, press releases, and public forums, allowing for parent and community input into the planning and prioritization processes.
4. To ensure that the task force's findings and recommendations are presented in a timely manner with a detailed progress report that is shared publicly.
5. To establish mechanisms for ongoing review and adaptation of the infrastructure strategy to respond to new challenges and opportunities as they arise.
6. To advocate for amendments to the Alberta Education Act to make the prioritization of school builds transparent, providing clear criteria and timelines accessible to all parents and communities, ensuring that decisions on when and where schools are built are made public, regardless of the school board.
7. To ensure that no school exceeds 100% capacity - a situation where students do not have access to a school in their area.

**IMPORTANT** - *the following section must be completed:*

Are there **CURRENT/EXISTING ASCA Advocacy Policies** that

**SUPPORT**  **Yes**  No **OR CONTRADICT**  Yes  No *this Proposed Advocacy Policy?*

**If yes to either, please complete** this statement:

*If this Proposed Advocacy Policy is passed by ASCA Member School Councils, existing **ASCA Advocacy Policy #** 08-6 would not need to be **AMENDED**.*

Affirmed  Rescinded  Amended to read: see above

**IMPORTANT** - *the following section must also be completed:*

Has your School Council reviewed the following, prior to submitting this *Proposed Advocacy Resolution (PAR)*?

ASCA Mission, Vision, Values ✓ ASCA Bylaws ✓ ASCA Objects of Incorporation

**Signature:**

**Email signature:**

Should the *ASCA Advocacy and Resolutions Committee* determine that the PAR is **NOT aligned** with the items on the list above, the following process will apply:

- a) *ASCA will notify the sponsoring School Council contact, to explain/discuss in detail the conflict/misalignment.*
- b) *The sponsoring School Council will be offered an opportunity to amend its PAR to align with ASCA Objects, Bylaws, Vision, Mission, etc. by a specified deadline.*
- c) *If an amended PAR is not received, it will be considered to be 'withdrawn' by the sponsoring School Council.*
- d) *If an amended PAR is received, but still does not align, if time permits the sponsoring School Council will be offered assistance in amending their PAR to align.*
- e) *Should the sponsoring School Council decline the offer of assistance and/or not amend its PAR again to align, the proposed PAR will not be accepted.*

Please submit this form by email to [parents@albertaschoolcouncils.ca](mailto:parents@albertaschoolcouncils.ca) **before January 27, 2023.**

Sponsors may be contacted by the ASCA staff for direction, editing and presentation format for member review, pre-voting, and meeting materials preparation.

Resolutions passed by a majority vote at the AGM become advisory policy, or belief statements, of ASCA and are utilized when contributing input at provincial education committee work.



**Alberta  
School Councils' Association**

Promoting parent engagement in public education

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