

Rachel Notley. Fighting for you

Alberta School Council's Association

1. What are your top three priorities for education?

1. Providing stable investments for our schools that funds enrollment and putting more resources in our classrooms through the Classroom Improvement Fund
2. Building and updating 70 schools across the province, focusing on badly needed high schools, and replacing aging playgrounds
3. Modernizing the curriculum to ensure our students are prepared for the economy of the future.

2. What actions would you take in order to provide long-term, predictable and sustainable funding for education?

Before the last election, investments in education were falling behind. More students were entering our schools every year without a teacher and a new modern school to greet them. Over the last four years, Rachel Notley and the Alberta NDP have funded enrollment growth, providing stable and predictable funding for our schools and completed over 170 school construction projects. Going forward that commitment will not change.

Unlike Jason Kenney who will freeze spending, Rachel Notley and the Alberta NDP will continue to fund enrollment growth so that the 15,000 new students who will enter our schools next year will have a teacher to meet them. To address increasing classroom complexity and make sure no student gets left behind, we will make the Classroom Improvement Fund permanent and increase the funding to \$100 million a year. We will also continue to invest in Alberta communities and keep up with our growing population by building and upgrading another 70 schools across the province, focusing on badly needed high schools.

If re-elected, Rachel Notley and the NDP will keep fighting to make sure our schools have the resources they need because we know investing in education is one of the most important things a government can do.

3. In what ways would you improve support for diverse students and complex classrooms?

Rachel Notley and the NDP know that investing in our students is key to prosperous future for the province. As Premier, Rachel Notley funded enrollment growth, hiring 4,000 new teachers and support staff. The NDP government also introduced the Classroom Improvement Fund. This fund provided additional teachers and resources for our classrooms to help address increasing complexity.

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If re-elected, Rachel Notley and the NDP will not only make this fund permanent, they will also increase the fund to \$100 million. This will provide more resources directly in classrooms to help teachers manage the growing complexity.

The NDP government, not only invested in teachers and support staff to help address classroom complexity, but to help some of our most vulnerable students, Rachel Notley and the NDP introduced a new school nutrition program that serves 30,000 students across the province a healthy meal. This program means that these students can focus on their classes instead of their hunger.

We are proud of the investments we've made in our classrooms over the last four years and if re-elected, Rachel Notley and the NDP will keep fighting to make sure no student gets left behind.

4. What priority do you place on student mental health and wellness?

Rachel Notley and the NDP know that the education system plays a central role in contributing to positive mental health in our children. Over the last four years, the NDP government has taken action to support students and improve mental health supports.

The NDP government announced additional funding of \$5 million annually for the Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) in Schools Initiative. We developed standards for teachers, principals and school jurisdiction leaders that requires them to demonstrate the competencies needed to support student mental health. We've promoted student health and resiliency in other areas, including through the School Nutrition Program, the Alberta Mentoring Partnership, High School Redesign, grant funding for playgrounds for eligible projects, and Regional Collaborative Service Delivery. Rachel Notley and the NDP are also committed to moving forward on the curriculum update that includes a review of all wellness-related programs of study for areas to improve.

If re-elected, we will continue to move forward on the Valuing Mental Health report and work with our partners to find ways to improve resources for students struggling with their mental health.

5. How would you ensure that target class size numbers are met?

Rachel Notley and the NDP know that investing in our students is one of the most important investments we can make in our province's future. Over the last four years, the NDP government have invested in our classrooms, hiring an additional 4,000 teachers and support staff by funding enrollment. We also piloted a Classroom Improvement Fund to hire new teachers and put more resources into Alberta's classrooms.

Unlike Jason Kenney, if re-elected we will continue to fund enrollment growth, making sure that when new students show up in our classrooms there are also new teachers to greet them. We are also committed to enhancing and making the Classroom Improvement Fund permanent. This will mean there are teachers in our classroom to meet our growing student population. Not funding enrollment growth will inevitably lead to larger classes.

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6. What role do you see school councils playing in the discussions and decisions of Alberta Education?

Over the last four years, Rachel Notley, NDP Education Minister David Eggen and the entire NDP government have valued the collaborative relationship with important stakeholders in the education system, like the Alberta School Council's Association. Going forward, a re-elected NDP government would continue to work with the Alberta School Council's Association on important initiatives, like the curriculum, to ensure we continue to strengthen our education system.

7. After all the work that has gone into the development of the new K-4 curriculum, what is your party's position on its implementation?

Rachel Notley and the NDP were proud to launch the province's first comprehensive curriculum review to update our outdated thirty-year old curriculum. Over the course of this work, we've heard from 100,000 teachers, parents and experts. We know how important it is that our kids learn today's basics and have the problem-solving skills they will need in a quickly changing world. That is why, if re-elected, we will continue to move forward with the modernization of our curriculum