



Office of the Minister

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E-MAILED
July 26/01

Ms. Catherine Wilson
Board Chair
Medicine Hat Public School Division
601 - 1 Avenue SW
Medicine Hat AB T1A 4Y7

Dear Ms. Wilson: *Catherine,*

Thank you for your letter regarding draft Kindergarten to Grade 6 (K-6) curriculum. I apologize for the delay in my response.

I appreciate you expressing Medicine Hat Public School Division's commitment to maintaining effective relationships with government and advocating for Alberta's students.

Parents have been clear that they expect Alberta's education system to provide their children with a strong foundation of essential knowledge and skills. That is what the new draft curriculum delivers. It follows the evidence from jurisdictions from around the world that have surged ahead in world rankings. The new draft curriculum builds on the previous curriculum in using a common structure for all subjects, but now it incorporates the latest evidence from cognitive science about what works best for children.

Alberta Education brought together more than 100 teachers in a K-6 Curriculum Working Group to review the draft curriculum and provide feedback based on their expertise and experience working with students in classrooms. The group had a balanced mix of teachers from public, separate, francophone, charter, independent and First Nations schools to reflect the diversity of Alberta's classrooms. These teachers considered the developmental appropriateness, the amount and nature of the content in each grade and subject and the learning progression students will experience.

The new draft K-6 curriculum provides clear, specific details about the knowledge and foundational skills that all elementary students must learn in each subject and grade. The new draft provides students with the same knowledge-rich content and foundation of shared factual knowledge. Evidence shows that children arrive at school with different amounts of background knowledge. A knowledge-rich curriculum helps to raise all children to the same level of excellence.

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As you are aware, Alberta Education is currently in the midst of a yearlong review process during which parents, education partners and Albertans will be able to provide their input on the draft curriculum. In fall 2021, school divisions that have opted in will begin piloting the draft curriculum. Feedback gathered over the next year will be critical as we work to refine the curriculum before final implementation in 2022.

The opportunity to provide feedback includes providing grants to support partner groups—such as the College of Alberta School Superintendents and the Alberta School Boards Association—to facilitate engagement on the draft K-6 curriculum across a wide range of education stakeholders. This process will enable a consistent and co-ordinated engagement approach with educational communities so their unique perspectives can be heard and provided to Alberta Education by January 2022. More information will be made available in the fall.

It is important to understand the perspectives of all our school authorities in order to refine the draft curriculum before it is implemented province-wide. The public survey is open to gather valuable input. The online survey can be found at alberta.ca/curriculum-have-your-say. We also welcome your feedback through further correspondence, a virtual meeting or a phone call. The feedback from stakeholders, the public survey and the classroom pilot will be considered as part of the K-6 curriculum review process before the curriculum is implemented across the province.

Ministry staff working on curriculum would also be happy to meet with members of your school division to discuss your feedback further. I encourage you to contact Jennifer Cassidy, Executive Director of Curriculum Coordination and Implementation, to discuss opportunities to provide additional feedback. She can be reached at jennifer.cassidy@gov.ab.ca or 587-783-0864 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

Sincerely,



Adriana LaGrange
Minister

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JUL 26 2021

Medicine Hat
Public School Division