



May 9, 2025

Via Email: [education.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:education.minister@gov.ab.ca)

Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides  
Minister of Education  
Office of the Minister, Education  
423 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Nicolaides,

On behalf of the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA), thank you once again for joining us at our recent online provincial Symposium April 26. We were pleased to welcome over 200 delegates from across Alberta, and your thoughtful remarks and engagement were greatly appreciated. Your willingness to answer questions and support parent learning from a range of inspiring leaders on education-related topics is valued by our membership.

During your address, ASCA delegates submitted several important questions for your response. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to have you answer each question live and we committed to providing them to you in writing, for your written response. Below are the questions exactly as submitted, without edits:

*What changes will be coming for base funding over the next 1–3 years, if there is a forward plan?*

*Do the increases in education dollars translate to increased funds for school divisions, or will they primarily cover enrolment growth and potential salary/benefit increases as negotiations proceed?*

*Hon. Min. Nicolaides, over the past 5 years, when accounting for inflation, Alberta Education capital spending for public and Catholic schools has decreased by 3% annually, while operational expenses also decreased 3% per year. Meanwhile, charter school capital expenses grew 20% annually, and operational expenses grew 15%. Why is investment shifting away from public and Catholic schools toward charter schools?*

*Will the provincial government increase wages for education professionals beyond a living wage?*

*Is there a plan to fully fund every student in Alberta? In my division, funding numbers have declined with the two-year moving average, yet many students remain unfunded.*

*How is the Alberta government investing in ongoing reconciliation education within the K–12 curriculum? Additionally, what mechanisms exist for parents and community members to formally suggest updates or revisions related to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives?*

*What grants or funding are available to help school divisions continue offering French Immersion, particularly in divisions with small class sizes and teacher shortages?*

*Are there alternatives to emailed surveys for collecting parent feedback?*

In addition to these, the following questions were asked and addressed during the live session, but require further follow-up:

*Will the public or school divisions see the results of the Mental Health in Schools Pilot Project? If so, when and through what means?*

*Can you clarify the decision to implement the new curriculum in "chunks" rather than by full grade levels, as historically done? This approach has reportedly caused content gaps between consecutive grades.*

Our AGM, held Sunday, April 27, began at 8:00 a.m. and ran for 10.5 hours. A total of 133 ASCA Member School Councils were represented, supported by approximately 50 colleagues and education partners and stakeholders. Enclosed, please find a copy of the Advocacy Resolutions presented at the 2025 AGM, including those adopted as official Advocacy Policy of the Association.

The ASCA Board and Executive are committed to sharing advice and insights gathered from Alberta's legislated school councils regarding current and upcoming Alberta Education initiatives. We believe a collaborative approach strengthens our education system and supports student success province wide.

As is customary, we would appreciate your comments and responses, which we will share with our Members. I would also be happy to answer any questions you may have or elaborate further on the matters raised.

The 2025 ASCA Advocacy Policy Manual is currently being updated and will be posted on our website as soon as available. Previously adopted policies may be found here:

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/the-parent-voice/advocacy>

We were also pleased to hold elections during the AGM. I am delighted to share that Meagan Parisian, a parent from the Red Deer Public School Division, has been elected ASCA Vice President for a one-year term. Additionally, Beverly McCool, a parent from the Grande Prairie Catholic School Division, has been elected to a two-year term as an ASCA Director.

In closing, I respectfully request a meeting with you before the end of June 2025. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity for myself, Vice President Meagan Parisian, and ASCA Executive Director Wendy Keiver to meet with you to discuss one or more of the newly adopted Advocacy Policies.

The ASCA Board of Directors also looks forward to extending a formal invitation for you to attend a portion of our September 2025 Board Meeting, closer to that time.

Thank you again, Minister Nicolaides. I look forward to your response and to the opportunity to meet soon.

Kind Regards,



Kenneth Glazebrook  
President

*Cc: Education Deputy Minister, Lora Pillipow; James Johnson, Chief of Staff to Minister Nicolaides; Melanie Gaudet, Scheduling Coordinator to Minister Nicolaides; ASCA Board; Wendy Keiver, Executive Director, ASCA.*