

## Class Sizes

- \$163 million was provided in 2006/2007 to reduce class sizes, compared to \$108 million in the previous year, an increase of 51.5%.
- About 2,500 teachers have been hired since the initiative was implemented in 2004/2005.
- Class sizes have declined at all grade levels over the three years of the program and met Ministry guidelines at all levels except K – 3.

### Average Class Sizes

Grade Levels	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Average Class Size Guidelines
K – 3	19.7	19.4	18.6	17
4 – 6	22.3	22.0	21.4	23
7 – 9	22.7	22.7	22.6	25
10 – 12	23.0	23.0	23.1	27

## K – 12 Student Programs

- Alberta Education keeps Programs of Study for students up to date to ensure students are learning what they need to know.
- In 2006/2007, highlights included completing the development of the new mathematics program for K – 9 students, selecting student resources and teacher guides for the new high school Chemistry, Biology and Physics programs and initiating work on revising the K – 12 Fine Arts program.

## Safe and Caring Schools

- The bullying prevention strategy introduced in 2005/2006 received a Premier's Award of Excellence and was recognized by the Canadian Public Forum as a best practice in public policy.

## Early Learning

- Alberta Education works with other ministries to help parents of young children develop their children's language and communications skills so they are well prepared for school.
- Talk Boxes, which are collections of ideas and booklets, help parents make language learning a natural part of their children's home life. In 2006/2007 Talk Boxes were placed in all 52 Parent Link Centres across Alberta.

Education is a provincial responsibility. As such,

- the provincial government has established school authorities to provide programs for Alberta K – 12 students
- Alberta Education plays a lead role in ensuring the quality of education students receive by:
  - developing programs, policies and standards
  - determining funding formulas and distributing funding to school authorities on an equitable basis
  - monitoring the implementation of programs and policies
  - certifying teachers and conducting workforce planning for the education sector
  - promoting continuous improvement through assessing and reporting results.

## Contact Us

For more information contact  
**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](mailto:edc.communications@gov.ab.ca)

Alberta Education's Annual Report for 2006/2007 is available on the Internet at <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/annual-report/>

# Annual Report Highlights 2006/2007

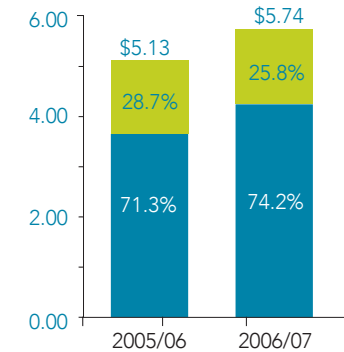


## Highlights 2006/2007

Alberta Education's highest priority is the success of all K – 12 students.

### Investment in Education

(in billions)



In support of this priority, more than \$5.74 billion was invested in the education of Alberta's children and youth in 2006/2007, an increase of 11.9% over the previous year.

■ General Revenue Fund (%) ■ Education Property Tax (%)

- Education spending in 2006/2007 provided programs for more than 596,000 K – 12 students in Alberta schools.
- The vast majority of education spending (nearly \$3.7 billion) was provided in operating grants to school jurisdictions. This support includes base instruction funding and funding for such programs as severe special needs, English as a Second Language and transportation.
- The education property tax represents a decreasing share of total education spending and includes the property tax support for opted-out separate school boards. The opted-out amount was nearly \$166 million in 2005/2006 and \$172 million in 2006/2007.

## School Facilities

- \$579 million was provided for school facilities in 2006/2007, an increase of 138% over the previous year. The bulk of the increase was for school construction, maintenance and modular classrooms.
- Government announced funding for 15 new schools and 6 major preservation and modernization projects and provided 130 modular classrooms to school jurisdictions.

# Performance Highlights

Alberta Education identifies performance measures and targets for key indicators of success of the K – 12 education system. Results and targets for 2006/2007 are provided below.

## Targets

✓ Target Met  
 ✓+ Target Exceeded  
 Target not met  
 n/a No target set for 2006/07 (insufficient data or new measure for 2007-2010)

## Results over time

↑ Improved performance  
 ~ No change in performance  
 ↓ Performance decline  
 New no comparable historical data

## Goal 1: High quality learning opportunities for all

Outcomes	Performance Measures	2006/07 Targets	Results
Needs of all K – 12 students, society and the economy are met	Overall satisfaction of students, parents, teachers, school board members and the public with the quality of K – 12 education	84% ✓	85% ~
	Overall student, parent, teacher and school board member satisfaction that students are receiving a solid grounding in language arts, mathematics, science and social studies	83% ✓	84% ~
	Overall student, parent, teacher and school board member satisfaction with the opportunity of students to receive a broad program of studies	79% ✓	78% ~
	Employer Satisfaction with the skills and quality of work of high school graduates	n/a	77% New
Schools provide a safe and caring environment	Overall student, parent, teacher and school board member agreement that students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others and are treated fairly at school	92% ✓	92% ~
Needs of children at risk are addressed	Annual dropout rate of students aged 14-18	5.3% ✓+	4.7% ↑
Students complete programs	High school completion rate of students within five years of entering Grade 10	76% ✓	78.6% ↑

## Goal 2: Excellence in student learning outcomes

Outcomes	Performance Measures	2006/07 Targets	Results
Students demonstrate high standards	Overall percentage of students who achieved the acceptable standard and overall percentage who achieved the standard of excellence on Grades 3, 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests	78.4% × 20.7% ×	75.3% ↓ 19.0% ~
	Overall percentage of students who achieved the acceptable standard and overall percentage who achieved the standard of excellence on diploma examinations	acceptable n/a excellence n/a	85.4% ~ 23.3% ↑
	Diploma examination participation rate (four or more exams within three years of entering Grade 10)	n/a	53.7% ↑
	Rutherford Scholarship eligibility rate of Grade 12 students	34% ✓+	37.2% ↑
Students are well prepared for lifelong learning	ECS participation rate	95%+ ✓	96% ~
	High school to post-secondary transition rate of students within six years of entering Grade 10	54% ✓+	59.5% ↑
Students are well prepared for employment	Overall parent, teacher and public agreement that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school	70% ✓	69% ~
Students model the characteristics of active citizenship	Overall parent, teacher and student agreement that students model the characteristics of active citizenship	83% ✓	84% ~

## Goal 3: Highly responsive and responsible education system

Outcomes	Performance Measures	2006/07 Targets	Results
Effective working relationships	Overall parent, teacher, student, school board member and public satisfaction that their input is considered, respected and valued by the school, jurisdiction and province	60% ✓	58% ~
Leadership and continuous improvement	Overall parent, stakeholder, teacher, and school board member satisfaction that the leadership at all levels effectively supports and facilitates teaching and learning	n/a	67% ↓
	Overall perception of teachers, parents and school board members that the Alberta K – 12 system has improved or stayed the same in the last three years	n/a	71% ~
	Percentages of school jurisdictions with an overall evaluation of Good or Excellent on Accountability Pillar measures	n/a	Percentages of jurisdictions • increased in 4 of 9 measures • maintained in 1 measure • declined in 4 measures

The confidence interval is considered in assessing change over time on survey measures. Targets are considered met if the result is within 5% of the target value.