Improving Student Programs

- The new Knowledge and Employability courses in mathematics, social studies and 10 occupations were implemented in September 2008.
- Revised programs were implemented in mathematics in elementary schools and in Biology, Chemistry and Physics 30.
- Two of the five occupational streams in the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) program—Business, Administration, Finance and Information Technology (BIT) and Trades, Manufacturing and Transportation (TMT)—were updated and provided to schools for implementation in September 2009.

Engaging Students

- *Speak Out—Alberta Student Engagement Initiative* was created to provide opportunities for Alberta youth to share experiences and provide input in improving education for students.
- 38 youth forums, including two for Aboriginal youth, were held across the province and a popular interactive website was launched.
- A Minister's Student Advisory Council was formed to provide ongoing advice on education and the first annual student conference was planned.
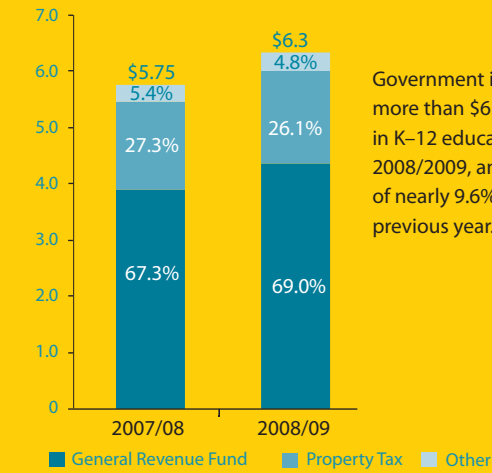

Expanding School Facilities

- Nearly $662 million was provided to school jurisdictions for school construction, modular classrooms, modernizations and renewal.
- 12 new schools were completed to accommodate 4,650 students and 106 modular classrooms were added.
- Construction started on 18 of 32 schools in Calgary and Edmonton that are being built using a public-private partnership approach.

Investment in Education

(in billions)

	2007/08	2008/09
Other	$5.75 / 5.4%	$6.3 / 4.8%
Property Tax	27.3%	26.1%
General Revenue Fund	67.3%	69.0%

■ General Revenue Fund   ■ Property Tax   ■ Other

Government invested more than $6.3 billion in K–12 education in 2008/2009, an increase of nearly 9.6% over the previous year.

- Government investment in education in 2008/2009 provided programs for about 584,000 K–12 students in Alberta schools.
- Over 94 per cent of education funding—$5.9 billion—was provided to school jurisdictions. This support included base instruction funding and funding for such programs as severe special needs, English as a second language, First Nations, Métis and Inuit education, transportation and school facilities.
- Government's General Revenue Fund provided an increased portion of funding for the education system in 2008/2009 (69%) over the previous year (67.3%), while the Education Property Tax contribution decreased from 27.3% to 26.2%.

Contact Us

Alberta Education
Commerce Place, 7th Floor
10155 - 102 Street, Edmonton, AB   T5J 4L5

Tel: (780) 422-4495
Toll-free in Alberta by calling 310-0000
E-mail: edc.communications@gov.ab.ca

Alberta Education's Annual Report for 2008/2009 is available on the Internet at
http://education.alberta.ca/department/annualreport.aspx

Alberta
Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.

Annual Report
Highlights 2008/2009

we educate

Government of Alberta ■
Education

Introduction

The success of every student is our highest priority. The Ministry of Education provides leadership to create a learning environment in keeping with the needs of the 21st century learner. It supports student achievement and maintenance of a world-class education system by:

- meeting the diverse learning needs of students
- engaging students' passions and interests
- promoting continuous improvement in learning through outcomes-based accountability and reporting
- determining the knowledge, skills and attributes necessary for student success.

The Ministry ensures the effective delivery of education by:

- developing and supporting the implementation of policies, programs and standards
- providing equitable funding to school authorities
- monitoring the management of school jurisdictions
- providing education sector workforce planning, teacher development and certification.

Addressing the Minister's Mandates

- **Early Learning** — The *Kindergarten Program Statement* was updated and provided to schools. A resource for working with young English language learners was developed and distributed to early learning and immigrant centres.
- **Completion** — The *High School Completion Portfolio Framework* was developed to help school jurisdictions find ways to improve high school completion rates. Enhanced analytical tools were provided to school jurisdictions to increase their understanding of student data and help them identify strategies to enable more students to finish high school.
- **Long-Term Vision for K–12 Education** — *Inspiring Education—A Dialogue with Albertans* was launched to hear from Albertans about the future of K–12 education. Input will be used to develop a policy framework to shape future directions and ensure Alberta continues to have an excellent education system. Consultations were completed on *Setting the Direction for Special Education*, which will contribute to improved supports for students with special education needs.

Performance Highlights

Alberta Education identifies performance measures and targets for key indicators of success of the K – 12 education system, reflecting our commitment to continuous improvement. Results over time and targets for 2008/2009 are provided below. Rather than relating solely to 2008/2009 spending, these results reflect the cumulative impact of investment of resources and effort over time on the part of government, school boards, parents, teachers and students.

Goal 1: High quality learning opportunities for all

Outcomes	Performance Measures	Target 2008/09	Current Result	5-Year Trend
Education system meets the needs of all students, society and the economy	Overall satisfaction with the quality of K–12 education	85	87 ✓	↑
	Overall satisfaction that students receive solid grounding in core subjects	84	86 ✓	~
	Overall satisfaction with students' opportunity to receive a broad program of studies	79	82 ✓	~
Schools provide a safe and caring environment	Overall agreement that schools are safe and caring	90+	93 ✓	~
Needs of children at risk are addressed	Annual dropout rate of students aged 14-18 — *reviewed by Auditor General*	4.7	4.8 ✓	←
Students complete programs	High school completion rate of students within five years of entering Grade 10 — *reviewed by Auditor General*	79	79.2 ✓	↑

Goal 2: Excellence in student learning outcomes

Outcomes	Performance Measures	Target 2008/09	Current Result	5-Year Trend
Students demonstrate high standards	Overall results on Grades 3, 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests — *reviewed by Auditor General*	acceptable 79.1 / excellence 21.0	76.8 ✗ / 19.2 ✗	↑ / ←
	Overall results on Diploma Examinations	acceptable n/a / excellence n/a	84.4 / 19.1	→ / →
	Diploma examination participation rate (four or more exams within three years of entering Grade 10)	55	53.3 ✓	~
	Rutherford Scholarship eligibility rate of Grade 12 students — *reviewed by Auditor General*	n/a	57.3	n/a
Students are well prepared for lifelong learning	Participation in Early Childhood Services (ECS) — *reviewed by Auditor General*	95+	96.4 ✓	←
	Post-secondary transition rate of students within six years of entering Grade 10	61	60.7 ✓	←
Students are well prepared for employment	Overall agreement that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work — *reviewed by Auditor General*	71	69 ✓	~
Students model the characteristics of active citizenship	Overall agreement that students model the characteristics of active citizenship — *reviewed by Auditor General*	84	85 ✓	~

Goal 3: Highly responsive and responsible education system

Outcomes	Performance Measures	Target 2008/09	Current Result	5-Year Trend
Effective working relationships	Overall satisfaction that stakeholder and public input is considered, respected and valued by the school, jurisdiction and province	61	62 ✓	~
Leadership and continuous improvement	Overall satisfaction that leadership at all levels supports and facilitates teaching and learning	73	76 ✓	↑
	Overall perception that Alberta's K–12 system has improved or stayed the same in the last three years	73	75 ✓	↑
	Percentages of school boards with an overall evaluation of Good or Excellent on accountability measures	n/a	Percentages of jurisdictions* • increased on 8 of 15 measures • maintained on 1 measure • declined on 6 measures	

* based on three years of evaluations for survey measures and four years of evaluations for other measures

Target Achievement ✓ Target Met ✓+ Target Exceeded ✗ Target not met n/a No target set for 2008/09 (insufficient data or new measure for 2008-2011)

Trend: ↑ Improved performance ~ No significant change in performance ↓ Performance decline n/a Insufficient data to determine a trend

Targets are considered met if the result is within 5% of the target value, except for provincial achievement tests and diploma examinations.
Significant difference is considered in assessing trends for all measures and assessing target achievement for provincial achievement tests and diploma examinations.