



ALBERTA

Education
and Childcare

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary Bow*

AR 140013

June 18, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The 2025/26 school year was a challenging year. Teachers were facing increased pressure as our schools welcomed over 80,000 students in just three short years. That pressure led to a teacher strike that took students out of the classroom for three long weeks.

At that point, with no end in sight, our government believed it was necessary to legislate teachers back to work and get students back into the classroom. However, that did not mean the issues raised during the strike did not need answers. Solutions were needed and work began immediately to collect detailed information about the size and complexity of Alberta classrooms.

By the end of November, we collected data from 108,000 Alberta classrooms, representing the most comprehensive data collection exercise in Alberta history. This data showed that Alberta's average class size was 25 and the largest class sizes were in physical education classes and other option classes. The data we collected can be found [here](#).

With that data we were able to provide \$143 million to create 476 complexity teams, made up of one teacher and two EAs, and sent them to our most complex schools. The full list of schools that received a complexity team can be found [here](#).

In Budget 2026, your government increased funding for education by 7.2%. The last time any government in Alberta provided such an increase was back in the 1970s during Peter Lougheed's administration. This 7.2% increase translated into \$722 million more in spending in one single year. This included a 3% increase to support students with specialized learning needs, a 6% increase for students who speak English as an additional language, a 6% increase for the PUF program, a 60% increase in funding to support reading, writing and math in K–3 and \$355 million to support classroom complexity.

Our work did not stop there, and just a few weeks ago, I joined Premier Smith to announce the creation of the Class Size Reduction Grant and funded it with \$200 million. This grant will go directly to hiring almost 1,500 more teachers in K–9 classrooms across the province, which will bring our provincial average class size down from 25 to 22. The full list of how many more teachers will be hired by each school authority can be found [here](#).

At the same time, we have taken steps to update and modernize our curriculum, build more schools, introduce new courses on career education and financial literacy, and expand opportunities for students to connect with vocation-based training. We have also worked to improve transparency for parents by updating standards for school library materials and we have invested \$22 million to keep our students safe and our schools free from violence.

At every step, our priority is always the success and well-being of students. While there are many challenges facing Alberta's education system, we are facing them head on with historic new investments and innovative new solutions supported by data.

In the latest Pan-Canadian Assessment Program results, Alberta's Grade 8 students ranked among the very best in the country. We placed first in Canada in science, second in reading and third in math, all above the national average. This is a strong, objective vote of confidence in our education system and we will continue to do everything possible to keep our education system world-class.

In closing, I want to recognize and thank Alberta's teachers and school staff. Their professionalism and dedication are the foundation of student success, and their work each day has a lasting impact on young people across our province.

Thank you again for your continued partnership throughout the school year. I wish you and your family a safe, restful and enjoyable summer.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Nicolaides". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Demetrios" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nicolaides".

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education and Childcare