



# Community Engagement on Social Studies Curriculum

## What is curriculum?

Curriculum equips students with the foundational knowledge and skills to meaningfully participate in and contribute to society now and in the future. Provincial curriculum sets the standards for student achievement through learning outcomes which define what students are expected to know, understand and be able to do in each subject and grade.

## Why are we engaging on Social Studies curriculum?

We heard clearly from Albertans that the province needs a strengthened approach for developing and engaging on curriculum, particularly Social Studies. We are returning to Albertans with an open, transparent and collaborative engagement process that reflects what we've heard.

Education stakeholders, community partners and Albertans are keenly interested in curriculum development and implementation, and we want to ensure their perspectives are considered throughout the development process.

## What work has been done so far?

Alberta is renewing the K-12 curriculum, starting with K-6. To see an overview of how we got here, visit [Alberta.ca/curriculum](https://alberta.ca/curriculum).

Curriculum development is also informed by:

- research on teaching and learning,
- best practices from other jurisdictions nationally and internationally,
- feedback from engagements, and
- work with education stakeholders and community partners.

Draft K-6 curriculum in eight subjects was developed in 2020 and released for engagement in March 2021. Extensive revisions were made to the draft curriculum based on feedback from public surveys, virtual feedback sessions, and stakeholder reports.

As of September 2023, new curriculum has been successfully implemented for:

- K-6 Physical Education & Wellness
- K-6 English Language Arts & Literature
- K-6 Mathematics
- K-3 Science
- K-3 French First Language Arts & Literature
- K-3 French Immersion Language Arts & Literature

In the 2023/24 school year, schools also have the option to implement grades 4-6 Science, French First Language & Literature and French Immersion Language Arts & Literature.

Updated K-6 Social Studies curriculum has not been implemented in Alberta schools. Education partners and Albertans will have an opportunity to provide feedback on a new draft K-6 Social Studies curriculum before it is ready to be tested in classrooms through piloting and then implemented across the province.

## Get involved

Share your perspective on Social Studies Curriculum

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Albertans, including parent groups and community organizations, can use the discussion guide to facilitate conversations about K-6 Social Studies curriculum before completing the survey on [Alberta.ca/curriculum](https://alberta.ca/curriculum).

**The survey will remain open until October 16, 2023.**

## **Social Studies**

Social studies is an interdisciplinary subject area that includes content about history, geography, economics, government, and civics. Social studies education can build active, informed, and responsible citizens who contribute to their communities and are knowledgeable about rights, responsibilities, and decision-making.

Developing critical thinking skills is an important part of social studies education. Social studies can provide students with transferrable skills needed to question assumptions, and make informed decisions as active participants in society.

Social studies is the study of people in relation to each other and to their world. Social studies education can provide students with knowledge about Canada and the world.

## **Next steps**

Survey results, along with feedback from diverse education partners and research into best practices, will be used to inform the development of draft K-6 Social Studies curriculum before it is released for further engagement with Albertans and education partners in winter 2024.

In the 2024/25 school year, teachers will have an opportunity to pilot draft K-6 Social Studies curriculum in classrooms and provide further feedback. Alberta Education will carefully consider feedback from all engagement activities and classroom piloting to finalize the new curriculum.