

School board election key messages

Albertans want a strong and diversified economy. Investing in our students and preparing them for a diversified workforce **means** investing in our economy.

In fact, a strong education system leads to economic growth and lower costs for social services like health care.

School boards are urging the next government to complete a comprehensive funding formula review, in partnership with ASBA.

Of 61, public, separate and francophone school boards:

- 74 per cent are reporting a facilities deficit;
- 81 per cent are reporting a transportation deficit;
- 79 per cent are reporting a deficit for special needs.

Even in times of fiscal restraint, education is not the place to cut, it's the place to invest.

Alberta's current funding model doesn't even come close to addressing the diverse needs of today's complex student systems.

School boards need adequate, long-term, sustainable funding to be able to provide programs and services including:

- Adequate supports for students with complex needs
- Increased mental health supports
- Supports for English language learners

When facilities funding is insufficient, money needs to come out of classroom funding just to get by.

Proper, safe spaces for education are just as important as the education programs themselves.