



Why Study in Alberta?

1. An international reputation

Alberta's education system is internationally renowned. The Alberta High School Diploma is recognized across North America and throughout the world. Many of our high school graduates continue their education at Alberta's fine post secondary institutions; others go on to attend some of the most prestigious universities and colleges in the world.

- In 2008, approximately 18 delegations from 13 different countries visited Alberta to learn more about its education system.
- Schools around the world, from China to Qatar to Switzerland, have expressed interest in offering Alberta's program of studies to their students.

2. Academic excellence

Alberta students consistently score top marks on international tests such as the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)



Rank	PISA 2000			PISA 2003			PISA 2006		
	Reading	Math	Science	Reading	Math	Science	Reading	Math	Science
1	Alberta	Japan	Korea	Alberta	Hong Kong-China	Finland	Korea	Chinese Taipei	Finland
2	Finland	Quebec	Japan	Finland	Alberta	Japan	Finland	Finland	Alberta
3	British Columbia	Alberta	Alberta	British Columbia	Finland	Alberta	Hong Kong-China	Hong Kong-China	Hong Kong-China
4	Quebec	Korea	Quebec	Korea	Korea	Hong Kong-China	Alberta	Quebec	British Columbia
5	Canada	New Zealand	Finland	Ontario	British Columbia	Finland	Ontario	Netherlands	Ontario
6	Ontario	Finlandia	British Columbia	Canada	Netherlands	Corea	British Columbia	Alberta	Canada
7	Manitoba	British Columbia	United Kingdom	Liechtenstein	Quebec	British Columbia	Canada	Switzerland	Chinese Taipei
8	Saskatchewan	Australia	Canada	Quebec	Liechtenstein	Australia	Quebec	Canada	Estonia
9	New Zealand	Manitoba	New Zealand	New Zealand	Japan	Liechtenstein	New Zealand	Ontario	New Zealand
10	Australia	Canada	Australia	Newfoundland	Canada	Macao-China	Ireland	Liechtenstein	Quebec

3. Quality teachers

All Alberta teachers have a four year university degree, which includes a teacher preparation program and many have additional post secondary education either at a Master's level or in a specific subject area. Alberta Education reviews the credentials of all potential teachers before granting them certification to teach in a classroom.

Teachers regularly participate in professional development workshops, conferences or seminars.



Public Education in Alberta, Canada

In Canada, each provincial and territorial Ministry establishes, funds, and operates its own education system. Alberta has 62 publicly funded school districts, some of which are Roman Catholic and Francophone (French speaking). The overwhelming majority of students, and many of Alberta's brightest students, attend public school.

School sequencing

The Alberta Kindergarten to Grade 12 school system includes programs for pre-school, elementary, junior high school and senior high school students. After senior high, students may choose to continue their studies at the post-secondary level at universities, colleges, or technical institutes. The following chart outlines Alberta's grade system and general corresponding age levels:

Grade	Age (years)	Category
Kindergarten (K)	4 – 6	Pre-school
1 – 6	6 – 12	Elementary
7 – 9	12 – 15	Junior High
10 – 12	15 – 18	Senior High

Standardized curriculum and testing

Curriculum in Alberta is provincially standardized. Therefore, students study the same material and receive the same quality education regardless of which school they attend. International students study the same internationally recognized curriculum as Alberta students and can expect instruction in mathematics, science, language arts and social studies.

Alberta has a system of province-wide standardized testing of all students in core subjects. Provincial Achievement Tests are administered in grades three, six, and nine. Provincial Diploma Exams are administered in Grade 12.

Internationalization

Alberta Education is committed to supporting the internationalization of Alberta schools. These internationalization efforts include:

- Rewriting the grade 10 social studies program of studies to centre on the concept of citizenship;
- Working with expert language advisors and teachers to enhance second language learning in the province;
- Partnering Alberta schools with school overseas;
- Providing students with experiential learning opportunities overseas; and
- Welcoming international students into the province.

Alberta Education continues to welcome new international students each year. In the 2008/2009 school year, over 1,000 new international students came to study in Alberta.

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