

# Education in Alberta

Parents in Alberta have a variety of options for their children's education, including public and separate (Catholic) schools, charter schools, private schools, home education and online learning. More information about all the different options can be found at [www.alberta.ca/education-options.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/education-options.aspx)

## School calendar and holidays:

The school year is from September to June. Summer holidays: 2 months (July and August)

- Winter holidays: 2 weeks at the end of December
- Spring break: one week either late March or early April

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 the best time to register your child. School offices tend to close for the summer and open again around the third week of August.

[www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildlearning/pdf/pts\\_choosing.pdf](http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildlearning/pdf/pts_choosing.pdf)

## Structure of school system:

The [Alberta Kindergarten to Grade 12 \(K to 12\) school system](#) includes programs for students ranging from pre-school age to senior high school age. After senior high, students may choose to continue their studies at a post-secondary institution.

Grade and school levels			
Grade	Age*	Division	Programming
Kindergarten (K)	5 years old	Early Childhood (ECS)	Prepares children for entry into Grade 1.
1 to 6	6 to 12 years old	Elementary	Required courses are Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Art and Music, Health and Physical Education. Optional courses vary from school to school.
7 to 9	12 to 15 years old	Junior High School	Required courses are Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Health and Personal Life Skills
10 to 12	15 to 18 years old	Senior High School	Senior High schools offer many kinds of courses, including those needed for admission to a college or university as well as courses that help students develop trade skills. Programs vary by authority and school.

Grade and school levels			
Grade	Age*	Division	Programming
*Approximate age			

[www.alberta.ca/albertas-school-system.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/albertas-school-system.aspx)

### Languages:

English and French are Canada's official languages. Classes in Alberta are most commonly taught in English, but French schools are also available.

Alberta is also known for the vast number of language courses that are offered to students. This includes Arabic, Chinese, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Punjabi, Spanish and yes, Ukrainian!

Some school districts in Alberta offer a *Ukrainian bilingual program*. This means that students in these programs are taught in Ukrainian for up to 50% of the time. This depends on whether the students are in Elementary, Junior High or Senior High School. Other schools also offer *Ukrainian Language and Culture* courses where the language is used to develop communication, intercultural and strategic skills, and to build an appreciation for the culture.

Currently, the Ukrainian bilingual program is offered in the following school districts:

- Edmonton Catholic School District: [www.ecsd.net](http://www.ecsd.net)
- Elk Island Public Schools (rural east of Edmonton): [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca)
- Elk Island Catholic Schools (rural east of Edmonton): [www.eics.ab.ca](http://www.eics.ab.ca)

Please visit their websites for more information. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress of Alberta has also created the following website: <https://osvita.webyva.com/>

### Choosing a School:

The Government of Alberta encourages parents to explore the schools that are the best fit for their children. There are many factors to consider when choosing a school for your child, including distance from home, language of instruction, programs offered and alignment with your values. Talk with the school administration or visit the school websites for more information.

For a list of Alberta Schools and Authorities visit: <https://education.alberta.ca/alberta-education/school-authority-index/everyone/alberta-schools/>

To learn more about what your children will be studying at school and to answer common questions, please visit: the Alberta Government's "My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource" site at: [www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildslearning/parenttipsheets.html](http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildslearning/parenttipsheets.html)