**School Councils Stand for Education Hopeful Conversations**

Share a hopeful vision for public education generated by discussions in advance of the 2023 provincial election.

*Share your wisdom and create a hopeful vision for public education in Alberta!*

The Alberta School Councils’ Association (ASCA) is asking all school councils, regardless of ASCA membership status, to participate in the Stand for Education public engagement process to gather input from parents, educators, and others in the school community.

*We want to hear from school councils about the top changes they would like to see the Alberta government make to improve education!*

ASCA is working with the Alberta Teachers’ Association to collect and analyze public feedback. Based on the input received, a bold, hopeful vision for education will be developed, shared publicly, and used to engage all political parties in the lead-up to the provincial election in May, 2023.

ASCA is asking school councils to include a short, facilitated discussion (15 - 20 minutes) at an upcoming school council meeting about possible solutions to improve education for your child and/or school.

**Potential discussion points can be found on the next page.**

*(Content adapted from* [*https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/education-in-alberta/our-alberta-teachers/school-councils-conversations*](https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/education-in-alberta/our-alberta-teachers/school-councils-conversations)*, as retrieved January 18 2023.)*

**Possible Discussion Points**

* **What actions would you recommend to the Alberta government to improve education for your child(ren) and the school? What would be your #1 priority?**
  + Early childhood level
    - Speech and language services?
    - Full time kindergarten? (currently half-time)
    - New Kindergarten curriculum for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Physical Education/Wellness in 22-23
    - Something else?
  + Younger elementary students Gr 1-3
    - Learning disruption funding (LDF) last year and this year for literacy and numeracy
    - Mandatory government screener tests three times per year to determine LDF
    - Speech and language services?
    - New Grade 1-3 curriculum for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Physical Education/Wellness in 22-23
    - Something else?
  + Older elementary students Gr 4-6
    - earning disruption funding for grade 4 along with mandatory screener tests for literacy and numeracy
    - Speech and language services?
    - New Grade 4-6 curriculum for Physical Education/Wellness in 22-23
    - Proposed new curriculum for 2023-2024 for English Language Arts & Mathematics
    - Final Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Test is on the last day of school this year (Science in AM)
    - Something else?
  + School Overall
    - Alberta government sent per student funding for all Ukrainian newcomer students who arrived this year (normally no funding is given for new students to a school after September 30 cut off)
    - Students with complex needs - physically, cognitively, behaviourally - need to be grouped together in threes to be able to support the cost of an educational assistant
    - Educational assistant average wage and info: (Source: <https://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo/occupations-in-alberta/occupation-profiles/educational-assistant/>):
      * Average Salary: $26,388
      * Average wage: $20.58
      * Employed: 14,600
      * In Demand: Lower
      * Minimum Education: 1 year post-secondary
      * Outlook: average