

Online Teacher and Teacher Leader Registry: What you need to know

About the Online Registry

The [Education Statutes \(Students First\) Amendment Act, 2021](#) comes into force on September 1, 2022. The intent of this act, which amends three other pieces of legislation (the *Education Act*, the *Teaching Profession Act*, and the *College of Alberta School Superintendents Act*), is to ensure greater accountability and transparency for student safety and public interest, while further elevating the status of the teaching profession across Alberta.

An amendment to the *Education Act* introduces the publicly available online teacher and teacher leader registry that will be activated on September 1, 2022, and will be accessible on the Government of Alberta's [website](#).

The online teacher and teacher leader registry will share information about the professional standing of Alberta-certificated teachers and teacher leaders who hold a certificate, or once held a certificate, dating back to 1954.

Information such as all legal names, the date a certificate was issued or reissued and the type of certificate held (teaching, leadership or superintendent leadership certificate) will also be included.

The online registry also includes hearing committee, appeal committee and the Minister's decision in situations where a certificate has been suspended or cancelled for unprofessional conduct or professional incompetence, dating back to 1990.

Under the authority of the Minister of Education, the Registrar at Alberta Education will operate and maintain the online teacher and teacher leader registry.

The online teacher and teacher leader registry will align Alberta with other provinces such as British Columbia, Ontario and Saskatchewan that already share information in publicly available registries about the professional standing of teachers they certificate. Other regulated professions in Alberta, such as doctors, nurses and lawyers, also make this information available for their regulated members.

Seeking an Exemption in the Online Registry

A teacher or teacher leader may choose to apply for an exemption to have their information or disciplinary decision information excluded from the online registry. The granting of an exemption by the Registrar will be rare and determined on a case-by-case basis.

Examples of situations where an exemption may be granted by the Registrar to not publish information in the online registry include instances where:

- such a disclosure does not align with another enactment in Alberta or Canada;
- an order is issued by a court to not make information public; or
- such a disclosure could cause injury or hardship to a person.

In circumstances where a disclosure could cause injury or hardship to a person, the Registrar will weigh evidence provided by a teacher or teacher leader seeking an exemption against the risk of such a disclosure and its potential to cause injury or hardship to the teacher or teacher leader. For example, specific and credible threats may exist against a person's safety where inclusion in the online registry could be linked to the threats.

The process for a teacher or teacher leader to apply for an exemption from the online registry is outlined below:

- Teachers and teacher leaders will need to create an account on Teacher Workforce Information System (TWINS), if they do not already have one, by visiting <https://extranet.education.alberta.ca/twins.public/public>.
- Instructions on how to sign up and create a TWINS account can be found at <https://education.alberta.ca/media/3795783/twins-how-to-sign-up.pdf>.
- Teachers and teacher leaders will need to update their contact information in the TWINS Teacher Self-Service website.

- Teachers and teacher leaders will need to select the “Apply for Teacher Registry Exemption” tab.
- Teachers and teacher leaders will need to complete the exemption application in TWINS.
- Part of the application process includes writing a letter of explanation that clearly demonstrates the reasons for which the applicant is seeking an exemption from the online registry. The reasons need to show how such a disclosure would not align with another enactment in Alberta or Canada, is prevented by an order issued by a court or could cause injury or hardship to a person. The teacher or teacher leader applying for the exemption must sign and date the letter.

Exemption applications must be received in TWINS on or before July 29, 2022, to be considered prior to the registry launch on September 1, 2022. Exemption applications received after July 29, 2022, will still be considered, but may result in the information being published on September 1, 2022, before the exemption decision is made.

The length of time taken to make a decision on whether or not an exemption will be granted by the Registrar will depend on the nature of the exemption request and the length of time taken by the applicant to provide supporting documentation related to the request.

The Office of the Registrar will provide written notification of the Registrar’s decision for all exemption requests received.

The Registrar may also choose not to publish a teacher or teacher leader’s information in the online registry in circumstances where no request for an exemption has been received, but where the Registrar learns that the disclosure does not align with another enactment in Alberta or Canada or that a court has issued an order preventing the disclosure of such information.

In circumstances where an exemption has already been granted by the Registrar not to publish information in the online registry, the applicant will typically not be required to reapply for another exemption again in the future. However, there may be circumstances where another application is necessary for a particular reason or based on the nature of the original exemption granted. In these circumstances, the Registrar will provide the applicant written notice of the requirement either when the initial exemption is granted or at the appropriate time if the teacher or teacher leader needs to reapply for the exemption.

An exemption request can be made at any time and will be considered even after the online registry is launched on September 1, 2022.

Exemption requests received after September 1, 2022, will be reviewed and considered. If the Registrar grants an exemption after a teacher or teacher leader’s information is already in the online registry, it will be removed effective on the date of the Registrar’s decision.

The Registrar may also consider removing a teacher or teacher leader’s name from the online registry temporarily while the exemption request is being considered if it is reasonable to do so, based on the circumstance. For example, there may be situations where there is evidence that such a disclosure may cause immediate harm, is prevented by a court order, or does not align with another enactment in Alberta or Canada.

Further information related to exemption requests for teachers and teacher leaders can be found in TWINS and may be accessed through the TWINS Self-Service account.