

Who's who in education

Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association

The Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA) is the voice of Catholic trustees in Alberta and the Northwest Territories, and is committed to enhancing the rights of Catholics to education based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Formed in 1966, the ACSTA represents all 23 Catholic anglophone and francophone school boards. Our membership includes the Catholic districts of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories and Lloydminster, which is designated as both an Alberta and Saskatchewan jurisdiction. All member boards of ACSTA are members of the Alberta School Boards Association. The ACSTA is committed to the vision that all Catholics have access to a Catholic education and works to ensure this by:

- involving the provincial Catholic community in Catholic education through regular dialogue and collective advocacy;
- communicating the value of a Catholic education system to the Catholic community and the community-at-large;
- empowering member board delegates to represent the views of their district, while collectively promoting the rights of Alberta's Catholic school supporters to provide Catholic education;
- facilitating and promoting faith development opportunities throughout the Catholic community.

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Alberta Education

Office of the minister

With students varied learning needs as the central focus, Alberta Education leads a kindergarten to Grade 12 system that provides the foundation of knowledge and skills needed to prepare Alberta children and youth for lifelong learning, work and citizenship. In 2009-2010, more than 585,000 young Albertans were enrolled in kindergarten to Grade 12 across the province. The Ministry of Education, for which the education minister is accountable, consists of the Department of Education, the Alberta School Foundation Fund and school jurisdictions (school boards, francophone education authorities and charter schools). Alberta school jurisdictions, along with private schools, provide programs for students in the province's kindergarten to Grade 12 education system in accordance with the School Act. The Guide to Education contains information about Alberta Education, including the School Act and is available online at: education.alberta.ca/admin/resources/guidetoed.aspx

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Alberta School Councils' Association

Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) is the provincial association providing resources and support for members of school councils. Recognized as the "voice of parents" in public education, ASCA presents the parent perspective to government and education partners in Alberta.

Opportunity for parent input and advice on education issues is through school council. Parents are members through their school council and province-wide, ASCA membership includes rural, urban, public, separate, charter and francophone schools.

A non-profit organization, ASCA is governed by a member-elected volunteer board of directors. The provincial office is located in Edmonton and supported by a staff of eight and contracted workshop facilitators in the field.

ASCA contributes to education policy by participating on provincial advisory committees. The association provides services and resources to enhance school council effectiveness, and advocates positive change in public education by partnering with government, school boards, superintendents, principals, teachers, students and others in education.

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Association of School Business Officials of Alberta

The Association of School Business Officials of Alberta (ASBOA) is a professional organization dedicated to supporting our members and providing leadership in school business management. Individuals working in the corporate, financial and business services areas in the kindergarten to Grade 12 public education system make up our membership. Specifically, the secretary treasurer (also known as the associate superintendent of business and financial services, or other similar titles) is a legislated position required under the School Act. The association and its membership work in partnership with Alberta Education and other education stakeholders through committee work and individual consultations to ensure that today's students and students of the future receive the best education they can within the resources provided by Albertans. ASBOA is registered as a profession under the Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act (POARA). Members of ASBOA who have achieved their certification under the School Business Officials Regulations are recognized with the title Certified School Business Official.

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Alberta Teachers' Association

The objectives of the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA), as set out in the Teaching Profession Act, are:

- to advance and promote the cause of education in Alberta;
- to improve the teaching profession;
- to arouse and increase public interest in the importance of education and public knowledge of the aims of education, financial support for education and other education matters; and
- to cooperate with other organizations and bodies in Canada and elsewhere having the same or like aims and objects.

The ATA has union and professional responsibilities. As a union, the ATA holds the bargaining certificate for all teachers employed in public or separate schools. The ATA also provides legal advice and assistance to its members.

As a professional association, the ATA carries out a wide range of activities:

- Organizes professional development opportunities for its members.
- Regulates the professional conduct of teachers in public, separate and francophone schools. The ATA prosecutes teachers charged with professional misconduct and imposes penalties (ranging from reprimands to cancellation of membership) on those found guilty.
- Monitors the professional practice of teachers in public, separate and francophone schools. The ATA is responsible for ensuring that teachers meet the teaching quality standard. Teachers who do not meet the standard would be required to take remedial professional development. If remediation fails, teachers could be expelled from the profession and lose their teaching certificate.
- Assesses teachers' qualifications for salary purposes.
- Helps resolve problems in staff relations.

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College of Alberta School Superintendents

The College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) is a voluntary association of school superintendents and other certificated central office educational officers. Regulated members are those central office staff members who are excluded from the local bargaining units of the ATA and who are under personal service contracts with their school jurisdictions. Central office staff, who are included in the local ATA bargaining unit, may become associate members with the college in accordance with the terms and conditions stated in the bylaws. As the professional voice of system education leaders, CASS provides expertise, advocacy and advice to improve, promote and champion public education. Its vision is “leadership excellence for world class public education”.

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Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta

The Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (FCSFA) provides a collective voice for Alberta's five francophone authorities in matters relating to their exclusive mandate in the governance and delivery of French first language education in their regions. The fédération's goal is to work with stakeholders to ensure that students of section 23 parents enrolled in their schools have equitable access to equivalent educational programs, facilities, services and results as those provided by other Alberta school boards. The FCSFA and its members also collaborate closely with francophone community organizations and associations to offer French language and cultural activities to support and reinforce the development of the francophone language and identity in students and their families.

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Public School Boards' Association of Alberta

Membership in the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) is voluntary. Members are school jurisdictions, including the board of trustees and senior administrators. Our members provide learning opportunities for over 220,000 of the public school students in Alberta. We believe public schools are the first choice of our communities, where all our children learn and live the values of democracy together, reflecting our hope and shaping the future of our communities.

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