

## Choice in Education Act

The United Conservative Party (UCP) outlined in their [election platform](#) (page 57-60) a detailed [commitment to education](#) including one of 13 items, the following which indicates:

### 10. Affirm parental choice through a Choice in Education Act.

Alberta has a strong legacy of diversity in education. A UCP government will uphold the established right of parents to choose the education setting best suited for their children including: public, separate, charter, independent, alternative and home education programs.

A UCP government will:

- Introduce a Choice in Education Act which will
  - Affirm parents have primary responsibility for the education of their children
  - Add to the preamble of the Education Act recognition of Section 26.3 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which states that “Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.”
  - Protect the status and funding of independent schools in legislation given that they save the public education system \$168 million annually.
- Facilitate the creation and operation of new charter schools by
  - Lifting the cap on the number of charter schools
  - Lifting charter school enrolment caps
  - Allowing charter schools to own property
  - Treat charter schools as priorities above other possible uses for surplus public-school infrastructure
- Support and encourage an expansion of alternative programs in the public system
- Respect the constitutional right to separate schools
- Maintain funding for independent schools and home schoolers at current levels
- Encourage the sharing of busing and infrastructure where appropriate, while respecting the distinctive nature of both systems
- Amend the Education Act to implement the Leadership Quality Standards
- Ensure that requests from parents for blended homeschool programs are facilitated