

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 preserving and enhancing the rights of Catholics to education based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Telephone: 1.780.484.6209
Facsimile: 1.780.484.6248
E-mail: admin@acsta.ab.ca
Website: www.acsta.ab.ca

Alberta Education Office of the minister

With students' varied learning needs as its 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 2006-2007, more than 596,000 young Albertans were enrolled in kindergarten to Grade 12 across the province.

Telephone: 1.780.427.5010
Facsimile: 1.780.427.5018
Website: www.education.gov.ab.ca

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.

More information about Alberta Education, including the School Act and roles and responsibilities of the education minister, is available online at:
www.education.gov.ab.ca/educationsystem/ourstudents/.

Alberta Home and School Councils' Association

Alberta Home and School Councils' Association (AHSCA) is the provincial association representing parents on school council. Recognized as the voice of parents in public education, AHSCA presents the parent perspective to government and education partners in Alberta.

Telephone: 1.780.454.9867
Toll free: 1.800.661.3470
Fax: 1.780.455.0167
E-mail: parents@ahsca.ab.ca
Website: www.ahsca.ab.ca

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

A non-profit organization, AHSCA is governed by an elected 15 member volunteer board of directors. The provincial office is located in Edmonton and supported by a staff of six.

AHSCA 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 trustees, 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.

Telephone: 1.780.451.7103
Facsimile: 1.780.482.5659
E-mail: registrar@asboa.ab.ca
Website: www.asboa.ab.ca

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.

Alberta Teachers' Association

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

1. to advance and promote the cause of education in Alberta;
2. to improve the teaching profession;
3. 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
4. to cooperate with other organizations and bodies in Canada and elsewhere having the same or like aims and objects.

The ATA is governed by a representative assembly, which establishes policy, bylaws and budget. The business of the ATA is conducted by the Provincial Executive Council, which consists of elected

representatives from across the province and the executive secretary, who is the ATA's chief executive officer. The ATA's table officers are the president, two vice-presidents, the past president and the executive secretary.

The ATA has both 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:

1. Organizes professional development opportunities for its members. The ATA funds specialist councils and teachers' conventions, offers workshops and produces publications.
2. Regulates the professional conduct of teachers in public and separate schools. The ATA prosecutes teachers charged with professional misconduct and imposes penalties (ranging from reprimands to cancellation of membership) on those found guilty.
3. Monitors the professional practice of teachers (planned). Under a proposed new regulation, the ATA would assume responsibility 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.
4. Assesses teachers' qualifications for salary purposes. This task is carried out by the Teacher Qualifications Service (TQS), which follows assessment principles established by a board made up of representatives of the major education partners.
5. Helps resolve problems in staff relations. This work is carried out by an arm's length body known as the Staff Relations Mediation Services (SRMS).

E-mail: postmaster@ata.ab.ca

Website: www.teachers.ab.ca

Barnett House (Edmonton)

Telephone: 1.780.447.9400

Toll free in Alberta: 1.800.232.7208

Facsimile: 1.780.455.6481

Southern Alberta Regional Office (Calgary)

Telephone: 1.403.265.2672

Toll free in Alberta: 1.800.332.1280

Facsimile: 1.403.266.6190

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. Practicing members are those central office staff members who are excluded from the local bargaining units of the ATA and who are appointed and paid by their respective boards. 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.

Telephone: 1.780.451.7106
Facsimile: 1.780.482.5659
E-mail: lee.lucente@cass.ab.ca
Website: www.cass.ab.ca

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".

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, services and results as those provided by 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.

Telephone: 1.780.298.4881
Facsimile: 1.403.685.9884
E-mail: fcsfa@rogers.com

Public School Boards' Association of Alberta

The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) is a voluntary association incorporated as a non-profit society in accordance with the laws of Alberta. Members are school jurisdictions, including the board of trustees and senior administrators. There are 42 public school jurisdictions in Alberta: 31 belong to the association as well as the St. Albert Protestant

Separate School District, which is eligible for membership as it is the de facto public school system in that city. As we Champion Public Schools, we ensure that all our initiatives reflect our foundation statement of beliefs:

Telephone: 1.780.479.8080
Toll free in Canada: 1.800.661.4605
Facsimile: 1.780.477.1892
E-mail: gensec@public-schools.ab.ca
Website: www.public-schools.ab.ca

Public Schools Alberta's First Choice

"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."



Marian Johnson, administrative assistant to the executive director, (left) records a table discussion at the June 5 meeting for the ASBA's 2007 Governance Review.