



Dec. 16, 2025

Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides
Minister of Education and Childcare
228 Legislative Building
10800-97 Ave.
Edmonton, AB. T5K 2B6

Dear Honourable Minister Nicolaides:

On behalf of the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA), I am writing to share our perspective, as we've heard from several member boards, on the upcoming Alberta Education System Review conducted by MNP. Echoed by multiple school boards across the province, only superintendents at school divisions received the communication about the review—board chairs were not included.

What has dismayed and confused trustees is the continual feeling of school boards being circumvented in governance matters, such as the Alberta Education System Review. Public school boards are on the front lines of delivering education in Alberta's diverse and complex classrooms. Our insights, grounded in operational expertise, student outcomes and system-wide knowledge, are critical to ensuring government actions reflect the realities of the education system. We bring a perspective that balances efficiency, equity and student success—insights that no other stakeholder can provide at the same level of depth and experience.

Without engaging school boards meaningfully, actions do not reflect the local context and there is no route for collaboration together. We invite your government to engage public school boards on what we are doing or not doing so we can work together collaboratively to find solutions. The first step would be the provincial government sharing the Terms of Reference of the Alberta Education System Review with school boards. When excluded from the conversation, no meaningful engagement can take place, and the purpose of trustees is put into question. This erosion of public confidence in school boards cannot stand.

School boards are committed to evaluation through an ongoing focus on local system improvement—a responsibility stated in section 31(1)(h) of the *Education Act*, “A board, as a partner in education, has the responsibility to establish and maintain governance and organizational structures that promote student well-being and success, and monitor and evaluate their effectiveness.” The PSBAA welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the Ministry and gather input from our member boards related to system improvement.



I look forward to discussing this further at our meeting on December 19.

Sincerely,

L Stewart

Lorraine Stewart
President, Public School Boards' Association of Alberta

cc: Lora Pillipow, Deputy Minister of Education and Childcare
James Johnson, Chief of Staff, Minister of Education and Childcare
Board of Directors, PSBAA
Troy Tait, CEO, PSBAA
Member Boards, PSBAA