

Bill 35, the Education and Childcare (Securing Parental Involvement) Statutes Amendment Act, 2026 – Education

Overview

Alberta's government is proposing amendments to the *Education Act* to strengthen accountability and improve transparency for parents across Alberta's education system.

The proposed changes would provide parents and families with clearer and more consistent information about how progress and achievement is reported, greater visibility into non-instructional school days and consistency in how school authorities receive and manage parent inquiries about unresolved disputes or concerns.

Providing clearer information about student learning

Establishing provincial report card standards

The proposed amendments would enable the Minister of Education and Childcare to establish standards for report cards issued by school authorities to improve consistency in how progress and achievement are reported across public and separate school boards and Francophone regional authorities.

Proposed amendments would not prescribe a single provincial report card format or reporting platform. School authorities would continue to have flexibility in report card formats, reporting platforms, local implementation and the use of existing systems.

Report card practices currently vary across school authorities, and the *Education Act* does not provide authority to establish province-wide standards. The proposed changes provide the Minister with authority to establish standards for the issuance of report cards through Ministerial Order and require applicable school authorities to meet those standards.

Increasing transparency about non-instructional school days

Reporting on non-instructional operational days

Public and separate school boards, Francophone regional authorities, charter school operators and accredited independent school operators would be required to make information about activities conducted on non-instructional operational days publicly available.

A non-instructional operational day is a full or partial day during the school year when students are not attending school, no instruction is provided and schools remain in operation. Examples include professional development days and preparation days before the start or after the end of the school year.

This will help parents better understand how schools use these days to support student success. School authorities would be required to publicly disclose information within 60 calendar days of each non-instructional operational day.

School authorities are not currently required to publicly report how these days are used. Specific requirements about form and manner, including what information must be publicly disclosed, would be established through Ministerial Order.

Helping parents and families address unresolved disputes and concerns

Establishing more consistent processes

If passed, the proposed amendments would require public and separate school boards, Francophone regional authorities and charter school operators to develop and implement processes to receive and manage inquiries from parents regarding disputes or concerns that remain unresolved after existing school-level processes have been followed.

Parents would continue to be expected to raise concerns through school-level processes first and, where appropriate, through school authority processes. Responsibility for resolving individual disputes and concerns would remain with schools and school authorities.

Existing school-level, school board appeal and Ministerial review processes under the *Education Act* would remain unchanged. The proposed amendments would establish a more consistent approach for receiving and managing inquiries about unresolved disputes or concerns and provide the Minister with authority to establish applicable structures, functions and service standards through Ministerial Order.

Strengthening oversight of public school naming

The legislation would also amend *An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms and Amend the Education Act, 2026*, to require public school boards to obtain ministerial approval before beginning a process to name or rename a school building it owns. Once approval is granted, boards could continue local engagement and decision-making related to school naming and renaming.

Supporting implementation

Three Ministerial Orders would support implementation by establishing:

- provincial standards for the issuance of report cards;
- public information requirements for non-instructional operational day activities; and
- structures, functions and service standards applicable to school authorities in developing and implementing processes to receive and manage inquiries from parents about unresolved disputes or concerns.

Next steps

If passed, the proposed *Education Act* amendments would come into force on proclamation, anticipated to occur in time for the 2027-28 school year.

Alberta Education and Childcare would work with school authorities to support implementation. Further information on the anticipated Ministerial Orders would be provided in advance of the 2027-28 school year.