

Policy and Requirements for School Board Planning and Results Reporting

April 2017

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April 2017[©]

This document contains requirements for Alberta's public, separate and Francophone school authorities and schools.

This document is available online at:

<https://education.alberta.ca/school-authority-planning-resources/current-requirements/everyone/planning-documents>

and provides the requirements for:

- Jurisdiction Three-Year Education Plans for 2017/2018 – 2019/2020.
- School Education Plans
- Jurisdiction Annual Education Results Reports on the 2016/2017 school year based on the Three-Year Education Plans for 2016/2017 – 2018/2019.
- School results reports for the 2016/2017 school year.

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Policy and Requirements for School Board Planning and Results Reporting, 2017 Edition

Requirements for:

- School jurisdiction Three-Year Education Plans, (3YEPs) 2017/2018 to 2019/2020
- School jurisdiction Annual Education Results Reports (AERRs) on the 2016/2017 school year

This document is issued under authority of the following:

- *School Act*, RSA 2000, Section 78
- *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*, Section 10
- Alberta Regulation 113/2007, *School Act*, *School Councils Regulation*
- Alberta Regulation 120/2008, *Government Organization Act*, *Education Grants Regulation*, Sections 2 and 7



Deputy Minister of Education

June 12, 2017

Date

Policy and Requirements for School Board Planning and Results Reporting

Requirements for Alberta’s public, separate and Francophone school authorities.

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What's Changed?

New Alberta Education Business Plan

Alberta Education's Business Plan 2017 - 2020 contains five outcomes. School authorities will need to develop their Three-Year Education Plans in alignment with this structure.

Background

Structure and Purpose of Alberta's K – 12 Education System

The education of Alberta's children is the responsibility of the provincial government and is governed by the *School Act*. Per provisions of the *School Act*, education is delivered by a system of schools operated by public, separate and Francophone school authorities, charter school and accredited funded private school authorities.

The priority of the K – 12 education system is the success of every child in school. Each type of school authority assures the quality of education for its students while the Ministry of Education assures the quality of education provided by school authorities. The Ministry uses school authority Accountability Pillar information to provide assurance to the public and the Legislative Assembly on the quality of education in Alberta's school system.

Accountability and Transparency in Alberta's K – 12 Education System

In Alberta's K – 12 education system, there is a delegation of responsibility from the provincial government to school authorities. This delegation of responsibilities also comes with an obligation to answer for, and publicly report on the spending of public funds and results achieved by the accountable organization through the discharge of responsibilities. This facilitates the transparency of the accountable organization. Consequences are applied to accountable organizations based on performance.

In Alberta's K – 12 education system, school authorities (school boards, Francophone regional authorities, charter schools and accredited funded private school authorities) are considered accountable organizations. The Ministry of Education allocates funds to school authorities so they may fulfill their delegated responsibilities of providing education programs for Alberta's K – 12 students. This creates an accountability relationship between the Ministry and school authorities. This accountability relationship is established in legislation and regulation.

This document applies to Public, Separate and Francophone school boards. Separate planning and reporting documents for charter schools and accredited funded private schools are available online at:

<https://education.alberta.ca/school-authority-planning-resources/current-requirements/everyone/planning-documents>

Legislative Authority

The following pieces of legislation and regulation dictate the responsibilities of school boards related to the accountability relationship with the Ministry of Education.

- Section 10(2) of the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act* requires accountable organizations, including school boards, under the jurisdiction of government ministries to prepare business plans and annual reports for each fiscal year “in the form, at a time and containing the information, acceptable to the Minister.”
- Section 78 of the *School Act* requires school boards to develop an accountability system on any matter the Minister prescribes; to use accountability information and to report it to students, parents and electors in the manner the Minister prescribes.
- Section 7 of the *Education Grants Regulation* under the *Government Organization Act* requires recipients of grants from the Ministry of Education to provide the Minister, upon request, any information the Minister considers necessary for the purpose of determining whether or not the recipient has complied or is complying with the conditions of the grant.
- Section 13 of the *School Councils Regulation* under the *School Act* requires school boards to provide school councils in their jurisdiction with the opportunity to be involved in the development of the school’s education plan and annual results report, and requires boards to provide the school’s results and reasonable interpretation of provincial tests and other provincial measures to the school council. The full text of these sections of legislation and regulations is provided in Appendix A.

Pursuant to the *Government Organization Act* and the *School Act*, and to operationalize the accountability relationships and processes established in provincial legislation, the *Policy and Requirements for School Board Planning and Results Reporting* contains the Minister’s requirements for school board three-year education plans and annual education results reports.

The Minister’s requirements in the *Policy and Requirements for School Board Planning and Results Reporting* ensure that school board plans and annual education results reports are aligned with the Ministry of Education’s vision, mission, outcomes and performance measures in Education’s Business Plan. In this way, the Ministry, school board and school documents help ensure that the K –12 education system is focused effectively and efficiently on meeting the educational needs of Alberta students.

At the same time, school board and school plans incorporate local strategies and may incorporate local goals, priorities, outcomes and measures that reflect the unique characteristics and circumstances of their communities. Similarly, school board and school results reports include information on local activities and results on provincial

and local measures. As such, school board and school plans and annual education results reports reflect local needs and priorities within the context of provincial direction and framework.

School Authority Accountability Policy

School authorities are accountable for results achieved from carrying out their responsibilities to provide education programs to Alberta students. As accountable organizations, school authorities are required to:

- Establish a system of accountability for results that encompasses their schools.
- Interpret and report results to parents, students, the Ministry of Education and the public in a manner and at a time the Minister prescribes as part of ensuring transparency.
- Use results to improve the quality and effectiveness of education programs provided to their students and to improve student learning and achievement.

Accountability Framework for the K – 12 Education System

The Accountability Framework for the K – 12 education system is a formal structure established by the Ministry to support accountability and transparency throughout the system and to ensure alignment of school authorities and schools with provincial direction. This helps ensure the priority of the education system is the success of the student.

The Accountability Framework consists of:

- Three-Year Education Plans (3YEPs), which contain:
 - Measureable outcomes;
 - Performance measures to provide information on achievement of outcomes;
 - Targets to improve low or declining performance levels;
 - Strategies to achieve outcomes and improve results; and
 - Implementation of strategies and programs, adjusting if necessary.

- Annual Education Results Reports (AERRs) that publicly report results, assess achievement and indicate whether improvement has taken place; and
- Answering to the Ministry for performance results over time.

Reviewing Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports

Alberta Education staff review 3YEPs and AERRs to:

- Enhance the department's understanding and increase knowledge of the jurisdiction's local context and priorities;
- Stimulate data-driven dialogue and discussion toward continuous improvement;
- Encourage jurisdiction improvement efforts;
- Ensure consistency between the plan and the report;
- Monitor compliance with provincial requirements; and
- Identify implications for provincial planning.

Information on Accountability Pillar

Additional information on planning and reporting and explanatory information on the Accountability Pillar are available separately on the Ministry website:

[School Authority Planning and Reporting Reference Guide](#)

[The Accountability Pillar of the Renewed Funding Framework Fact Sheet](#)

[Accountability in Alberta's Education System](#)

Three-Year Education Plan (3YEP), 2017/2018 – 2019/2020

Components and Requirements for School Board Education Plans

School board education plans must maintain a three-year time frame. School boards are required to consider their latest Accountability Pillar results when they review, adjust and roll the 3YEP forward each year.

Components of 3YEPs are in bold below and defined in Appendix B. An optional template for a combined 3YEP/AERR, pre-populated with the required Accountability Pillar information, will be provided to jurisdictions as part of the May 2017 Accountability Pillar reports.

Optional Message from Board Chair

Required An **Accountability Statement**, signed by the board chair (see Appendix C for the wording to the Accountability Statements for 3YEPs, AERRs and the Accountability Statement to be used if the jurisdiction combines its 3YEP and AERR into one document).

Optional The **Accountability Pillar Overall Summary** in colour, as provided by Alberta Education on the Extranet.

Optional **Foundation Statements** – vision, mission, principles and beliefs.

Optional **A Profile of the Jurisdiction**

Optional **Trends and Issues**

Required **Provincial Outcomes** taken from the current business plan, **Performance Measures, Targets and Strategies**. For each outcome, include:

1. The measures used to assess progress and achievement of the outcome (see Required Outcomes and Performance Measures).
2. Results and evaluations for the measures or reference to the overall summary page.

3. At least one strategy to address each outcome.
4. Targets for each year of the plan for measures with an overall evaluation of “Issue” or “Concern” and a clearly identified strategy for improvement.

Note: For Outcome 2, jurisdictions should include strategies that ensure all students, teachers and school leaders learn about First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives and experiences, treaties, and the history and legacy of residential schools.

Note: For Outcome 3, describe the strategies implemented to ensure that all children and students have access to meaningful and relevant learning experiences that include appropriate instructional supports to demonstrate that the jurisdiction is meeting its obligations as stated in the Inclusive Education Policy. For further information and resources, visit <https://education.alberta.ca/inclusive-education/what-is-inclusion/>

Optional Jurisdictions are encouraged to develop or adopt supplemental local measures to assess progress in achieving outcomes and include additional results or contextual information to help explain strategies and targets to parents and the public.

Required Budget Summary. This section presents summary information about the board’s budget for the 3YEP. The budget summary **must** include:

- Charts/tables that summarize budget information consistent with the board’s Fall Budget Update.
- A web link to the jurisdiction’s budget for 2017/2018.
- Key financial information about the upcoming school year. This section refers to budgeted changes in enrolment, certificated and non-certificated staff, programs, funding, revenues and expenses, annual surpluses or deficits and accumulated surpluses.

Optional • A description of how the jurisdiction will collaborate with other school boards to enhance efficiencies, improve effectiveness and reduce costs.

Required Summary of Facility and Capital Plans. Include a web link to information on the jurisdiction’s facility and capital plans.

Required Parental Involvement Strategies. Indicate the board's actions to meet its obligations under Section 13 of the *School Councils Regulation* (Alberta Regulation 113/2007) to provide opportunity for school councils to be involved in updating school plans.

Required Timelines and Communication. School jurisdictions must finalize their 3YEPs in the fall, considering the Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Examination results and Accountability Pillar evaluations provided in early October 2017.

3YEPs must be approved by the board and posted on the jurisdiction's website by **November 30** each year.

Notify the Branch Director of the posting and include the permalink in the email notice. A permalink is a web link or URL to a web page where the 3YEP is posted that does not change from year to year.

Note: Jurisdictions may combine their 3YEP and AERR into one document if they wish or continue to prepare and post two separate documents.

Required Outcomes and Performance Measures

Listed below are the required outcomes and performance measures for school jurisdiction 3YEPs, which align with Alberta Education’s Business Plan 2017 - 2020. Targets for each year of the plan are required for all Accountability Pillar measures with an overall evaluation of “Issue” or “Concern.” Combined 3YEP/AERR documents will use these outcomes and performance measures.

<p>OUTCOME ONE: Alberta’s students are successful.</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall percentage of students in Grades 6 and 9 who achieved the acceptable standard and overall percentage of students who achieved the standard of excellence on Provincial Achievement Tests (based on cohort). • Overall percentage of students who achieved the acceptable standard and the overall percentage of students who achieved the standard of excellence on Diploma Examinations. • High school completion rate of students within three years of entering Grade 10. • Annual dropout rate of students aged 14 to 18. • High school to post-secondary transition rate of students within six years of entering Grade 10. • Percentage of Grade 12 students eligible for a Rutherford Scholarship. • Percentage of students writing four or more Diploma Examinations within three years of entering Grade 10. • Overall teacher, parent and student agreement that students model the characteristics of active citizenship. • Overall teacher and parent agreement that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school.
<p>OUTCOME TWO: The systemic education achievement gap between First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students and all other students is eliminated.</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall percentage of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in Grades 6 and 9 who achieved the acceptable standard and the percentage of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students who achieved the standard of excellence on Provincial Achievement Tests (based on cohort). • Overall percentage of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students who achieved the acceptable standard and the overall percentage of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students who achieved the standard of excellence on Diploma Examinations. • High school completion rate of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students within three years of entering Grade 10. • Annual dropout rate of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students aged 14 to 18. • High school to post-secondary transition rate of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students within six years of entering Grade 10. • Percentage of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Grade 12 students eligible for a Rutherford Scholarship. • Percentage of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students writing four or more Diploma Examinations within three years of entering Grade 10.

<p>OUTCOME THREE: Alberta’s education system is inclusive.</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall teacher, parent and student agreement that students are safe at school, learning the importance of caring for others, learning respect for others and are treated fairly at school.
<p>OUTCOME FOUR: Alberta has excellent teachers, and school and school authority leaders.</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall teacher, parent and student satisfaction with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies, including fine arts, career, technology, health and physical education.
<p>OUTCOME FIVE: Alberta’s education system is well governed and managed.</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall teacher and parent satisfaction with parental involvement in decisions about their child’s education. • Overall percentage of teachers, parents and students indicating that their school and schools in their jurisdiction have improved or stayed the same the last three years. • Overall teacher, parent and student satisfaction with the overall quality of basic education.
<p>Notes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results for the required measures are available in the Accountability Pillar reports on Alberta Education’s Extranet at https://phoenix.edc.gov.ab.ca/ or https://education.alberta.ca/ • Consistent with the <i>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i>, <u>when the number of students or survey participants in a group is fewer than six, results are not reported</u> to protect individual privacy.

Requirements for School Education Plans

Each school within the school jurisdiction must maintain an education plan that reflects and aligns with the board's 3YEP. As part of its accountability system, each board outlines its own requirements for the process, content and format for school education plans.

Note that Section 13 of the *School Councils Regulation* requires boards to give school councils the opportunity to provide advice on the development of school education plans.

An optional pre-populated template for the school, based on the jurisdiction 3YEP template, will be provided with the May 2017 Accountability Pillar reports. Schools may find this template useful as a starting point for preparing education plans.

Alberta Education does not routinely collect or review individual school plans. It is the responsibility of each school jurisdiction, as part of its accountability system, to ensure the following:

- Each school updates its education plan annually;
- Each school involves the school council in updating the plan; and
- Each school posts its plan on the school's or jurisdiction's website

Annual Education Results Report (AERR), 2016/2017

Components and Requirements for School Board Results Reports

The 2016-2017 AERR reports on the jurisdiction's 3YEP for 2016/2017 – 2018/2019 and includes the components listed below in bold. An optional template for a combined 3YEP/AERR, pre-populated with the required Accountability Pillar information, will be provided to jurisdictions as part of the October 2017 Accountability Pillar reports.

Optional Message from Board Chair.

Required An **Accountability Statement** signed by the board chair (see Appendix C for the wording to the Accountability Statements for 3YEPs, AERRs and the Accountability Statement to be used if the jurisdiction combines its 3YEP and AERR into one document).

Required The **Accountability Pillar Overall Summary** in colour provided by Alberta Education in October 2017.

- The Accountability Pillar Overall Summary **must** be placed near the beginning of the document.
- The First Nations, Métis and Inuit Summary must also be included in the AERR.

Optional **Summary of Accomplishments.** The jurisdiction's accomplishments (impact of major activities/ strategies).

Required Report the jurisdiction's **Performance Measure Results** for 2016/2017 in relation to the outcomes and targets for 2016/2017 set in the jurisdiction's education plan (see Required Outcomes and Performance Measures). Specifically, for each required measure, report:

- Five years of jurisdiction results or available results if less than five years (reporting five years of comparative provincial results is optional).
- Most recent result in relation to the target for 2016/2017 (if applicable).

Note: Reporting provincial results is not required but may be useful in interpreting jurisdiction results.

Optional **Commentary on Results**, such as contextual information, factors affecting performance or actions taken by the jurisdiction that may have contributed to evaluations of “Improved” or “Improved significantly” on Accountability Pillar measures may be included.

Optional **Future Challenges**, such as changes in enrolment patterns, areas for improvement and how the jurisdiction will address these.

Required **Summary of Financial Results.** The financial summary:

- Provides key financial information about the school year, including information on how the board spent its funding, significant changes over the prior year (if any) and whether spending was within budget (if not, why not and how deficits will be addressed).
- Includes program expenditure information in a table or graph format for the primary audience – parents and other members of the community.
- Indicates where detailed information on the jurisdiction’s sources of school-generated funds and their uses can be obtained.
- Includes a web link to the Audited Financial Statements (AFS) and related unaudited schedules
- Provides the web link to the provincial roll up of AFS information: <https://education.alberta.ca/financial-statements/combined-statements>
- Indicates where more information can be obtained (e.g. contact at central office).

Optional

- Describes how the jurisdiction has collaborated with other school boards to enhance efficiencies, improve effectiveness and reduce costs.

Required **Capital and Facilities Projects**

Summarize, for parents and the public, progress on major school facilities projects, e.g., building renewal and construction for the previous school year, focusing on benefits to students.

Required Parental Involvement Strategies

Indicate how the board met its obligations under the *School Councils Regulation* (updated 2007) to provide school councils the opportunity to be involved in school AERRs and to share school results and interpretation of Accountability Pillar measures with school councils.

Required Timelines and Communication

School jurisdictions must post their board approved AERR for 2016/2017 on the jurisdiction website in a publicly accessible format by **November 30, 2017** and **notify the Branch Director** by email of the posting. They must also include:

- The web link to the jurisdiction AERR in both the print and posted versions.
- A web link to the jurisdiction's average class size report (or include the average class size report in an appendix to the AERR). The average class-size report must include average class size information for the 2016/2017 school year.

Required Whistleblower Protection

Section 32 of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act* (2013) requires that school authorities include their annual report of disclosures in their Annual Education Results Report or combined Three-Year Education Plan/Annual Education Results Report.

For a copy of the legislation or for further information and resources, please visit the Public Interest Commissioner's website at www.yourvoiceprotected.ca

Required Outcomes and Performance Measures

Listed below are the required outcomes and performance measures for school jurisdiction AERRs, which align with Alberta Education’s Business Plan 2016 - 2019.

Jurisdictions choosing to prepare a combined 3YEP/AERR should use the components listed in the 3YEP section of this document instead of the ones shown below.

<p>OUTCOME ONE: Alberta’s students are successful.</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall percentage of students in Grades 6 and 9 who achieved the acceptable standard and overall percentage of students who achieved the standard of excellence on Provincial Achievement Tests (based on cohort). • Overall percentage of students who achieved the acceptable standard and the overall percentage of students who achieved the standard of excellence on Diploma Examinations. • High school completion rate of students within three years of entering Grade 10. • Annual dropout rate of students aged 14 to 18. • High school to post-secondary transition rate of students within six years of entering Grade 10. • Percentage of Grade 12 students eligible for a Rutherford Scholarship. • Percentage of students writing four or more Diploma Examinations within three years of entering Grade 10. • Overall teacher, parent and student agreement that students model the characteristics of active citizenship. • Overall teacher and parent agreement that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school.
<p>OUTCOME TWO: The achievement gap between First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students and all other students is eliminated.</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall percentage of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in Grades 6 and 9 who achieved the acceptable standard and the percentage of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students who achieved the standard of excellence on Provincial Achievement Tests (based on cohort). • Overall percentage of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students who achieved the acceptable standard and the overall percentage of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students who achieved the standard of excellence on Diploma Examinations. • High school completion rate of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students within three years of entering Grade 10. • Annual dropout rate of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students aged 14 to 18. • High school to post-secondary transition rate of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students within six years of entering Grade 10. • Percentage of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Grade 12 students eligible for a Rutherford Scholarship. • Percentage of self-identified First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students writing four or more Diploma Examinations within three years of entering Grade 10.

<p>OUTCOME THREE: Alberta’s education system is inclusive.</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall teacher, parent and student agreement that students are safe at school, learning the importance of caring for others, learning respect for others and are treated fairly at school.
<p>OUTCOME FOUR: Alberta has excellent teachers, school and school authority leaders.</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall teacher, parent and student satisfaction with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies, including fine arts, career, technology, health and physical education.
<p>OUTCOME FIVE: The education system is well governed and managed.</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall teacher and parent satisfaction with parental involvement in decisions about their child’s education. • Overall percentage of teachers, parents and students indicating that their school and schools in their jurisdiction have improved or stayed the same the last three years. • Overall teacher, parent and student satisfaction with the overall quality of basic education.
<p>Notes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results for the required measures are available in the Accountability Pillar reports on Alberta Education’s Extranet at https://phoenix.edc.gov.ab.ca/ or https://education.alberta.ca/ • Consistent with the <i>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i>, <u>when the number of students or survey participants in a group is fewer than six, results are not reported</u> to protect individual privacy.

Requirements for School Board AERR Summaries

In addition to producing the November 2017 AERR, jurisdictions are required to produce a summary of their AERR that provides parents and community members with easy to understand information about their jurisdiction's progress. The intent of this document is to improve communication, transparency and accountability to local stakeholders. The AERR Summary should not be more than two pages in length, be featured prominently on the jurisdiction's website and include the following components:

- A brief summary of the jurisdiction's priorities and accomplishments relevant to parents and the community.
- A brief description of parental and community engagement efforts, how input is collected and how it informed decision-making or identified local priorities.
- Key highlights and challenges based on the jurisdiction's results on the required performance measures.
- Other statistical, financial or performance information relevant to parents and the community.
- A web link to the full AERR document for the jurisdiction.
- A web link to detailed financial information (as per the Summary of Financial Results component in the full AERR requirements).

The timelines and communication for the AERR Summary are the same as for the AERR:

- School jurisdictions must post their full AERR and the AERR Summary for 2016/2017 on the jurisdiction website by **November 30, 2017** and **notify the Branch Director** of the posting by email. The email notice must include the permalink to the two documents.

Requirements for School Results Reports

Schools must prepare a report of the school's results for 2016/2017. Each jurisdiction establishes requirements for the content, process and format for school annual reports as part of its accountability system.

Section 13 of the *School Councils Regulation* requires boards to give school councils the opportunity to provide advice on the development of school annual results reports.

Optional pre-populated templates for school annual results reports, and for combined plans/reports, will be provided with the Accountability Pillar reports in October 2017.

Alberta Education does not routinely collect or review the annual results reports prepared by individual schools. It is the responsibility of school jurisdictions to ensure through their accountability system that:

- Each school prepares its education report annually;
- Each school involves the school council in preparing the report; and
- Each school posts its report on the school's or the jurisdiction's website.

Appendix A – Legislation and Regulation – Key Excerpts

Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000 **Chapter S-3** ***School Act***

Accountability of Board

78(1) A board shall develop a reporting and accountability system on any matter the Minister prescribes.

(2) A board shall disseminate any information in the reports and accounts produced under the reporting and accountability system it develops under subsection (1) to students, parents, electors or the Minister in the manner the Minister prescribes.

(3) A board shall use any information in the reports and accounts produced under the reporting and accountability system it develops under subsection (1) in the manner the Minister prescribes.

1995 c27 s9

Statutes of Alberta 2013 **Chapter F-14.5** ***Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act***

Accountable Organization

10(1) In this section, “accountable organization” means

- (a) a Provincial corporation other than
 - (i) a corporation referred to in section 2.2(4) of the *Funds and Agencies Exemption Regulation* (AR128/2002), and
 - (ii) a provincial corporation that is a subsidiary of another Provincial corporation,
- (b) a board under the *School Act*, or
- (c) a regional health authority under the *Regional Health Authorities Act*.

(2) The governing body of an accountable organization must prepare and give to the Minister responsible for the accountable organization a business plan and annual report for each fiscal year, in the form, at a time and containing the information, acceptable to the responsible Minister.

(3) An accountable organization must make the business plan or annual report referred to in subsection (2) publicly available after it is given to the Minister.

Alberta Regulation 120/2008
Government Organization Act
EDUCATION GRANTS REGULATION

General Authority to Make Grants

2. The Minister may make grants, in accordance with this Regulation, for any purpose related to any program, service or matter under the Minister's administration.

Conditions on which grants are made:

7. In addition to any conditions imposed by the Minister, it is a condition of every grant made under section (2)

(a) that the recipient shall

- (i) use the grant only for the purpose for which it is made,
- (ii) account to the Minister, in the manner that the Minister determines and to the Minister's satisfaction, for how the grant money or any portion of it was or is being used,
- (iii) permit a representative of the Minister or the Auditor General to examine any books or records that the Minister or the Auditor General considers necessary to determine how the grant money has or is being used, and
- (iv) provide to the Minister, on request, any information the Minister considers necessary for the purpose of determining whether or not the grant recipient has complied or is complying with the conditions of the grant.

Alberta Regulation 113/2007
School Act
SCHOOL COUNCILS REGULATION

Responsibilities of Board

13(1) A board must provide the school council with an opportunity to provide advice on the development of the school's

- (a) mission, vision and philosophy,
- (b) policies,
- (c) annual education plan,
- (d) annual results report, and
- (e) budget

(2) A board must provide the school council with the school's provincial testing program results and other provincial measures and a reasonable interpretation of those results and measures.

Appendix B – Glossary of Planning and Accountability Terms



B

Accountability: An obligation to answer or account for assigned (delegated) responsibilities, e.g., for use of funds, results achieved and for taking action to make continuous improvement and achieve desired results. Accountability arises when one party delegates responsibility to another party. Some discretion on how responsibilities are carried out is associated with the delegation of responsibility to accountable organizations. In the public sector, accountability involves transparent public reporting of results as well as reporting to the organization, such as a government ministry, that delegated responsibilities and provided funding to an accountable organization. Consequences for performance are conferred by the delegating party.

Accountability Framework: A well-designed structure to ensure accountability within organizations and between governing bodies and delegated organizations (accountable parties). An accountability framework consists of measurable goals, performance measures that provide information on progress toward and achievement of outcomes, targets that indicate a desired level of performance, strategies that are implemented and adjusted as necessary to improve results over time, evaluation of results achieved, including whether improvement has taken place, public performance reports and consequences for the performance of accountable organizations.

Continuous Improvement: Using performance results to adjust strategies and practices so that improvement in performance is achieved over time.

Goals: Broad statements that look towards the long term and steer organizations in the direction of realizing their vision. Goals are typically expressed as desired conditions or aims.

Issues: Conditions that may affect the organization's ability to fulfill its mandate or achieve its goals.

Mission Statement: A clear, concise description of an organization's overall purpose and role. It gives direction to the programs and services that the school authority provides for its students.

Outcomes: Measurable statements of what an organization seeks to achieve. In broad terms, they answer the question, “What will this look like when we get to where we want to be?”

Performance Measures: Performance measures provide information on important, quantifiable aspects of the education system. They enable school authorities to assess progress toward achieving goals and outcomes.

Principles and Beliefs: Principles and beliefs guide decision-making and provide a foundation for developing mission, vision and goals.

Profile: A profile is a brief description of the school authority that gives context for the plan. Profiles include such information as characteristics of communities, students, programs, size and location.

Strategies: Strategies are actions that school authorities take to achieve goals and desired outcomes that meet the needs of all their students. They address local circumstances, issues, trends and opportunities.

Targets: Targets show desired levels of performance to be attained by a certain time. Targets are expressed quantitatively.

Trend: A trend shows a direction of data over time, e.g., enrolment growth.

Vision: A vision describes a possible and desired future state for the organization, grounded in reality, which inspires and guides decisions and actions.

Terms Related to the Accountability Pillar Evaluation *(in logical, rather than alphabetical order)*

Accountability Pillar: The Accountability Pillar is one of the three pillars of the Renewed Funding Framework and enhances school authority accountability for results in return for greater flexibility in the allocation of resources. The Accountability Pillar places increased emphasis on the achievement of specific outcomes by evaluating and reporting results on a common set of measures and, where results are low or declining, taking action to improve student programs and results in subsequent years.

The focus of the Accountability Pillar is on improving school authority results and attaining high levels of achievement.

Accountability Pillar Performance Measures: The Accountability Pillar performance measures are a required, consistent set of measures, each of which is calculated on a comparable basis for all jurisdictions. School authorities are required to include this common set of performance measures and evaluations in their plans and report the results and updated evaluations for these measures in their AERRs. The measures draw from various kinds of data, including:

- Results of provincial testing programs;
- Student outcomes, such as dropout and high school completion rates, calculated from administrative data; and
- Student, parent and teacher perceptions from surveys.

Category: Accountability Pillar measures are grouped into seven categories that represent key aspects of education that are important to parents and the public:

- Safe and caring schools,
- Student learning opportunities,
- Student learning achievement (Grades K to 9),
- Student learning achievement (Grades 10 to 12),
- Preparation for lifelong learning, employment and citizenship,
- Parental involvement, and
- Continuous improvement.

Evaluation Methodology: The evaluation methodology assesses each measure in the Accountability Pillar in terms of achievement and improvement, then combines the achievement and improvement evaluations to calculate overall evaluations for measures and categories.

Achievement Evaluation: The achievement evaluation is based on comparing the current jurisdiction result against a set of provincial standards that are expected to be fixed for 7 – 10 years. The achievement evaluation results in one of the following five achievement levels: Very High, High, Intermediate, Low and Very Low.

Standard: A standard is an established, quantifiable level of performance that is commonly understood and agreed upon, and is the basis for judging actual performance. The standards for each Accountability Pillar measure are calculated from baseline data (based on the distribution of results for all school boards at a fixed point in time). The 5th, 25th, 75th and 95th percentiles of the distribution of the baseline results are used to establish the five achievement evaluation levels (listed above under “Achievement Evaluation”).

Baseline: Baseline data constitute a starting point for comparisons of results against standards. Baseline data for each Accountability Pillar measure are established by averaging each school board’s results across the three years to create a three-year average. The three years that form the baseline for calculating standards differ among measure types, depending on data availability.

Improvement Evaluation: The improvement evaluation focuses on improvement over time. Improvement is evaluated by comparing the authority’s current year result against the authority’s own previous three-year average using the chi-square test of statistical significance. This test is used to determine the probability that there is no significant difference between an observed outcome and the expected outcome, while taking into account the sample size. Thus, the previous three-year average is the expected outcome by which the current year result, the observed outcome, is compared. The improvement evaluation results in one of the following five improvement levels: Improved Significantly, Improved, Maintained, Declined and Declined Significantly.

Overall Evaluation: Once the improvement and achievement levels have been calculated for a measure, an overall evaluation is calculated, which reflects both the achievement evaluation and the improvement evaluation. The overall evaluation is reported on a five-point scale: Excellent, Good, Acceptable, Issue and Concern.

Category Evaluation: For each category of Accountability Pillar measures, the overall evaluations for each measure within that group are averaged to provide an evaluation for that category. The averaging is done by assigning the following numbers to the overall evaluation for each measure: Excellent: 2; Good: 1; Acceptable: 0; Issue: -1, and Concern: -2. These values are averaged and rounded to the nearest whole number. This result is then compared with the above list of assigned numerical values for each of the five evaluation ratings to determine the evaluation for the category.

Improvement/Decline: Improvement or decline for an Accountability Pillar measure is determined by comparing the current result against the

previous three-year average using the chi-square test of statistical significance. Using the chi-square test:

- An **improvement or decline** occurs when the current result is at least one standard deviation above or below the previous three-year average, but less than two standard deviations.
- A **significant improvement or decline** (at the 5% level of confidence, or 19 times out of 20) occurs when the current result is approximately two or more standard deviations above or below the previous three-year average.

Target: Targets related to achievement standards are set for each year of the plan when the evaluation of results for a measure is “Issue” or “Concern”. These targets for Accountability Pillar measures:

- Have a higher numerical value each year than the current result (except for dropout rates, where a lower result shows improvement).
- Show reasonable progress toward or move into the next higher achievement standard over the three years.

Making gains over time toward the next achievement level or attaining it will be reflected in the improvement evaluation as well. At minimum the improvement evaluation would be “Maintained,” and could be “Improved” or “Improved Significantly”.

Appendix C – Accountability Statements



Accountability Statements are required for stand-alone 3YEPs and AERRs. School boards that continue to prepare 3YEPs and AERRs as separate documents use the Accountability Statements below.

Accountability Statement for the Three-Year Education Plan

The Education Plan for **(name of school jurisdiction)** for the three years commencing September 1, **(year)** was prepared under the direction of the Board in accordance with the responsibilities under the *School Act* and the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*. This Education Plan was developed in the context of the provincial government's business and fiscal plans. The Board has used its performance results to develop the Plan and is committed to implementing the strategies contained within the Plan to improve student learning and results.

The Board approved the Education Plan for 2017/2020 on _____ (month and day), 2017.

Accountability Statement for the Annual Education Results Report

The Annual Education Results Report for **(name of jurisdiction)** the **(year)** school year was prepared under the direction of the board in accordance with the responsibilities under the *School Act* and the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*. The board is committed to using the results in this report, to the best of its abilities, to improve outcomes for students and to ensure that all students in the jurisdiction can acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to be self-reliant, responsible, caring and contributing members of society.

This Annual Education Results Report for 2016/2017 was approved by the Board on _____ (month and day), 2017.

School boards that combine their AERR and 3YEP into a single document use the following Accountability Statement:

Accountability Statement for the Combined Annual Education Results Report and Three-Year Education Plan

The Annual Education Results Report for the **(year)** school year and the Education Plan for the three years commencing September 1, **(year)** for **(name of jurisdiction)** were prepared under the direction of the Board in accordance with its responsibilities under the *School Act* and the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*. This document was developed in the context of the provincial government's business and fiscal plans. The Board has used the results reported in the document, to the best of its abilities, to develop the Education Plan and is committed to implementing the strategies contained within the Education Plan to improve student learning and results.

The Board approved this combined Annual Education Results Report for the 2016/2017 school year and the Three-Year Education Plan for 2017/2020 on _____ (month and day), 2017.