

ALBERTA CLASSROOMS

PULSE RESEARCH - FALL 2022*



TOP THREE COMPLEXITIES



85%

Of teachers have seen a dramatic increase in the **COMPLEXITY + DIVERSITY OF STUDENT NEEDS** this year!



56%

Of teachers report a decline in support for students with special needs.



UNREASONABLE WAIT TIMES for speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psycho-educational assessments for students!

- 1  SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL
- 2  COGNITIVE
- 3  BEHAVIOURAL

TEACHER'S VOICE

I teach Grade 3. I have one student that has been diagnosed with autism and a student with severe behaviour. Three of my students are reading at a beginning of Grade One level. One student moved from another country and had no schooling or English before last year. I have 7 English Language Learners who are at least one grade behind in reading and writing.

6 MONTHS to "NEVER"

Alberta Commission on Learning Recommendations (Circa 2003)

“Class composition should be considered by schools in setting class size.”

“Generally, classes with special needs students, students whose first language is not English, and vulnerable and at-risk students should be smaller than the suggested guideline.”

“Classes should also be smaller in cases where there are safety considerations such as vocational classes.”

MORAL ⚡ DISTRESS

“When one knows the right thing to do, but institutional constraints make it nearly impossible to pursue the right course of action.”

Jameton, A. 1984. *Nursing Practice: The Ethical Issues*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Further information about the Association's research is available from Dr Philip McRae at the Alberta Teachers' Association; e-mail: research@ata.ab.ca.

*Pulse Rapid Research Study - September 29 to October 11, 2022
Highly Representative Random Stratified Sample - Margin of Error +/- 2.8% (19 times out of 20)



The Alberta Teachers' Association

ALBERTA CLASS SIZES

CLASS SIZE MATTERS ⚡

“Class size doesn't matter unless you're one of too many kids or the only teacher. When people say class size doesn't matter, they are talking about other people's children.”

~Joe Bower 1978–2016

PULSE RESEARCH - FALL 2022*



64% + 4 in 10

Of Alberta teachers have seen **INCREASED CLASS SIZES** this year!

Alberta teachers have over **33+ STUDENTS**

LARGEST CLASS SIZES:

- 1** Elementary (Grades 4 to 6)
- 2** High-school Science
- 3** Junior High Math

SCHOOL LEADER'S VOICE

“Our classes size and complexity continue to increase and our supports decrease! [This year] class sizes for grade 7 increased from 25 to 35 students with increased complexity of student needs from behavioural to more significant identified exceptionalities.”

Alberta Commission on Learning Recommendations (Circa 2003)

“Establish and implement province-wide guidelines for average class sizes across school jurisdictions.”

Junior kindergarten to grade 3
17 STUDENTS

Grades 4 to 6
23 STUDENTS

Grades 7 to 9
25 STUDENTS

Grades 10 to 12
27 STUDENTS

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