



Key Communiqué

News for School Councils

Issue | Oct. 13, 2021

One of the most significant ways parents and community members can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students is through school councils. By connecting students, schools and communities, school councils help nurture and inspire our students to achieve their full potential.

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Feel free to contact us with any suggestions or comments.

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Vaccination Requirement for Employees, Partners, and Volunteers

With support from the Board of Trustees, the CBE has made the decision to require that all employees, volunteers and CBE partners be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by **Friday, Dec. 17**.

While we also encourage eligible students to be vaccinated, it is not a CBE requirement.

Health authorities state that vaccination is one of the most effective ways of reducing COVID-19 transmission. The CBE Board of Trustees advocated for a provincial vaccine mandate for education sector staff in a [Sept. 17 letter to the Minister of Education](#) in response to division and parent concerns over COVID-19 in our schools.

Additionally, the province has released [new health guidelines](#) and updated the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#). This includes new direction if there is a positive COVID case in your household and your child is not fully immunized.

Please refer to the [Alberta Health Services](#) website to determine when testing is required.

Sept. 29 COSC Meeting Materials are Posted

A video of the presentation to the **Sept. 29, 2021 Council of School Councils (COSC)** meeting is posted on our website along with meeting materials from that night.

[Sept. 29 COSC Video Presentation](#)

[Sept. 29 COSC Meeting Materials](#)

If you attended the COSC meeting please fill out the [COSC Survey](#). Your feedback will help us plan future meetings.

Dates for 2021-22 COSC Meetings

Dates for future COSC meetings for the 2021-22 school year will be determined by the new Board of Trustees after they have been elected on Oct. 18.

Details will be posted on our [website](#) when they are available.

COVID-19 Information for 2021-22

Please refer to the [COVID-19 page](#) listed on our website. **This page is updated as new information becomes available or as information changes.** The page includes what to do if a student has COVID-19 symptoms, as well as a detailed FAQ.

School Council Meetings

In-person school council meetings still cannot take place. If school council and or parent/school societies have business that they need to attend to, please conduct these meetings using technology such as Microsoft Teams. For the safety of everyone, please follow the guidelines and direction set by AHS and the government

Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) has information in their [web clips](#) to assist you with “how-to” host a Virtual School Council Annual General Meeting (AGM), and have a School Council Election.

Fee Waivers

No child is ever denied access to an education in the CBE because of an inability to pay. The CBE has a waiver process for families who can't afford to pay the fees.

Visit our [Waivers](#) page for more information and the documents required as proof of income or extraordinary circumstance.

Any family needing a waiver is encouraged to apply to the [City of Calgary Fair Entry Program](#) to prove income for a CBE waiver, as well as access other benefits of the program. This is optional for families and the CBE will continue to accept other approved documents as proof of income.

Note | Waiver applications are available through your [MyCBE/PowerSchool](#) account.

ASCA Online Learning Resources

In the new reality of online delivery, Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) has increased digital resources, virtual interactions and opportunities for school councils to utilize in operations.

ASCA has restructured delivery of services, workshops and supports by offering online learning resources for school councils.

ASCA hosts [Meeting Mondays](#) – online engagements, creating a forum for school council parents to learn, share information, and support each other.

[Webinar Wednesdays](#) present interactive online training sessions, focused on topic areas specific to the work of school councils.

Informative web clips –(shorter, distinct information; 2 to 5 minute videos) and webcasts (longer information videos; 5 to 10 minutes in length) with a beneficial range of topics have been developed to assist school councils.

Web clip topics include *School Councils and School Re-entry, Hosting a Virtual School Council Annual General Meeting (AGM), and School Council Election Process.*

School council members can access these webinars using their ASCA membership.

Call for Advocacy Resolutions AGM 2022

All school councils with current ASCA membership are eligible to submit *Proposed Advocacy Resolutions* for the discussion and consideration of members attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Resolutions passed into policy at the AGM form the association perspective as presented to Alberta government and organizations in provincial education. [More information and submission form.](#)

ASCA Membership

If your school council does not have an [Alberta School Councils' Association](#) 2021-22 membership, please fill out [this form](#). ASCA memberships are paid for by the Board of Trustees. However, memberships need to be renewed, by the school council, each school year (July 1 – June 30).

The benefits of an ASCA membership can be found on their [website](#).

2021 School Re-entry Plans Survey

The ASCA Board of Directors sincerely thanks the 11,133 Albertans who participated in the survey to gather feedback on the 2021-2022 School Year Plan announced by Education Minister Adriana LaGrange on Aug. 13, 2021.

Representing every school choice in Alberta, 9,128 parents, 936 grandparents, 158 caregivers and 145 guardians of students in grades K-12 from approximately 400 towns/cities across Alberta shared their opinions through the survey. Over 50 expanded on their survey responses through emails and letters directly to, or shared with, ASCA.

ASCA received multiple comments on the integrity of the survey. Some respondents felt the questions were biased; other respondents felt the questions were too direct – not allowing for articulation of partial support or providing reasonings for specific responses. ASCA acknowledges, in retrospect, that the simplicity of the questions asked in relation to the complexity of potential perspectives was not ideal.

ASCA believes the structure of the survey caused the responses for all 10 questions to have very small variances of yes/no perspectives, rendering the overall results to be inconclusive in terms of what the majority of Alberta's parents support within the 2021-2022 School Year Plan.

Because of this, ASCA will not release or publish the results of the survey, and commits to providing opportunities for more meaningful, detailed perspectives in the future.

Related to the 2021-22 School Year Plan, the ASCA Board will communicate to the Minister of Education, education stakeholders, and partners, the Association's belief that public health policy must be established by public health officials and experts, and not left to education experts such as trustees, superintendents, and others.

ASCA will also advocate for:

- the continuation of mandatory isolation for positive cases beyond Sept. 27, 2021;
- the continuation of testing beyond Sept. 27, 2021;
- the continuation of provincially overseen contact tracing beyond Sept. 27, 2021;
- the implementation of mandatory reporting of positive cases to schools; and
- the requirement of schools to notify close contacts of positive cases so that parents can make informed decisions regarding their own children's risks while attending in person learning.

Helping Students Succeed

What can you do to help struggling students? In this series of 5 workshops, learn key mechanisms to help students cope with worry, social situations, motivation and wandering attention. Join Mary-Catherine Bailey-McKenna on a journey towards becoming a link to student success.

This course series offered by Chinook Learning Services and is suitable for educators and parents. More information can be found on the Chinook Learning Services [website](#).

Thousands of Students Benefit from Back-to-School Essentials.

Throughout the summer, community partners stepped up to ensure that all new and returning CBE students went back to school with everything they need for learning. In the spring, principals shared how many students at their schools could benefit from a new backpack and school supplies, the need was overwhelming - requesting over 3,000 backpacks. Thanks to the generosity of community businesses, every student will be equipped with much needed supplies.

Read the full story on the [CBE website](#)

Important System Calendar Dates

Please note the following upcoming dates that apply to all schools. Please see your school website for other dates that are specific to your school.

Monday, Oct. 18,

System-wide Professional Learning Day
Students do not attend school.

Thursday, Nov. 11

Remembrance Day – Statutory holiday.
All CBE schools and offices are closed.

Friday Nov. 12

System wide non-instructional day.
Students do not attend school.

Friday, Nov. 26

System wide non-instructional day
Students do not attend school.

Friday, Dec. 17

Last day of classes prior to Winter Break