

K-3 Literacy and Numeracy Consultation Initiative 2005/2006

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Recommendation	Government Response/ Next steps
<p>1. That Alberta Education, with education stakeholders, research, develop and communicate working definitions of numeracy and literacy related to Alberta Education's programs of study.</p>	<p>Alberta Education will develop a strategy to further enhance student achievement in literacy and numeracy through the K–12 programs of study. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing contemporary definitions of numeracy and literacy in the Alberta context. • Completing a review of recent research related to literacy and numeracy skills development for our students K – 12 including First Nations, Inuit and Metis (FMNI) students, special needs students and students whose first language is not English • Completing a review of literacy and numeracy curriculum development in other countries. • Reviewing AISI Literacy and Numeracy projects in order to develop a comprehensive listing of instructional strategies or 'best practices' in literacy for the classroom. • Compiling a comprehensive list of instructional strategies for literacy and numeracy development.
<p>2. That Alberta Education, with education stakeholders, develop and disseminate materials for teachers in defining and diagnosing developmental sequences linked to the Alberta Education curriculum, for K–3.</p>	<p>Alberta Education will procure/develop resource materials, based on the Alberta programs of study that assist teachers in planning for differentiated* instruction and that meet the developmental and learning needs of all students.</p> <p>This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing an on-line K—12 Mathematics Guide to Implementation to support teachers in developing numerate students, including elementary students. • Training facilitators to provide workshops to teachers on strategies to develop students' fluency and flexibility with numbers. • Supporting the Mathematics Summer Institute (2007-2009). • Developing an on-line Primary Programs Guide to Implementation with information and sample strategies for planning and supporting programming for K—3 students. • Developing a resource for differentiating* learning and teaching for all students, including elementary students. <p>*Differentiated instruction is providing instruction in a variety of ways to meet the needs of a range of learners within a classroom or other learning environments.</p>

<p>3. That Alberta Education identify and subsidize diagnostic resources for numeracy and literacy in K–3 that would inform instructional practice and program development responsive to child and student learning needs.</p>	<p>Alberta Education will identify/develop diagnostic resources, beginning with numeracy resources, on a “phased-in” schedule, starting with K–3.</p>
<p>4. That Alberta Education develop pilot projects to deliver professional development on recommended literacy and numeracy diagnostic resources and interpretation thereof to support instructional practice.</p>	<p>Pilot projects and professional development are part of field testing of resources and would be included in recommendations 2 and 3. The professional development will focus on ensuring teachers understand how to use and interpret the diagnostic materials.</p>
<p>5. That Alberta Education continue support for ACOL Recommendation 1, to establish parenting centres in communities across the province with close links to elementary schools.</p>	<p>Support for this recommendation is already underway through Children’s Services. Currently, there are 20 Parent Link Centres across the province delivering services in 30 locations and approximately 70 satellite sites in communities. In addition, two Aboriginal Centres are being established.</p>
<p>6. That Alberta Education fund, for populations deemed to be at risk, pre-Kindergarten and full-day Kindergarten programs with a focus on early literacy, early numeracy and parent involvement, consistent with the Goals of Education.</p>	<p>Funding is available for children 3-1/2 to 6 years with mild or moderate special needs under Early Childhood Services (ECS) who are enrolled in a recognized ECS program. Further work will be done in response to the Minister of Education’s mandate letter with a priority to “explore options to provide children with access to early learning opportunities.”</p>
<p>7. That Alberta Education extend AISI cycles from 3 to 4 years, with year 4 of each cycle being devoted to reviewing the results achieved in order to institutionalize and disseminate promising practices and to optimize planning for the next cycle.</p>	<p>Alberta Education will continue to evaluate AISI results on completion of the 3-year cycle. AISI funding has been renewed for another 3-year cycle, effective March 2006.</p>

<p>8. That Alberta Education identify strategies for improving communications with parents regarding their child's learning.</p>	<p>Develop communications strategies to enhance and strengthen communications with parents will be developed. As well, existing products will be reviewed for effectiveness including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curriculum Handbooks for Parents• Curriculum Summaries• Grade-at-a-Glance• Curriculum Express (for ESL parents)• Grade Level Achievement (GLA).
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