

## about the alberta school boards association

Established in 1907, the Alberta School Boards Association is celebrating its 100th year of service to the province's 62 school boards. Membership in the ASBA is voluntary – every francophone, public and separate school board in the province is a member of the ASBA. As well as serving school boards in Alberta, membership has been extended to the publicly supported school systems in the cities of Yellowknife and Lloydminster.

### How much are the membership fees?

---

School boards set the membership fees at the Spring General Meeting. Annual fees range from \$8,600 per board to \$214,000 per board. Visit the ASBA website at [www.asba.ab.ca/policy\\_framework/downloads/pdf/fees\\_07\\_08.pdf](http://www.asba.ab.ca/policy_framework/downloads/pdf/fees_07_08.pdf) for the fee schedule.

### What does the ASBA do?

---

The ASBA offers school boards

- the powerful advocacy opportunities that present themselves when school boards unite to lobby on behalf of the province's students and the communities they serve
- the services of a team of lawyers, negotiators and consultants, well versed in the culture of school boards, who are available to help with unique local challenges
- exclusive access to a suite of insurance, employee benefit and pension plans designed especially for school boards and their employees
- opportunities to network and learn at two annual meetings, regular Zone (regional) meetings and provincial issues forums
- timely information about emerging trends in education



ASBA Executive Director David Anderson has worked for the association since 1995.

## Through the ASBA, school boards may...

1. **Hire, on a fee-for-service basis**, ASBA lawyers, labour relations, educational and communications consultants for help with complex local issues. Some of the services the ASBA staff and consultants provide are:

### **Educational governance**

School board orientation: role of the board/role of the superintendent  
Administrative and governance issue reviews  
Board evaluations  
Business meeting procedures  
Conflict resolution  
Executive officer recruitment  
Policy advisory documents  
Planning and policy making  
Superintendent evaluations  
Team building

### **Labour**

Attendance management  
Employee discipline and corrective action  
Advice on corrective action and discipline  
Arbitration board appointments  
Collective agreement analysis, interpretation and research

Collective bargaining planning, advice and assistance  
Grievance advice and assistance  
Job classification advice, assistance and design  
Labour legislation analysis and interpretation  
Labour/employee relations training and facilitation

### **Legal**

Boards of reference  
Constitutional matters  
Contracts and policy review  
Grievance arbitration  
Human rights complaints  
Interpretation of legislation  
Labour and employment matters  
Litigation at all levels of court

### **Custom services**

The ASBA welcomes board requests for services other than those listed above. These may be provided on a custom basis. Contact ASBA Executive Director David Anderson at 1.780.451.7109 or [danderson@asba.ab.ca](mailto:danderson@asba.ab.ca).

### **Fee-for-service rates for 2007-2008**

Communications \$145/hr  
Education services \$175/hr  
Labour services \$145/hr  
Legal services \$175/hr

2. **Join employee benefit, insurance and pension plans** developed to respond to the unique needs of an educational setting
  - The Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan – available only to school boards who are members of the association
  - The Alberta School Boards' Insurance Exchange – an insurance program tailored to meet the needs of school boards
  - The Supplemental integrated Pension Plan – available to school boards who choose to participate

**3. Receive specialized research and information** to help them do their work locally including:

- *Labour relations research*: The ASBA keeps school boards up to date about collective bargaining by providing reports describing ratified settlements, salary levels, salary increases and settlement trends. Yearly, the ASBA produces a management compensation report, a teacher distribution report and a trustee remuneration report.
- *Communications Now*: The ASBA produces a monthly package of public relations and communications tips tailored to school and school board issues.
- *Hot News*: This e-letter provides school boards with information about emerging issues and news in education.

Make the ASBA website [www.asba.ab.ca](http://www.asba.ab.ca) your first stop for information about the association and the work it does on behalf of school boards.

**4. Learn from and network with school trustees** across the province by attending the ASBA's two annual meetings, regional meetings in each of the five Zones and by participating in issues forums which explore emerging issues of relevance to school boards as decision-makers.

## How is the ASBA governed?

---

### Who sets ASBA policy?

School boards set the policies that guide the work of the association and the ASBA Board of Directors in its decision-making. Generally, school boards make decisions about association policy at the Fall General Meeting. Policy may also be discussed the Spring General Meeting. The association's governance handbook is posted on the ASBA website at [www.asba.ab.ca/policy\\_framework/policies.html](http://www.asba.ab.ca/policy_framework/policies.html).

Because general meetings occur only twice a year, school boards have authorized the ASBA Board of Directors to direct the business and affairs of the association with the exception of the following decisions which rest exclusively with school boards attending a general meeting:

- Electing the president and vice-president
- Setting the association's annual budget
- Assessing membership fees
- Amending bylaws and requesting amendments to the constitution
- Setting policies and directives for action

Between general meetings, the ASBA Board of Directors may adopt interim policy positions; however these are subject to ratification by school boards at the next general meeting.

## Who governs the ASBA?

A 12-member board of directors governs the association.

This board is made up of

- President – elected by the whole membership
- Vice-president – elected by the whole membership
- Six Zone directors – elected by the Zone
- Four metro board representatives – elected by each metro board:  
Calgary Catholic, Calgary Public, Edmonton Catholic and Edmonton Public

**Note:** Representatives of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association, the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta and the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophone de l'Alberta attend ASBA Board of Directors meetings in a non-voting capacity. The ASBA Board of Directors meets monthly. Board of directors meetings are open to all trustees. The meeting schedule is on the ASBA website at [www.asba.ab.ca/calendar/calendar.asp](http://www.asba.ab.ca/calendar/calendar.asp).



## What is the legal mandate of the ASBA?

The mandate and work of the ASBA are enshrined in legislation – the Alberta School Boards Association Act. This legislation sets out the objectives, powers and purposes of the ASBA.

- a to consider and deal with matters relating to education and school administration in Alberta with a view to the betterment of education for the benefit of the public;
- b to provide a medium for expression of the views and suggestions of the school boards of Alberta on matters pertaining to education;
- c to render advice and assistance to its members on matters affecting them;
- d to enter into arrangements for the provision of group benefits to its members and employees and the members and employees of other educational associations;
- e to co-operate with educational associations in Canada in matters of national educational interest;
- f to promote the interest of school districts and school divisions throughout Alberta;
- g to bring about, for the advancement and betterment of education in Alberta,
  - 1 the economical and efficient administration of the affairs of school districts and school divisions, and
  - 2 the economical and efficient performance of all duties undertaken by or imposed on school districts or school divisions;
- h to co-operate for the promotion, guidance and improvement of legislation on educational and school questions;
- i generally, to do all acts and things that appear to the association conducive to the good and welfare of
  - 1 education in Alberta, or
  - 2 any one or more school districts or school divisions, and
- j to do and perform all acts and things incidental to and necessary for the purpose of effecting any of the objects set out in this section.



## ASBA Foundation Statements

Over the last decade, school boards developed these foundation statements to articulate the association's mandate, mission and vision statements and guiding principles.

### **Mission Statement** *(Adopted SGM 2000)*

Promoting excellence in public education

### **Mandate** *(Adopted SGM 2000)*

The Alberta School Boards Association is a province-wide organization of locally elected school boards. Providing leadership focused on continuous improvement of the public education system, the Alberta School Boards Association:

- Advocates provincially and nationally on public education issues, with a strong voice, on behalf of locally elected school boards.
- Provides timely, well-researched information on public education issues to school boards.
- Encourages networking and interaction among school boards and stakeholders on education issues.
- Works with other provincial organizations, national education organizations and governments to improve public education.
- Provides services to school boards.

### **Vision Statement** *(Adopted SGM 2000)*

- ASBA is a respected and influential provincial association of locally elected school boards.
- ASBA supports publicly elected school boards in their efforts to ensure that students in Alberta have the opportunity to reach their highest potential.
- ASBA is the leading voice advocating for public education in Alberta.
- ASBA is energized by the enthusiastic participation of its members.

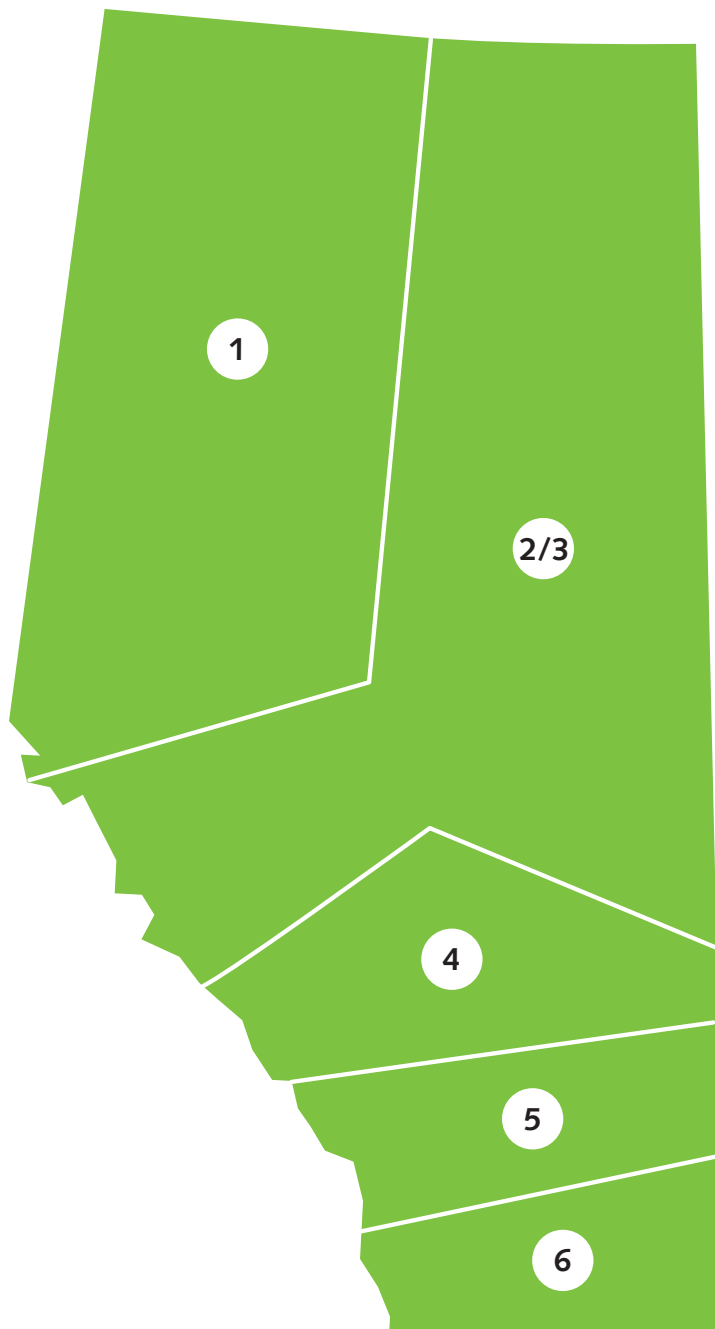
### **Guiding Principles** *(Adopted FGM 2000)*

Guiding principles are high level directional statements that define the Alberta School Boards Association's values and parameters.

- Public education – public, separate and francophone jurisdictions – must be governed by locally elected school boards.
- School boards must have the autonomy to make decisions in the best interests of the students and communities they serve.
- School boards must have access to equitable long-term stable funding to fulfill the mandate of educating their students. A portion of this funding must come from property taxes. *(Amended and Reaffirmed SGM 2007)*
- Direct access to the local property tax base and the ability to tax are fundamental to school board autonomy, accountability and responsiveness to their communities. *(Reaffirmed SGM 2007)*
- The Alberta School Boards Association will sponsor or provide input to any amendments to the School Act and regulations.
- School boards are responsible for communicating with their communities about the local public education system.
- School boards are responsible for providing quality public education to their students.

## ASBA Zones

Each school board is a member of one of the ASBA's five Zones. Trustees are welcome to attend Zone meetings which provide opportunities for information sharing, networking and trustee development. The Zones are a key internal communication link for the association. A member of the ASBA Board of Directors attends every Zone meeting to ensure two-way communication between the ASBA leadership and school boards. For more information about Zones, see the *Importance of Zones* document at [www.asba.ab.ca/index.asp](http://www.asba.ab.ca/index.asp).



### **Zone 1**

Serving nine school boards in north western and north central Alberta

Fort Vermilion School Division No. 52  
Grande Prairie Public School District No. 2357  
Grande Prairie RCSSD No. 28  
High Prairie School Division No. 48  
Holy Family Catholic Regional Division No. 37  
Northland School Division No. 61  
Northwest Francophone Education Region No. 1  
Peace River School Division No. 10  
Peace Wapiti School Board No. 33

### **Zone 2/3**

Serving 29 school boards in north central and northeast Alberta including two jurisdictions in the Northwest Territories and two partially in Saskatchewan

Aspen View Regional Division No. 19  
Black Gold Regional Division No. 18  
Buffalo Trail Regional Division No. 28  
East Central Alberta CSSR Division No. 16  
East Central Francophone Education Region No. 3  
Edmonton Catholic Separate School District No. 7  
Edmonton School District No. 7  
Elk Island CS Regional Division No. 41  
Elk Island PS Regional Division No. 14  
Evergreen CSR Division No. 2  
Fort McMurray RCSSD No. 32  
Fort McMurray School District No. 2833  
Grande Yellowhead Regional Division No. 35  
Greater North Central Francophone ER No. 2  
Greater St. Albert Catholic Reg. Div. No. 29  
Lakeland RCSSD No. 150  
Living Waters Catholic Regional Division No. 42  
Lloydminster Public School Division  
Lloydminster RCSSD No. 89  
Northern Gateway Regional Division No. 10  
Northern Lights School Division No. 69  
Parkland School Division No. 70  
Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7  
St. Albert PSSD No. 6  
St. Paul Education Regional Division No. 1  
St. Thomas Aquinas RCS Regional Division No. 38  
Sturgeon School Division No. 24  
Yellowknife Catholic Schools  
Yellowknife Education District No. 1

### **Zone 4**

Serving eight school boards in central Alberta

Battle River Regional Division No. 31  
Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73  
Clearview School Division No. 71  
Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No. 39  
Red Deer Public Schools  
Wetaskiwin Regional Division No. 11  
Wild Rose School Division No. 66  
Wolf Creek School Division No. 72

### **Zone 5**

Serving 10 school boards in and around the City of Calgary

Calgary Board of Education  
Calgary RCSSD No. 1  
Canadian Rockies Regional Division No. 12  
Christ the Redeemer CS Regional Division No. 3  
Foothills School Division No. 38  
Golden Hills School Division No. 75  
Greater Southern Francophone Reg. Auth No. 4 (P)  
Greater Southern SC Francophone Ed Reg. No. 4  
Prairie Land Regional Division No. 25  
Rocky View School Division No. 41

### **Zone 6**

Serving 10 school boards in southern Alberta from the foothills of Pincher Creek to the Saskatchewan border

Grasslands Regional Division No. 6  
Holy Spirit RCS Regional Division No. 4  
Horizon School Division No. 67  
Lethbridge School District No. 51  
Livingstone Range School Division No. 68  
Medicine Hat CS Regional Division No. 20  
Medicine Hat School District No. 76  
Palliser Regional Division No. 26  
Prairie Rose Regional Division No. 8  
Westwind School Division No. 74