

Alberta's education system

Kindergarten to Grade 12

Education system, school and grade structure

In Canada, each provincial and territorial ministry establishes, funds, and operates its own education system. Alberta's education system includes several types of school authorities, giving educators and families a wide range of educational choices, based on their goals and interests.

School authorities, schools and students in Alberta

School type	Authorities	Schools	Students/Children
Public	42	1576	538,872
Separate	17	436	193,579
Francophone	4	49	10,327
Charter	36	58	17,909
Independent school	166	236	49,726
Independent ECS Operator	91	138	8,633
Provincial	51	100	1,202
Federal-First Nations	34	84	14,056
Federal	-	-	785

A student's education journey

GRADES	AGE	CATEGORY
Kindergarten	4-5	Pre-school
1-6	6-12	Elementary
7-9	12-15	Junior high
10-12	15-18	Senior high

Student population by grade

GRADE	STUDENT POPULATION
Kindergarten	67,815
Grade 1	58,439
Grade 2	59,474
Grade 3	61,857
Grade 4	63,913
Grade 5	61,252
Grade 6	63,989
Grade 7	62,531
Grade 8	63,325
Grade 9	62,357
Grade 10	62,851
Grade 11	63,855
Grade 12	83,431

Our educator community

The data represents the age range of teachers and teacher leaders (e.g. principals and superintendents)

Teacher age in Alberta

<25	4 per cent
25-29	12 per cent
30-34	14 per cent
35-39	15 per cent
40-44	17 per cent
45-49	15 per cent
50-54	14 per cent
55+	9 per cent

Source: Spring 2026 school authority data submission for Alberta certificated teachers

Education staff position breakdown

Alberta's education system employs teaching, support staff and administration positions. Examples of administration positions include superintendent and principal. Examples of support positions include teachers employed as a guidance counsellor, librarian, early childhood services coordinator or work experience coordinator.

Certificated staff (teachers and teacher leaders) were employed in public, separate, francophone, charter and independent school authorities in the 2025/26 school year. The data is based on their spring 2026 employment submissions.

Full time employment numbers differ from the department's consolidated financial statements because data may be collected at different times during the school year.

Position category	Number
Administration	5,278
Teaching	47,109
Support	2,582

Source: Spring 2026 school authority data submission for Alberta certificated teachers (headcount).

French-language programming

In the 2025/26 school year, there were 822,120 students in Alberta. 24% of Alberta's student population were enrolled in French-language programming.

School type	Number of students enrolled
Francophone	10,329
French immersion	45,917
French as a second language	140,495

Standardized curriculum and testing

Curriculum in Alberta is provincially standardized, meaning students across the province learn the same knowledge and skills in core subjects and receive the same quality education regardless of where they attend school. Students in Alberta also participate in provincial assessments and screeners at key stages of their education journey.

- K-5: Literacy and numeracy screening
- Grades 6 & 9: Provincial Achievement Tests
- Grade 12: Diploma exams

Literacy and numeracy screening | K-5

Screenings in kindergarten to Grade 5 help government, school authorities, and schools track successes, and ensure students develop critical foundational knowledge in literacy and numeracy in the early years of their education.

Provincial Achievement Tests | Grades 6 and 9

These assessments measure student achievement in relation to Alberta's curriculum and provincial learning standards.

Diploma exams | Grade 12

Students enrolled in Grade 12 courses write provincial diploma exams to help measure their achievement against provincial standards. The results are used to certify individual student achievement and to report results for students, school authorities and the province.

Student performance

Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) 2023 results

Subject	Science	Reading	Mathematics
Alberta's rank among Canadian jurisdictions	1	2	3

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022 results

Alberta has participated in PISA, a study led by the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#), since it was first performed in 2000. 15-year-old students in Alberta consistently have some of the highest achievement scores nationally and among participating nations.

ALBERTA'S GLOBAL RANK

	Reading	Mathematics	Science
2015	3	11	2
2018	3	9	4
2022	2	7	2
2025	3	11	8

Alberta accredited international schools program

Alberta's government works with international organizations to enable them to offer the Alberta curriculum to students. There are 15 accredited schools around the world.

See the [Alberta accredited international schools 2025/26 map](#).