

Minister's Youth Council

Fact Sheet

General Information for Students

Minister's Youth Council Overview

The Minister's Youth Council is a group of approximately 40 Alberta junior and senior high students, aged 14 to 19, who provide input to the Minister of Education and government on provincial education initiatives. The council members bring diverse interests, identities, backgrounds and perspectives from all across Alberta.

Member Expectations

The Minister's Youth Council has an important role in the education system. Working at the provincial level, all council members will:

- be active and responsible members;
- attend all meetings;
- share diverse student perspectives with the Minister of Education;
- work with one another and Alberta Education staff to provide input on education topics

Member Time Commitment

Council members will serve a 10-month term, aligned with the school year. They will attend three meetings to be held:

- Fall 2021
- Winter 2022
- Spring 2022

Note: Dates to be determined and are subject to change.

Each meeting will begin Friday evening and run through to Monday afternoon (possibly evening). Additionally, council members may meet virtually and collaborate between in-person meetings.

Meeting Locations

In-person meetings will be held in Edmonton at the Bennett Centre*, bennettcentre.epsb.ca.

Overnight accommodations, meals and snacks, meeting rooms and outdoor activity areas are provided by the Bennett Centre.

Please note: parents and students will be notified of activities occurring off-site. These activities will be scheduled and planned in advance.

*Though the preference is to meet in person, COVID-19 safety precautions will be taken as required, which may necessitate virtual meetings. All decisions will be made in accordance with provincial health directives and local requirements.

Travel Arrangements

All travel and accommodation needs will be handled by the Government of Alberta. The government will book and pay for your travel.

School or school district representatives are not required to accompany or chaperone council members.

Chaperone Commitment

An adult chaperone will meet you when you arrive in Edmonton and ensure you get to the Bennett Centre safely. At the end of the meeting on Monday, an adult chaperone will accompany you to the airport or bus station for your return home.

Government of Alberta staff, including certificated teachers, will provide supervision at all times. There will be one adult chaperone for every eight students.

Guidelines and Expectations to Ensure Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Environments

All council members and their parents or legal guardians will be made aware of expectations for student behavior and conduct, including the responsible use of digital technologies.

Council members will receive information to understand their responsibilities and, with their parents or legal guardians, be required to sign an acknowledgment of behavior and conduct expectations.

Meeting Expectations

Council members will work with the Minister and government staff to provide input on topics that impact students. As council members, students may act as planners, advisors, researchers, participants, respondents, facilitators and presenters.

School District Representation

The members of the Minister's Youth Council will form a representative group of Alberta students, not of their school districts.

Request for Additional Supports and Services

Accommodations will be provided by government staff, according to your specific situation.

Free Time

For in-person meetings, all council members will remain at the Bennett Centre throughout each meeting from Friday evening through to Monday. In addition to council work, a variety of recreational

activities may be included. Supervision will be provided at all times.

Some activities may take place off-site. These will be scheduled and planned in advance.

Next Steps

The selected council members will be notified by summer 2021. Information packages will be sent to council members, and their parents or legal guardians, with more information to help prepare for the meetings.

Application Process for the Minister's Youth Council

Application Information

There is a link to the application package online at alberta.ca/student-engagement.aspx.

The process includes 3 steps for you to complete:

1. Read this fact sheet carefully to understand the role and responsibilities of the Minister's Youth Council.
2. Share the information and discuss your interest to apply with your parents or legal guardians. If you are younger than 18 years old, your application must include signed parent/guardian consent.
3. Complete the application package online and click on the submit button.

If you are unable to complete the application online, download the PDF application package and complete it. Mail the completed package to:

Alberta Education
Government of Alberta
Attention: Strategic Engagement Branch
6th Floor, 44 Capital Boulevard
10044 – 108 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 5E6

Application Deadline

Application packages must be submitted online or by mail and received or postmarked by **March 24, 2021**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Application Time Commitment

Please plan to spend a few hours to work on your application to ensure it is the best possible and most accurate representation of yourself. This is the information used for the selection process.

Applying for a Friend

Each applicant must complete and submit their own application.

Application Question Limit

There is a limit to how many characters you can use for each question. Please be as concise as possible.

Withdrawing from the Council

If you feel you are unable to meet your obligations to the council, contact us at 780-289-1352, or email edc.studentengagement@gov.ab.ca. We do not replace students who withdraw from the council.

Re-Applying

If you had applied and were not selected in previous years, you are welcome to apply as long as you will be attending junior or senior high school in Alberta and are between 14 and 19 years old as of September 1, 2021.

Selection Process for the Minister's Youth Council

After the application deadline of March 24, 2021, government staff will review and evaluate the applications received.

Open, Transparent and Inclusive Selection Process

The minister is committed to a transparent process for selecting council members.

To ensure the selection process is open, transparent and inclusive, students will be selected for the council based on:

- **Diversity:** Recruitment and selection processes will honour and promote diversity on the council.
- **Competency:** The criteria for selecting council members will be based on creating a council that, collectively, has the skill-set and the mind-set needed to meet the needs and intent of the council as a whole. If you can demonstrate a passion for education and a strong desire to share your voice, you are encouraged to apply.
- **Consistency:** Recruitment and selection processes will be applied consistently for all individuals selected by the provincial selection team to the council.
- **Transparency & Openness:** The recruitment and selection process will be clear, publicly available and communicated to students, parents, teachers and our education partners. The Minister will take steps to ensure as many students as possible are invited to apply to the council and that the final 40 students selected for the council will be disclosed to the public.

Selection of the Minister's Youth Council

For this council to be meaningful, the minister needs a team of students with a broad and diverse range of life experiences, knowledge and skills.

To help with your application, here are some qualities, knowledge and skills the minister hopes to see. You may also identify other qualities and the minister is interested in hearing about those, too. Remember, her goal is to have a well-rounded Minister's Youth Council that can provide her with advice about the education experience in Alberta.

Interview Overview

You will be asked more questions related to your relevant experience and knowledge, and personal effectiveness skills. The interview will be a phone or video conference and be under 30 minutes in length.

Relevant Experience and Knowledge	
Your experience and knowledge	You have a unique perspective. You have life experience that gives you insight into what it means to be human and can use that insight to influence others. You value people and ideas. You are curious about the world around you and you take action to learn more.
Commitment to community	You have experience contributing to the community. It could be your school community or communities outside of school. You may have influenced students, parents, teachers, principals or community members to take positive action.
Personal Effectiveness Skills	
Leadership and Teamwork Skills	You have a demonstrated ability to inspire, motivate and offer direction and leadership to others. You can demonstrate an understanding of the importance of teamwork. This may include an ability to inspire a shared vision for a better world, the skill of recognizing and valuing the contributions of others and or a demonstrated ability to support the success of a group when you are not the leader You might have some experience with leading a group, a club or a team. You might lead a team at work or in a volunteer capacity.

After Applications are Reviewed

Applicants will be selected to be interviewed. If you are chosen to proceed to this second stage of the selection process, you, and your parents or legal guardians, will be contacted.

Interview Preparation

Most importantly, be yourself. Similar to your completed application, we want to learn as much as we can about your unique interests, identities, background and perspectives to create a diverse Minister's Youth Council.

Notification of Selection

The students chosen as council members will be contacted in spring 2021. All applicants will receive notification the process has been completed and the council has been selected.

Financial Information

There is no pay associated with being a member. However, all meal, accommodation and travel costs will be covered by the Government of Alberta when you attend the meetings.

Information for Parents and Legal Guardians

Personal Information and Privacy

As stated in the collection notice included at the bottom of each page of the application package, the personal information provided by students in this application will be used for two purposes:

- selecting members of the Minister's Youth Council and
- administering the Minister's Youth Council program, including communicating with members of the Minister's Youth Council about events.

Publication of Personal Information

This information is included in the authorization and declaration form that is included in the application package. By signing, parents or guardians

understand that if their child is selected to participate in the Minister's Youth Council a public profile limited to name, school authority and hometown will be publicly disclosed by the Alberta government through newsletters, news releases, websites, and social media accounts to promote and advertise the Minister's Youth Council and its activities.

Parental Consent

You will receive detailed information prior to the first meeting. Your consent is required for your child to participate in the meetings.

Parental Attendance

Parents may not attend the meetings. You may travel with your child before and after the Minister's Youth Council meetings; however, you will have to assume all costs for your own travel and accommodation (hotel, meals).

Adult Supervision

Adult supervisors will be present throughout the meeting from Friday evening through to Monday afternoon. The ratio of supervisors to students will be one to every eight students. Council members will be required to remain onsite at all times.

Unsupervised Time and Off Site Allowance

Adult supervisors will be onsite from Friday evening through to Monday afternoon. Students will not be permitted to leave the site.

Request for Additional Supports and Services

Accommodations will be provided by government staff, according to your specific situation.