



Office of the Minister



JAN 21 2022

AR117514

Ms. Laura Hack
Chair
Calgary Board of Education
1221 - 8 Street SW
Calgary AB T2R 0L4

Dear Ms. Hack: *Laura,*

Thank you for your December 15, 2021 email and attached letter providing feedback on the draft Kindergarten to Grade 6 (K-6) curriculum. I appreciate you contacting me with your comments and specific concerns about implementing the draft curriculum. My team is carefully reviewing your response.

Alberta's government has been listening to Albertans' input on the draft K-6 curriculum and, as you noted, we have taken significant steps to strengthen the draft, adjust the timelines for implementation and move forward on a new curriculum for elementary students. The feedback that the Calgary Board of Education has provided to date has been invaluable, and I thank you for your contributions so far.

We continue to gather feedback, and engagement on all draft K-6 subjects will continue into early 2022. We remain committed to working with education partners and community stakeholders. As you noted, engagement processes with education stakeholders are still underway to provide specific, actionable feedback across all subjects. In order to provide these stakeholders the opportunity to review the revisions that were released on December 13, 2021, they have been given an extension to the end of January 2022 to provide their feedback.

To help set the course for successful implementation, the government will seek advice from an advisory group of education and curriculum implementation experts. The group will be established in early 2022 to provide recommendations on implementation strategies for the K-6 curriculum. More information about this group, including the selection process, will be available in the new year.

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As you are aware, new draft curriculum in three subjects—English Language Arts and Literature, Mathematics, and Physical Education and Wellness—will be the focus of province-wide implementation in September 2022. We recognize the unique pressures the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on students, teachers and families. This is one reason we are proceeding with three subjects for province-wide implementation. These three subject areas will benefit students by ensuring a focus on reading, writing, numeracy and foundational skills that may have been affected by COVID-19 learning disruptions. While Alberta Education has made some content changes to these subjects, there are also areas that have not yet been addressed, such as changes related to First Nations, Métis, Inuit and francophone perspectives in subject areas outside of Social Studies.

We thoughtfully considered Albertans' feedback on the draft K-6 Social Studies curriculum to develop the new draft K-6 Social Studies design blueprint, and I look forward to receiving your board's feedback on the blueprint. Once finalized, the design blueprint will inform new draft K-6 Social Studies curriculum that will continue to ensure students learn historical content; build civic skills; explore First Nations, Métis and Inuit and francophone perspectives; and learn about different cultures and communities.

In spring 2022, Alberta's government will carefully consider the feedback from all engagement opportunities, classroom piloting and correspondence, along with research and best practices. This input will be used to finalize the K-6 Social Studies design blueprint, develop the corresponding draft Social Studies curriculum and further revise all subjects in the draft K-6 curriculum. Final drafts will not be available until spring 2022. It is of great importance to me that we hear feedback from our education stakeholders. This will enable my department to create final drafts for the public to review, and our draft curriculum will be stronger for it.

Alberta Education is engaged in the selection, authorization and procurement of resources to support the three subject areas being implemented in the fall of 2022. The piloting teachers have been provided a pilot resource list, and they are providing feedback on a regular basis, which is helping inform this ongoing process.

I also want to assure you that Alberta Education will support teacher professional learning. Future budgets will reflect those additional costs. I have been clear that no money will come out of the classrooms to pay for curriculum implementation.

Ministry staff working on curriculum would be happy to discuss the Calgary Board of Education's feedback in further detail with members of your school division. I encourage you to contact Jennifer Cassidy, Executive Director of Curriculum Coordination and Implementation, to discuss opportunities to provide additional feedback. Jennifer can be reached at jennifer.cassidy@gov.ab.ca or at 780-641-9543 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

Thank you again for sharing your comments, input and feedback on the draft K-6 curriculum.

Sincerely,



Adriana LaGrange
Minister