

Important Dates for School Jurisdictions

- December 1, 2011 — Our Children, Our Future: Getting it Right, Calgary
- December 3, 2011 — Our Children, Our Future: Getting it Right, Bonnyville
- December 5, 2011 — Our Children, Our Future: Getting it Right, Lethbridge
- December 7, 2011 — Our Children, Our Future: Getting it Right, Fort McMurray
- December 9, 2011 — Our Children, Our Future: Getting it Right, Peace River
- December 12, 2011 — Minister's Meeting with Board Chairs and Chief Superintendents, Zone 6, Lethbridge
- December 19, 2011 — Minister's Meeting with Board Chairs and Chief Superintendents, Zone 5, Calgary

Note: Further information about Our Children, Our Future: Getting it Right is available at <http://ideas.education.alberta.ca/engage/current-initiatives/education-act-getting-it-right> School authorities are encouraged to provide comments on the Education Act by using the online tools available on the website.

Action on Curriculum

Achievement Tests

Individual Student Profiles are now available to schools and authorities on the Extranet. Schools will be making these available to parents. *Assessment Highlights* are available on the Education website in English at www.education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/achievement/highlights.aspx and in French at www.education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/achievement/french/points.aspx. *Released Items* are scheduled to be posted in the latter part of November and they will also be available on Quest A+.

The Achievement Testing Branch will be offering workshops through the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia this fall, as they have in the past. These workshops will include information for teachers regarding the Mathematics 3, 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests. For more information on program offerings contact your local Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia.

For further information, please contact Ken Marcellus, Director, Achievement Testing, Curriculum's Assessment Sector, at Ken.Marcellus@gov.ab.ca or 780-415-6120. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta.

Curriculum Redesign

Curriculum Redesign is aimed at ensuring Alberta's curriculum (programs of study, assessment, learning and teaching resources) remains responsive and relevant for students. The project goals are to revise standards and guidelines for curriculum and associated curriculum development processes to promote "engaging curriculum that inspires every student every day."

Recent Events:

- Overviews of each of the spring 2011 Curriculum Research Roundtables and the *Summary of Findings: Research Roundtables 1, 2 and 3* have been posted on the Education website at www.education.alberta.ca/departement/ipr/curriculum/engagement.aspx.
- The Ministry has recently released the *Framework for Student Learning: Competencies for Engaged Thinkers and Ethical Citizens with an Entrepreneurial Spirit*. The document is posted on the Education website in English at www.education.alberta.ca/departement/ipr/curriculum/framework.aspx and in French at www.education.alberta.ca/francais/ipr/curriculumfr/cadre.aspx.
- Two invitational Fall Symposiums, co-hosted by Alberta Education and The Alberta Teachers' Association were held in Edmonton on September 29 and 30, and on November 4 and 5, 2011. The focus of the first symposium was to review and make recommendations for changes to the Student Learning Outcomes related to the Ministerial Order on the Goals and Standards for Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education. The second symposium focused on international research and the development of Guiding Principles for future curriculum development.

Next steps:

- An online consultation will occur regarding the Guiding Principles.
- The Ministry will subsequently work on the development of Standards and Guidelines for both curriculum content and the associated curriculum development processes.
- The Ministry will consult with staff and external stakeholders on the development of “competency indicators” for the assessment of the various competencies of an “Educated Albertan” as identified in the *Framework for Student Learning* and new Ministerial Order.

For further information, please contact Christine Bouchard, Communications Lead, Curriculum Redesign, Curriculum's Planning and Standards Sector, at Christine.Bouchard@gov.ab.ca or 780-422-7993. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta.

Action on Inclusion

Bringing School Authorities Together to Build an Inclusive Education System

The *Enhancing Inclusive Environments in Alberta Schools* learning event will be held at the River Cree Resort and Casino, Edmonton on January 13, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Your inclusion leadership team (school authority and school leaders) is invited to a day of collaboration and sharing that includes a focus on:

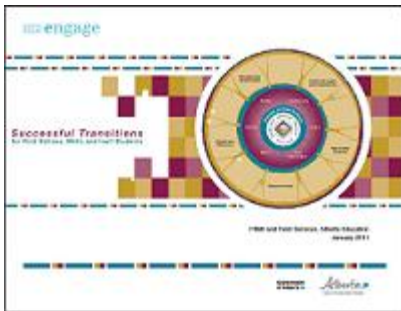
- Facilitated conversation about building communities of practice.
- Modeling of online strategies that may be used to facilitate conversation and learning around the themes of your inclusion projects.
- Identifying, creating and structuring communities of practice that will be supportive to each authority's focus area.
- Providing tools and strategies such as *A Guide to Support Implementation: Essential Conditions* to support implementation planning.

Education is pleased that the Regional Consortia have agreed to design, facilitate and support communities of practice to enhance inclusive environments among public, separate, Francophone and charter school boards. At the meeting, participants will hear from the Consortia about the resources and logistical support they will provide. Registration information can be found at <http://erlc.ca/programs/details.php?id=3832>.

For further information please contact David Woloshyn, Director, Zone 2/3 Services Branch at David.Woloshyn@gov.ab.ca or 780-427-6714. Dial 310-000 first for toll-free access in Alberta.

Operational Information

Successful Transitions for FNMI Youth



Successful transitions for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students increase when schools work with parents/caregivers, Elders, community contacts, employers and providers of other education opportunities to develop coordinated transition strategies.

The resource, *Successful Transitions for FNMI Youth* has been designed to stimulate thinking about how best to develop strategies in schools to ensure the successful transition of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students throughout and beyond the education system. Using this resource will help make the transitions positive for First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth.

Copies of *Successful Transitions for FNMI Youth* are being mailed out to jurisdictions and education authorities across the province. The resource can also be downloaded at <http://ideas.education.alberta.ca/hsc/current-projects/successful-transitions>.

Successful Transitions for FNMI Youth is a [Feature Project](#) on the High School Completion website and supports the information found in the [Feature Video](#) and the [Feature Blog](#). All these resources can be found on the home page at <http://ideas.education.alberta.ca/hsc.aspx>.

For further information, please contact Dana Antaya-Moore at Dana.Antaya-Moore@gov.ab.ca or 780-644-4498. Dial 310-0000 for toll-free access in Alberta.

Accountability Pillar Surveys

The annual Accountability Pillar surveys for parents, teachers, and students will be conducted from January to the end of February 2012.

The parent surveys are mailed from Alberta Education and returned directly to Alberta Education. Principals should be aware of these surveys in order to address any questions that may arise. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Cree, Blackfoot, Spanish, Arabic, Korean and Tagalog. If a parent returns the survey to the school, the principal is to forward it to Alberta Education according to the administration instructions provided in January.

Student and teacher online surveys are being fielded during January and February. Teachers and students are encouraged to complete the surveys online in the first two weeks of the fielding window, as this provides the jurisdiction time to follow-up with any schools that may have missed the notification or forgotten about the surveys.

More detailed information about the surveys will be e-mailed to jurisdictions in December for forwarding to principals. The e-mail will include detailed information on how to access and administer student and teacher

surveys, and a brief reminder message about the parent survey for jurisdictions/schools to use in their newsletters to parents.

For further information, please contact Keith Bowen, Senior Manager, Performance Measurement and Reporting at Keith.Bowen@gov.ab.ca or 780-422-4750. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta.

Early Order Discount 2012

Between January 1 and May 15 each year, the Learning Resources Centre's annual Early Order Discount Program offers school authorities the opportunity to save an extra 10% on the already-established preferred pricing on thousands of eligible resources purchased through the Centre. The Centre will deliver the resources for the start of the school year in September.

Purchasing resources during Early Order Discount versus outside the Early Order Discount period will save money--school authorities have saved over \$8 million since the first Early Order Discount in 2001. Using the Learning Resources Credit Allocation in conjunction with Early Order Discount maximizes the savings even more. Be sure to visit the Learning Resources Centre's website in January to take a look at the Early Order Discount catalogue of eligible resources.

For further information, please contact Customer Service at lrccustserv@gov.ab.ca or 780-427-2767. Dial 310-0000 first for Alberta toll-free access in Alberta.

Capital Planning Workshops

Infrastructure and Education are co-hosting annual Capital Planning Workshops for superintendents, facility directors and secretary-treasurers. Presenters from both departments will provide information and answer questions on a variety of school capital topics. The following dates have been scheduled:

- January 19, 2012 at the Greenwood Inn and Suites, Calgary
- January 25, 2012 at the Chateau Louis Hotel and Conference Centre, Edmonton

Invitations will be issued shortly and will include the workshop agenda and a link to the registration website.

For further information, please contact Pat Brideaux, Planning Manager, at Pat.Brideaux@gov.ab.ca or 780-643-1155. Dial 310-0000 first for toll free access in Alberta.

Questions from the Field

Q: Does Alberta Education have a province-wide agreement that provides school authorities the opportunity to deploy the most current version of Microsoft Office Enterprise for PC or Mac?

A: Yes. Alberta Education signed a province-wide agreement with Microsoft Canada Inc., as well as a follow-up agreement with the successful reseller—Acrodex Inc.—which provides an opportunity for eligible learning institutions to deploy the most current version of Microsoft Office Enterprise for PC or Mac. Eligible learning institutions include all school jurisdictions, francophone regional authorities, charter schools, public post-secondary institutions and publicly funded private post-secondary institutions. The Agreement also includes publicly funded private schools, early childhood service providers, community adult learning councils and community consortia. This is a three-year agreement that is effective from June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2013. For further information, please contact Dave Hauschildt, Senior Manager,

Standards and Strategic Relationships at Dave.Hauschildt@gov.ab.ca or 780-415-0824. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta.