



Public Engagement for Proposed Choice in Education Act

Overview

The Government of Alberta is exploring the development of legislation in relation to its commitment to bring forward a proposed *Choice in Education Act*. This proposed Act will further refine the governing Education legislation to affirm parents' rights as primary decision-makers in their child's education and support the range of choice within the current education system. Your feedback will be used to guide the development of this proposed Act.

FOIP Notice

Information is collected under the authority of section 33 (c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and is protected by the privacy provisions of the Act. If you have questions about the collection or use of this information, or about this initiative in general, please contact edc.choiceineduc@gov.ab.ca

Which best describes you? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> K-12 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian of school-aged (K-12) children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employee in a school | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of a school board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of a school council and/or parent association | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: |

If you have chosen "other", please specify:

How old are you? (Select one)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> 16-17 | <input type="radio"/> 18-24 | <input type="radio"/> 25-34 | <input type="radio"/> 35-44 |
| <input type="radio"/> 45-54 | <input type="radio"/> 55-64 | <input type="radio"/> 65+ | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |

NOTE: Unfortunately, due to generally accepted ethical standards, for this survey, we're unable to gather input from persons under the age of 16.

What is your gender? (Select one)

- Male Female
- Non Binary/Third Gender Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-identify (Please specify):

Which best describes the area of Alberta where you live? (Select one)

- Northern Alberta Edmonton region Central Alberta Calgary
- Southern Alberta Prefer not to say Don't live in Alberta

Do you live in an urban or rural location in Alberta? (Select one)

- Urban Rural
- First Nation community Métis community
- Not Sure Not Applicable, do not live in Alberta

How long you have lived in Alberta? (Select one)

- Less than 5 years 5 to less than 10 years
- 10 to less than 20 years 20 years +
- Prefer not to say Not applicable, do not live in Alberta

What is the first language that you learned as a child, which you still read and understand? (Select one)

- English
- French
- An Indigenous language (Please specify)
- Other language (Please specify)

Do you identify as a First Nations, Metis, Inuit, or Indigenous Person? (Select one)

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Do you identify as a Francophone person as described in Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1982) that gives Francophones, who live in a minority setting, the right to a primary and secondary education in their official language? (Select one)

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your household income before taxes or other deductions ("gross" household income)? (Select one)

- Under \$20,000 \$20,000 to just under \$ 40,000 \$40,000 to just under \$ 60,000
 \$60,000 to just under \$ 80,000 \$80,000 to just under \$100,000 \$100,000 to just under \$150,000
 \$150,000 and above Prefer not to say

What does choice in education mean to you? (Please write your thoughts in the box below)

What type of school (K-12) do you or your children attend? (Select all that apply)

- Designated public
- Designated separate (Catholic)
- Designated Francophone
- Public school outside of our designated area
- Separate school outside of our designated area
- Francophone school outside of our designated area
- Charter school
- Private school
- Home education
- Alternative program (i.e., English Language Learner Program, Sports Program and French Immersion)
- Shared responsibility program (i.e. blend of parent-directed and teacher-directed programming)
- Band-operated/Federal school
- Private ECS School
- Not applicable as do not attend or have a child who attends school
- Other (please specify)

What are the reasons that you/your child chose this school(s)/program(s)? (Please write in the box below)

Please indicate how familiar you are with the following types of schools/programs

	Not familiar	Somewhat familiar	Very familiar
Public	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Separate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Francophone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Charter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Private	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alternative Program (i.e., English Language Learner Program, Sports Program and French Immersion)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shared Responsibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
First Nation Band Operated School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate if the following types of schools/programs are currently available to you in your area

	Available	Not available	Not sure
Public	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Separate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Francophone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Charter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Private	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alternative Program (i.e., English Language Learner Program, Sports Program and French Immersion)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shared Responsibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
First Nation Band Operated School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How satisfied are you with the information available to you on the different school/program opportunities available to you/your child? (Select one.)

Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please write your reason for this in the box below.

Are you satisfied with the current amount of choice in education in Alberta? (Select one.)

Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied		Don't know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>

Please write your reason for this in the box below.

What, if anything, do you see as currently working well or needing improvement in terms of choice in Alberta's education system? (i.e. type, access, level, quality, etc.)

Working well:

Needs improvement:

What would you like to see in the future in terms of choice in Alberta's education system?

Thank you for taking time to share your thoughts.

Completed surveys can be submitted by:

Email: edc.choiceineduc@gov.ab.ca

Fax: 780-422-5126, Attention Policy Development and Coordination, Alberta Education

Mail:

Attention: Tara Sliwkanich
9th Floor, Commerce Place
10155, 102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L5

Link to the online survey is at <https://extranet.gov.ab.ca/opinio6//s?s=PCEdu>

Definitions of School and Program Types

Public

- Provide programming to any eligible student living in the designated area
- Teach the Alberta curriculum, and may offer optional programming to meet local demand (e.g. languages, sports, arts)
- Must accept all resident students and all others if there is space and/or program availability

Separate

- Primarily Catholic; constitutional right to minority religious education under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Operate under the same programming and accountability requirements as public schools, but offer a fully faith-based permeated curriculum and school environment

Francophone

- Can be public or separate
- Offer first-language French education (distinct from French immersion) based on Charter rights

Charter

- Autonomous non-profit organizations that provide education based on charter with the Minister
- Intended to provide education with a particular focus or teaching approach, or to meet the needs of a particular group generally not offered in the public system (e.g. STEM, English Language Learning, academically gifted programming, arts-focused programming, etc.)

Private

- Include registered, accredited and accredited-funded
- Accredited-funded programs are required to offer provincial programs of study, diploma exams, etc.
- Are permitted to charge tuition fees to parents

Home education

- Educational programming provided by parents
- Must be supervised by a school board (public or separate) or accredited private school operator

Alternative programs

- Education program operated by either a public or separate school board.
- Programs emphasize a particular language, culture, religion, subject matter or teaching philosophy.
- Not permitted to charge tuition, but may include non-instructional costs (i.e. field trips for sports teams)

Shared Responsibility Programs

- A parent and school authority may agree to share responsibility for student's education
- Combines parent-directed and teacher-directed education through flexible programming
- Teacher-directed instruction is delivered by Alberta certified teacher and follows Alberta programs of study
- May be provided through online means

First Nation Band Operated School

- Most First Nations students living on-reserve have the choice to attend either Provincial School Authorities or First Nation Band Operated schools
- Funded by the federal government and are operated autonomously by their respective First Nation or First Nation School Authority. Band Operated Schools can follow Alberta Education curriculum in order to grant Alberta Education credentials
- Alberta Education respects the jurisdiction of First Nations schools.
- Through Education Services Agreements (between school boards and First Nations) on-reserve students can attend provincial schools in accordance with the terms of the negotiated agreement. Off reserve students can attend a band operated school at the discretion of the First Nation