

# My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource

## Choosing a School in Alberta



### Who can attend school in Alberta?

To attend school from grades 1 to 12 in Alberta, children and students must be Canadian citizens or permanent or temporary residents.



### Grade and School Levels

The following grade and school levels are the most common in Alberta.

Grade	Age (approximately)	Division
Kindergarten	5 years old Kindergarten is intended for children in the year prior to entry into Grade 1.	elementary school
grades 1 to 6	6 to 12 years old	elementary school
grades 7 to 9	12 to 15 years old	junior high school Some school boards have a middle school for grades 5 to 8.
grades 10 to 12	15 to 19 years old Students must be 19 years old by September 1. Schools may accept students who are older than 19 years of age.	senior high school

### Choosing a School for Your Child

You can send your child to a school near your home. Or you can choose to send your child to another school outside of your neighbourhood that offers an educational program that you would like for your child.

There are several different kinds of schools and programs in Alberta. Public schools, separate schools, Francophone schools, charter schools, and home education in Alberta are publicly funded and do not charge tuition fees.

<b>Public Schools</b>	Schools that do not require tuition fees.
<b>Separate Schools</b>	Schools that offer Catholic or Protestant education. They do not require tuition fees.
<b>Francophone Schools</b>	Schools for students who have at least one parent whose first language learned and still understood is French or who received primary schooling in French as a first language, or for students who have received or are receiving school instruction in French as a first language.* There are public and separate Francophone schools. They do not require tuition fees.
<b>Private Schools</b>	Schools that have a particular focus and may require parents to pay tuition fees.
<b>Charter Schools</b>	Public schools with a specialized program or approach. They do not require tuition fees.
<b>Home Education</b>	Parents provide an education to their children. Tuition fees are not required.
<b>Outreach Programs</b>	These programs are for junior and senior high school students who want to pursue their studies in a non-traditional school setting.
<b>Other Programs</b>	Schools may offer other programs or courses; e.g., online learning, a particular language or culture, religion, sports, fine arts, specific subject matter, or a specific way of learning. Contact the school directly to learn more about these programs.

For more information, see the Education Options web page at <https://www.alberta.ca/education-options.aspx> and the Alberta Schools and Authorities web page at <https://education.alberta.ca/alberta-education/school-authority-index/everyone/alberta-schools>.

\* For more information about which students are eligible to register in Francophone (French First Language) schools, see <https://www.alberta.ca/french-language-education-in-alberta.aspx>.

To learn more about a particular school, talk to the principal or attend a school information meeting for parents.

## Registering Your Child in a School

Schools generally accept new students throughout the year. However, not every school will have room for more students.

Contact the school as early as possible to find out when is the best time to register your child. Most schools accept registrations in March for the new school year, which begins in September.

Bring your child to the school you choose. The school will give you a registration form. You may be able to find the registration form on the school's website as well. The school can help you complete the form. Give the registration form to the school once completed.

Also, give the school proof of your child's name, citizenship, and birthdate. You can show the school any of these documents:

- Canadian birth certificate
- Canadian citizenship document
- Canadian adoption certificate
- Canadian marriage certificate
- Canadian passport or landed immigrant document or Permanent Residency Card; for more information, visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship.html>

The school may also require proof that your child has been vaccinated against certain diseases. Immunization protects all children at the school.

The school may keep a photocopy of the documents in your child's school file.

Many schools photograph children for student identification cards when they register. For more information, please talk with the principal.

Schools may ask you to fill out a FOIP (*Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*) consent form. This form is used to tell the school how some of your child's personal information can be used.

For example, do you give the school permission to display your child's school art work or photograph or video your child participating in school activities, such as concerts and plays?

Many schools require parents to pay school fees. These are fees to pay for certain school supplies, transportation, field trips, and costs related to alternative programs. These school fees are not the same as tuition fees. Only private schools may charge tuition fees.

Your child will have a homeroom teacher. This teacher is your child's main teacher. You can contact the homeroom teacher to ask how your child is doing in school or to get extra help if it is required.



Learn more about your child's education by visiting  
**My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource**  
<http://www.mychildslearning.alberta.ca>