

# Listing of Recommendations



---

## REPORT OF THE BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON *Inclusive Education in Alberta Schools*

---

### SHARED VISION

#### RECOMMENDATION 1—ALBERTA EDUCATION

Establish a provincial stakeholder advisory committee to education partners to develop a provincial implementation plan, guide provincial implementation activities and meet regularly to reflect on evidence gathered about implementation.

#### RECOMMENDATION 2—ALBERTA EDUCATION

Create a ministry team that will work with stakeholders at all levels to build understanding and support for the vision of inclusive education.

#### RECOMMENDATION 3—ALBERTA EDUCATION

Create clear, multilevel, consistent and transparent communication regarding inclusive education.

#### RECOMMENDATION 4—ALBERTA EDUCATION

Work directly with stakeholders to build an understanding of inclusion and an understanding that an inclusive classroom setting may not be in the educational best interests of every student at all times.

#### RECOMMENDATION 5—SCHOOL JURISDICTIONS

Establish a school-jurisdiction-level inclusive education advisory committee, including teachers, administrators and other stakeholders, to develop a jurisdiction implementation plan, guide implementation activities and reflect on evidence gathered about implementation.

## RECOMMENDATION 6—SCHOOLS

Establish a school-based inclusive education advisory committee, including teachers, administrators and other stakeholders, to develop a school implementation plan, guide implementation activities and reflect on evidence gathered about implementation.

## RECOMMENDATION 7—SCHOOL JURISDICTIONS

Provide a safe, professional environment where teachers and administrators can express their experiences as inclusion is implemented.

# LEADERSHIP

## RECOMMENDATION 8—ALBERTA EDUCATION

Provide immediate, targeted, substantial and sustained funding for school jurisdictions' implementation plans in cycles of five to seven years to provide the staff, resources and supports necessary to build and sustain capacity in the system.

## RECOMMENDATION 9—ALBERTA EDUCATION

Demonstrate commitment to and leadership for inclusive education by providing ministry staff, knowledgeable in inclusive education, who are able to provide direct, one-on-one, ongoing support to each school jurisdiction in creating and realizing its implementation plan.

## RECOMMENDATION 10—ALBERTA EDUCATION

Clearly delineate stakeholders' leadership roles and responsibilities through clear policy directives and regulations.

### **RECOMMENDATION 11—ALBERTA EDUCATION**

Consistent with the vision of *Setting the Direction*, eliminate the current coding system at the ministry and jurisdiction levels.

### **RECOMMENDATION 12—ALBERTA EDUCATION**

Ensure that learner assessments required by Alberta Education create multiple ways for students to demonstrate their learning.

### **RECOMMENDATION 13—ALBERTA EDUCATION**

Ensure that learner assessments required by Alberta Education do not create barriers of access to postsecondary education or entrance to the workforce.

### **RECOMMENDATION 14—ALBERTA EDUCATION**

Require that all curriculum documents that are developed from this point forward clearly address the full range of learners in the school system, and require that related resources developed address the wide range of student learning needs in classrooms.

### **RECOMMENDATION 15—ALBERTA EDUCATION**

Monitor inclusive education funding provided to school jurisdictions and determine the actual costs of supporting all students effectively.

### **RECOMMENDATION 16—ALBERTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

Host a symposium on inclusive education to highlight the report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Inclusive Education in Alberta Schools and to collaborate with stakeholder groups.

## RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

### RECOMMENDATION 17—GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA AND POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

With immediate, targeted, substantial and sustained funding from the Government of Alberta, establish partnerships with institutions with preservice teacher education programs to conduct regular research in Alberta classrooms, determine the effectiveness of inclusion and advance this field of study.

### RECOMMENDATION 18—ALBERTA EDUCATION

As part of the immediate, targeted, substantial and sustained funding to support implementation outlined in Recommendation 8, establish an inclusive schools network, including an annual face-to-face conference, to share action research and promising practices.

## RESOURCES

### RECOMMENDATION 19—ALBERTA EDUCATION

Establish and implement structures to ensure that provincewide guidelines for average class sizes across school jurisdictions are achieved and that classroom complexity is weighted in these guidelines.

### RECOMMENDATION 20—GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Expand access to early intervention programs, including full-day, play-based kindergarten programs with certificated teachers, to ensure that children with diverse learning needs have the supports and programs they require before they come to school and into the early grades.

### RECOMMENDATION 21—GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Provide Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD) boards with direct funding, not just enhanced funding, to facilitate decision making at the RCSD leadership and governance tables.

### RECOMMENDATION 22—ALBERTA EDUCATION

Develop a provincial standard and provide targeted funding to school jurisdictions to ensure that each school has adequate access to a trained school counsellor, preferably a certificated teacher.

### RECOMMENDATION 23—ALBERTA EDUCATION

Ensure that there is adequate funding to effectively support

- students who require behaviour support,
- English-language learners,
- students who are gifted and talented,
- students who live in poverty,
- students who are new to Canada,
- students from refugee backgrounds and
- students who are suffering from trauma.

### RECOMMENDATION 24—ALBERTA EDUCATION

Provide sufficient funding to ensure that each student has access to assistive technology to support his or her learning, including funding for related teacher professional development and adequate bandwidth, technical support and electrical systems.

### RECOMMENDATION 25—GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Provide adequate supports and qualified health-care professionals for medically fragile students.

### RECOMMENDATION 26—SCHOOL JURISDICTIONS

Provide appropriate, ongoing training of educational assistants who work with students with diverse learning needs, where assistants are required.

### RECOMMENDATION 27—ALBERTA EDUCATION

Ensure that all school facilities are fully accessible and provide targeted funding to school jurisdictions with facilities not meeting this standard.

## TEACHER PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

### RECOMMENDATION 28—SCHOOL JURISDICTIONS

Provide ongoing professional development during the school day to allow teachers to learn and share strategies to support inclusive practices.

### RECOMMENDATION 29—SCHOOL JURISDICTIONS

Recognize that teachers in their early years of practice may need additional or different professional development and supports as they transition through the induction phase of their career, and provide this professional development and related supports.

### RECOMMENDATION 30—ALBERTA EDUCATION AND SCHOOL JURISDICTIONS

Develop a provincial standard and provide funding so that schools have regular, adequate access to specialized district-based or regional teams, and school-based experts who provide specialized consultation, in-class support and support for planning effective programs.

### RECOMMENDATION 31—POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Create preservice teacher education programs such that the expected outcome is that each graduate has a sound working knowledge of inclusion, with related practicum experience.

### RECOMMENDATION 32—POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Ensure that preservice teacher education programs are designed to allow undergraduate students to specialize in inclusive education.

### RECOMMENDATION 33—ALBERTA EDUCATION

Create a provincial scholarship program to support coursework in master's and doctoral studies focusing on inclusive education.

### RECOMMENDATION 34—ALBERTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Expand professional development and related supports for members in the area of inclusive education.

## TIME

### RECOMMENDATION 35—SCHOOL JURISDICTIONS

Provide time, during the school day, for teachers to meet in collaborative teams to develop strategies focused on supporting student learning, particularly the learning of students with exceptional needs.

### RECOMMENDATION 36—SCHOOL JURISDICTIONS

Use streamlined individualized program plan (IPP) templates, and provide release time and support for teachers to create effective program plans and other required documents.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### RECOMMENDATION 37—GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Establish a provincewide telephone link and a web-based annotated list of services by geographical region to provide information to teachers, parents and students who need immediate access to specialized services and advice.

### RECOMMENDATION 38—ALBERTA EDUCATION, SCHOOL JURISDICTIONS, ADMINISTRATORS, SCHOOL COUNCILS AND TEACHERS

Provide opportunities for parents to learn about inclusive education and to engage in dialogue.

