

# Minister's Youth Council

## Fact Sheet

### Overview

The Minister's Youth Council is a group of approximately 40 junior and senior high students across Alberta, aged 14 to 19, who provide input to the Minister of Education and government staff on provincial education initiatives. Council members bring diverse interests, identities, backgrounds and perspectives from across the province.

### Member expectations

Working at the provincial level, all council members will:

- be active and responsible members;
- attend all meetings;
- share diverse student perspectives with the Minister of Education;
- work with one another and Alberta Education staff to provide input on education topics.

### Time commitment

Council members will serve a 10-month term, aligned with the school year. They will attend three meetings in:

- Fall
- Winter
- Spring

Each meeting will begin on a Friday evening and run through to Sunday afternoon or evening. Meetings may take place virtually and/or in person. Council members will be notified in advance.

For in person meetings, travel home will take place on Sunday and on Monday, where necessary.

**Note:** Meeting dates may be subject to change.

### Meeting Locations

In-person meetings will be held in Edmonton. Overnight accommodations, meals and snacks, meeting rooms and outdoor activity areas will be provided.

**Note:** Parents and students will be notified of any activities that may take place off-site. These activities will be scheduled and planned in advance.

### Travel arrangements

All travel and accommodation needs will be handled by the government, including booking and payment.

### Chaperone commitment

Adult chaperones will meet council members when they arrive in Edmonton to ensure they get to the meeting location and accommodations safely. At the end of the meeting, chaperones will accompany council members to the airport or bus station for their return home.

Government staff, including certificated teachers, will provide supervision at all times. There will be one adult chaperone for every eight students.

All chaperones complete a vulnerable sector check prior to each meeting.

### Guidelines and expectations

To ensure a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe environment for all, council members and their parents or legal guardians will be made aware of expectations for student behaviour and conduct, including the responsible use of technology.

Council members will receive information to understand their responsibilities and, with their parents or legal guardians, will be required to sign an acknowledgment of behaviour and conduct expectations.

### Accommodations for special needs

Accommodations will be provided by government staff according to students' specific circumstances.

### Free Time

For in-person meetings, all council members will remain at the meeting venue throughout the weekend. In addition to council work, a variety of recreational activities may be included. Supervision will be provided at all times.

## Application process

### Application information

View the application package online:

[alberta.ca/student-engagement.aspx](https://alberta.ca/student-engagement.aspx).

The process includes three steps:

1. Read this fact sheet carefully to understand the role and responsibilities of the Minister's Youth Council.
2. Share the information and discuss your interest to apply with your parents or legal guardians. If you are under 18, your application must include signed parent/guardian consent.
3. Complete and submit the application package online.

### Application deadline

The application deadline will be updated every year and can be found [online](#).

Late applications will not be accepted.

### Application time commitment

Please plan to spend a few hours to work on your application to ensure it is the best possible and most accurate representation of yourself.

## Application process

### Applying for a friend

Each applicant must complete and submit their own application.

### Application character limit

There is a character limit for each question. Please be as concise as possible.

### Withdrawing from the council

If you feel you are unable to meet your obligations to the council, contact us at [edc.studentengagement@gov.ab.ca](mailto:edc.studentengagement@gov.ab.ca). We do not replace students who withdraw from the council.

### Re-applying

If you had applied and were not selected, you are welcome to apply another year as long as you will be attending junior or senior high school and are between 14 and 19 years old as of September 1 of that year.

## Selection Process

After the application deadline, government staff will review and evaluate the applications received.

### Open, transparent and inclusive selection process

To ensure the selection process is open, transparent and inclusive, students will be selected for the council based on:

- **Diversity:** The recruitment and selection process will honour and promote diversity on the council. If you are reading this, and you are a junior or senior high school student attending school in Alberta, you are eligible to apply.
- **Competency:** The criteria for selecting council members will be based on creating a council that, collectively, has the skill set and the mind-set needed to meet the needs and intent of the council as a whole. If you can demonstrate a passion for education and a strong desire to share your voice, you are encouraged to apply.
- **Consistency:** Recruitment and selection processes will be applied consistently for all individuals selected to be part of the council.
- **Transparency & openness:** The recruitment and selection process will be clear, publicly available and communicated to students, parents, teachers and our education partners. The Minister will take steps to ensure as many students as possible are invited to apply to the council and that the final 40 students selected for the council will be disclosed to the public.

### Selection of the Minister's Youth Council

For the council experience to be meaningful, the minister needs a team of students with a broad and diverse range of life experiences, knowledge and skills.

To help with your application, below are some relevant qualities, knowledge and skills. You may also identify other qualities that may be applicable to a well-rounded council.

Relevant experience and knowledge	
Your experience and Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You have a unique perspective.</li><li>• You have life experience that gives you insight into what it means to be human and can use that insight to influence others.</li><li>• You value people and ideas.</li><li>• You are curious about the world around you and you take action to learn more.</li></ul>

<b>Commitment to community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You have experience contributing to the community, whether at school or outside of school.</li> <li>You may have influenced students, parents, teachers, principals or community members to take positive action.</li> </ul>
<b>Personal effectiveness skills</b>	
<b>Leadership and teamwork skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You have a demonstrated ability to inspire, motivate and offer direction and leadership to others.</li> <li>You can demonstrate an understanding of the importance of teamwork. This may include an ability to inspire a shared vision for a better world, the skill of recognizing and valuing the contributions of others and/or a demonstrated ability to support the success of a group when you are not the leader.</li> <li>You might have some experience with leading a group, a club or a team.</li> <li>You might lead a team at work or in a volunteer capacity.</li> </ul>

## Financial information

There is no pay associated with being a member. However, all meals, accommodation and travel costs will be covered by the government when members attend meetings.

## Information for parents and legal guardians

### Selection Process

If your child is selected as a council member, you will receive detailed information prior to the first meeting. Your consent is required for your child to participate in the meetings.

### Parental attendance

Parents/legal guardians may not attend the meetings but may travel with their child before and after the meetings. However, they will have to assume their own travel and accommodation costs (hotel, meals).

### Personal information and privacy

As stated in the collection notice included at the bottom of each page of the application package, the personal information provided by students in this application will be used for two purposes:

- selecting members of the Minister's Youth Council, and;
- administering the program, including communicating with members of the Minister's Youth Council about events

## After application review

Applicants will be selected to be interviewed. If you are chosen to proceed to the interview stage, you and your parents or legal guardians will be contacted.

## Interview overview

You will be asked more questions related to your relevant experience and knowledge, and personal effectiveness skills. The interview will take place via phone or video conference and will be 15 minutes or less.

## Interview preparation

Most importantly, be yourself. Like your application, we want to learn as much as we can about your unique interests, identities, background and perspectives.

## Next steps

Students chosen as council members will be contacted before the beginning of the next school year. All applicants will be notified that the process has been completed and the council has been selected.

<https://www.alberta.ca/student-engagement>

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