



GOVERNMENT RESPONSE – FALL 2007 GENERAL MEETING

ASBA Resolution: 1P/FGM07: Student Conduct and Discipline

The Alberta School Boards Association believes that school board autonomy in judiciously guiding and applying student conduct and discipline policies that include expulsion is essential for the development and enforcement of fair and equitable discipline procedures at the school and system level.

Alberta Education Response:

Sections 8, 25 and 60(1)(e) of the *School Act* provide the parameters within which school jurisdictions may develop policies related to student conduct and discipline. Section 25 gives school boards the authority to expel and provides the parameters within which a board may expel a student. Section 60(1)(e) provides school boards with the right and responsibility to make rules regarding the circumstances in which a student may be suspended or expelled, as well as the circumstances in which a student may be re-enrolled after expulsion. Education respects and supports school boards' authority, as described in the *School Act*, to develop policies related to student conduct and discipline, including matters related to expulsion of students. Education also respects the right of a parent or student over the age of 16 to request a Review by the Minister of a board's decision to expel a student, as provided for in the *School Act*. Should boards require guidance or consultation on the development and enforcement of discipline procedures and the determination of the circumstances in which a student may be re-enrolled after expulsion, Governance Support Branch of the Ministry of Education is available to assist.

ASBA Resolution: 2DA/FGM07: Standards for School Library Programs

That the Alberta School Boards Association urge Alberta Education to adopt the standards for school library programs that are outlined in Achieving Information Literacy: Standards for School Library Programs in Canada, edited by Asselin, M., Branch, J., and Oberg, D., and fund school jurisdictions appropriately with the goal of reaching the exemplary standard in all Alberta schools by 2015

Alberta Education Response:

Education's Learning and Teaching resources Branch has undertaken to work with stakeholders to update Education's policy, guidelines, procedures and standards for school libraries; create an implementation plan; and explore opportunities for integration of (Scholastic, public and academic) library services to facilitate sharing of services and positively impact student learning.

ASBA Resolution: 4DA/FGM07: Transition from High School to Post- Secondary Education.

That the Alberta School Boards Association advocate with Alberta Education to replace the four-year transition rate from high school to post-secondary education with the six-year rate, as a measure included within the Accountability Pillar Overall Summary.

Alberta Education Response:

A resolution from the College of Alberta School Superintendents in 2007 requested the four-year high school to post-secondary transition rate be replaced with the six-year rate in the Accountability Pillar. The department replaced the four-year transition rate with the six-year rate and included this in the 2008/2009 *Guide to Planning and Reporting*. We would note that not all jurisdictions feel the change was beneficial, arguing that they have little ability to affect a six-year rate, but can impact a four-year rate.

ASBA Resolution: 5DA/FGM07: Alberta Education Budgeting Process

That the Alberta School Boards Association requests Alberta Education to release by March 1 its Funding Manual for the next school year to ensure school boards can effectively plan and deploy resources to schools and central service departments.

Alberta Education Response:

Education endeavours to publish its *Funding Manual* as soon as possible following the release of the budget. There are many factors that may influence the release date of the *funding Manual*. The release of funding information is contingent on the Government of Alberta's overall budget release date. Relevant and detailed funding information and rates needed by school boards for budget planning purposes are provided when the budget is announced, or immediately thereafter.