



Member Engagement Opportunity

November 23, 2019 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Schedule, Discussion Topics Background and Polling Q&A

12:30 p.m.	Pre-meeting welcome, technical housekeeping	J. Surgenor, Director C. Burdinsky, Client Services
1:00 p.m.	Welcome	A. Purcell-Pike, President
	Territory Acknowledgement	L. Arlint, Director
	Board Introductions	A. Purcell-Pike, President
	Meeting Housekeeping	S. Rollingson, Director
1:15 p.m.	Practice Poll, Practice Q&A	S. Rollingson, Director C. Burdinsky, Client Services
1:20 p.m.	Education Environment Scan: Provincial Education Landscape; ASCA Advocacy in Action Update	A. Purcell-Pike, President
1:30 p.m.	Diploma Exam Weighting (Background, ASCA action to date, Q&A, Poll)	R. Sakundiak, Director A. Purcell-Pike, President J. Surgenor, Director
1:50 p.m.	Education Budget and Funding Framework Current Budget / School Fees <i>current and future impacts</i> (Background, ASCA action to date, Q&A, Poll)	S. Odishaw, Director A. Purcell-Pike, President B. Rai, Vice President
2:20 p.m.	Youth Vaping (Background, ASCA action to date, Q&A, Poll)	L. Arlint, Director B. Rai, Vice President J. Surgenor, Director
2:40 p.m.	Board responses to questions received through registrations	A. Purcell-Pike, President B. Rai, Vice President
3:00 p.m.	Minister of Education Introduction and address	A. Purcell-Pike, President Honourable A. LaGrange, Education Minister
3:45 p.m.	Prize Draw, Closing Poll (Meeting Evaluation)	S. Odishaw, Director
3:50 p.m.	Closing comments	A. Purcell-Pike, President B. Rai, Vice President



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Diploma Exam Weighting

Background (source: <https://www.alberta.ca/diploma-exams-overview.aspx>):

As of September 1, 2015, diploma exams are weighted at 30% of a student's final mark. Prior to this date, diploma exams made up 50% of the final mark.

Alberta's diploma exams assess many of the outcomes set out in the provincial programs of study, but they don't assess them all. The current 70/30 weighing puts more emphasis on course work and school-awarded marks. It better reflects the broad range of work students put in over the entire course. 70% of the final mark comes from course work. The remaining 30% comes from the diploma exam.

United Conservative Party Campaign – Education Platform

As part of its education platform, the United Conservative Party had committed to returning to a 50/50 split between Diploma and school grades for Grade 12. Since the 2019 election, that commitment has been 'paused', potentially providing an opportunity for stakeholder input prior to a final decision. (source: <https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/weve-heard-concerns-ucp-pauses-plan-to-make-high-school-diploma-exams-worth-50-per-cent>)

ASCA History and Possible Future Perspective

At the 2010 ASCA Annual General Meeting (AGM), ASCA Member School Councils passed the following Advocacy Resolution:

10-8 Weighting of Diploma Examinations

That Alberta Education include statistical data in its existing reporting measures that monitors the difference among teacher marks relative to students diploma examination marks to ensure there are not groups of students advantaged or disadvantaged by differences in teacher assessment standards.

That Alberta Education revise the weighting of Diploma Examinations for all subjects from the current 50% to 30%, effective the 2010/11 school year. The School Awarded Mark for all Diploma Examination subjects would then be weighted at 70%. (Assessment)

At the 2017 AGM, Advocacy Policy 10-8 was amended by ASCA Member School Councils, removing the request for revised weighting in recognition of accomplishment, as the weighting of Diploma Exams was officially changed, effective September 1, 2015 as noted above.

The ASCA Board of Directors is keen to learn from its Member School Councils if an increase/change to the current 30% weighting of diploma exams is desired.

Education Partners and Stakeholders

The change to 70/30 (school/diploma) in 2015 is also credited, in part, to the advocacy efforts of school trustees and the Alberta Teachers' Association.

Polling Questions (and answer choices):

Q: Would your school council support an increase to the current 30% weighting of diploma exams to a 50% weighting of diploma exams? **A: (choose one)** Yes, No, Unsure

Q: What weighting of diploma exams would your school council support as the best option? **A: (choose one)**
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% Higher than 50% Unsure



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Education Budget and Funding Framework

Budget

Background

The Alberta Government tabled [Budget 2019](#) on October 24th, 2019. The funding allocated to K-12 education in Alberta is laid out in the [Education Business Plan 2019-23](#).

Funding Framework

Background (source: <https://www.alberta.ca/k-12-education-funding-framework.aspx>)

Funding for K-12 education in Alberta is provided primarily on a per student basis. The funding framework allocates funding to school authorities based on the location of the school authority and its schools and local population characteristics.

The current funding framework is distributed through base instruction funding. Additional funding is supported for unique characteristics such as the number of English as a second language learners, the socio-economic status of the local population, and for geographic location (i.e. Northern Allowance). Funding to school authorities is also provided through targeted funding for provincial initiatives, other provincial support, and capital funding. The majority of the funding framework grants is flexible, meaning school authorities have the discretion to use these funds to meet the needs of their students.

The [Funding Manual](#) provides details of the funding formula and allocation approach for the school year, including:

- funding criteria
- Funding Rates
- reporting requirements
- payment schedule

Funding from the Alberta government supports the provision of approved education programs for students and children in Early Childhood services (ECS) to Grade 12.

Funding Manual Alberta [Funding Manuals](#) are available by year.

Summary of significant changes

Some of these changes may not apply to all authority types. Changes are indicated throughout the manual with the words "Revised" or "New" in the left side margin of the page.

- [Significant changes 2019/2020](#) (PDF, 108 KB)

Handbooks [Funding Handbooks](#) are available by year.

Funding rates

- [Public Funding Rates 2019/2020](#) (PDF, 134 KB)
- [Private Funding Rates 2019/2020](#) (PDF, 87 KB)
- [ECS Funding Rates 2019/2020](#) (PDF, 85 KB)

Education Partners and Stakeholders have existing, or newly developed, position statements or policies that guide their feedback and submissions to Alberta Education on these topics.



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Polling Questions (and answer choices):

Q: Has your School Board provided information to parents related to the potential impact of Budget 2019 to your school(s) or division? **A: (choose one)** Yes No Unsure

Q: Has your school council discussed the impact of Budget 2019 to your school? **A: (choose one)** Yes No Not Yet We Likely Won't Unsure

Q: Has your school council discussed the impact of Budget 2019 to your school division? **A: (choose one)** Yes No Not Yet We Likely Won't Unsure

Q: Has your school council been made aware of any surpluses or reserves held by your division? **A: (choose one)** Yes, No, Not Yet, We Likely Won't, Unsure

Q: Is your school council aware of the division's plans for any surpluses or reserves it holds? **A: (choose one)** Yes, No, Not Yet, We Likely Won't, Our Division doesn't have any surpluses or reserves, Unsure

Q: As a result of Budget 2019, what impact(s) to your school does your school council expect to see in *this (2019-2020) school year*? **A: (choose all that apply)** Larger class sizes; fewer supports and/or resources for students requiring additional assistance; increased school fees; declining condition of physical school building; increased workload/stress for teachers/staff; increased student transportation fees; decline in student transportation services; increased student transportation ride times; unsure

Q: As a result of Budget 2019, and its implications for Budget 2020, what impact(s) to your school does your school council expect to see in the *2020-2021 school year*? **A: (choose all that apply)** Larger class sizes; fewer supports and/or resources for students requiring additional assistance; increased school fees; declining condition of physical school building; increased workload/stress for teachers/staff; increased student transportation fees; decline in student transportation services; increased student transportation ride times; unsure

Q: Has your school council engaged in discussions with your locally elected trustee or at a larger, divisional level, related to current funding framework challenges? **A: (choose one)** Yes No Not Yet We Likely Won't Unsure

Q: What changes to the existing funding framework would your school council like to see in a revised funding framework? **A: (Choose all that apply)**

- Greater ability for local decision makers to determine where funding is needed
- More flexibility to allocate funds in response to unique or local needs
- A reduction in restricted or targeted funding "envelopes"
- Enhanced requirements for divisions and/or principals to seek parent/school council/school community input before making funding/budget decisions, including increased processes for parents and/or school councils to effectively hold divisions accountable
- Portions of the funding remain in restricted or targeted "envelopes", with increased processes for parents and/or school councils to effectively hold divisions accountable



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Youth vaping, vaping legislation

Background (source: <https://www.alberta.ca/tobacco-and-smoking-reduction-review.aspx>):

To address the recent increase in vaping, smoking, and tobacco use – especially among youth –the provincial government is conducting a review of the *Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act*.

This review will help develop strategies to protect Albertans from the harms of tobacco, vaping and tobacco-like products (herbal shisha in hookah/waterpipe), and assess the effectiveness of current legislation, which does not address vaping.

They want to hear feedback on:

- gaps and issues with Alberta’s current tobacco control legislation
- possible changes in legislation to reduce harms related to the use of tobacco, vaping and tobacco-like products

Online survey - Provincial

Provide your feedback by taking the [online survey](#) until November 29, 2019.

In person stakeholder meetings

MLA Jeremy Nixon is visiting communities across the province in November, on behalf of the Minister of Health, to hear from health stakeholders or advocates, health experts and business owners/managers.

Meetings will be held in: Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray.

ASCA Directors will attend, or have attended, in person stakeholders where possible.

The ASCA Board of Directors is also seeking Member School Council input on this topic – as it relates to students and local school communities - through its [School Council Engagement Task Force](#). Results may help to form an official submission from ASCA.

Statements contained within the provincial survey:

Tobacco Smoking in Public

Exposure to second-hand smoke is a significant health risk. Evidence indicates that second-hand smoke contains more than 7000 chemicals and at least 70 of them can cause cancer. People who are exposed to second-hand smoke can have immediate and long-term health risks such as increased heart rate, less oxygen to the heart, lung cancer and other lung diseases, heart attacks and stroke.

To protect Albertans from second-hand smoke, smoking of tobacco is currently prohibited in public places, workplaces, public vehicles and within 5 meters of a doorway, window or air intake of a public place or workplace.

However, smoking of tobacco is currently allowed on school grounds, hospitals grounds, child care premises or in some other areas frequented by children (e.g., playgrounds, skateboard or bicycle parks). Smoking is currently allowed in designated rooms in hotels, motels and group living facilities (e.g., group homes, nursing homes).



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Vaping Tobacco/Nicotine Products or E-cigarettes

Vaping is not without risks. More research is needed to understand the health effects of vaping, but some evidence has shown that there are risks, such as lung damage, increased risk of heart attack, nicotine poisoning and addiction (particularly in youth) and other unknown health impacts.

Currently, Alberta's tobacco laws do not specifically address vaping products.

The federal *Tobacco and Vaping Products Act* (TVPA) regulates the manufacture, sale, labelling, packaging and certain forms of advertising and promotion of vaping products.

However, the federal vaping legislation currently has gaps that are predominantly provincial responsibilities.

To address these gaps, all other provinces (except Saskatchewan and Alberta) have introduced explicit vaping laws that provide additional protections such as restriction of public consumption, restrictions for location of sale, minimum age for sale, photo identification requirements and limits for advertising in stores.

In Alberta, teen vaping rates increased from 8% in 2014-15 to 22% in 2016-17, among students in grades 10 to 12.

Research indicates that vaping can model and normalize smoking behaviour among youth. Evidence indicates that youth who use vaping products with nicotine may become addicted and are at increased risk of becoming smokers.

Enforcement and Penalties

Alberta's tobacco enforcement activities are spread across different enforcement agencies, including peace and bylaw officers from municipalities and Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis (AGLC), municipal police services and RCMP. Most of them have limited ability to enforce tobacco laws because of their current capacity and other priorities.

Youth possession and use is the most frequently enforced component, likely due to the presence of school-based officers within law enforcement bodies. For other violations, enforcement actions are usually taken in response to complaints received by inspectors. Alberta currently does not have any designated agency to coordinate or oversee enforcement.

Alberta's tobacco legislation establishes penalties for not complying with requirements.

For example, selling tobacco to a minor or not complying with signage, display and advertisement requirements could result in a fine of up to \$10,000 for a first-time conviction and up to \$100,000 on second or subsequent violations.

Minors can also be penalized for possession of tobacco products with a fine of up to \$100.

Retail Environment

Retail environment can prevent initiation of smoking/vaping among youth and support retailers to comply with tobacco laws. Evidence indicates that actions that prevent tobacco sales to minors reduce smoking among youth.

Currently, there are tobacco product display, advertising and promotion restrictions at retail stores and sale of tobacco is prohibited in certain locations (e.g., health facility, pharmacy). In addition, store managers are required to comply with certain signage requirements (e.g., post sign indicating that it is illegal to sell tobacco products to minors).



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However, Alberta's tobacco laws allow underage store clerks to sell tobacco products. There is currently no provincial licensing system or mandatory training requirements for the retailers.

Most provinces (Ontario, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador) require retailers to be licensed. However, no province requires the tobacco retailers to take mandatory training to help them better understand tobacco laws. All provinces allow underage clerks to sell tobacco products.

Tobacco-like Products (Herbal Shisha in Hookah/Waterpipe)

Tobacco-like products include waterpipes (also known as hookahs), containing shisha and narghile.

Hookah/waterpipe/shisha use carries health risks for those who use it, and for those who are exposed to cancer-causing chemicals when waterpipe is used in public places, work places and other enclosed areas. In 2017, 8.6% of grade 7-12 students reported ever using hookah/waterpipes.

If the product contains tobacco, hookah/waterpipe smoking is prohibited in public places and workplaces. However, smoking herbal hookah/waterpipe products (without tobacco) is currently permitted in public places and workplaces (e.g., hookah/waterpipe establishments).

Alberta has legislative provisions (the *Tobacco Reduction Amendment Act* [TRAA]) that have not been proclaimed which would ban smoking herbal hookah/waterpipe products in public places or workplaces.

Five provinces (Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador) have banned hookah/waterpipe smoking in public places. Edmonton is considering banning hookah/waterpipe smoking in public establishments (as early as July 1, 2020) and Calgary has recently conducted a consultation on prohibiting hookah/waterpipe smoking in workplaces and specified public premises.

Polling Questions (and answer choices):

Q: Is *youth vaping* a concern in your local school community? **A: (choose one)** Yes, No, Unsure

Q: Will/did your school council encourage parents to provide a submission to the province's online survey?

A: (choose one) Yes, No, Unsure

Q: Has your school division taken steps to address this issue? **A: (choose one)** Yes No Unsure

Q: Does your school council support stricter provincial rules and regulations related to *youth vaping*?

A: (choose one) Yes No Unsure