



Guiding Principles for International Education Programs in Alberta School Authorities

Recognizing that international education programs:

- assist students and educators in acquiring the international and intercultural knowledge, skills and awareness they need to live and work effectively in a global environment
- foster a commitment to responsible global citizenship
- reinforce curricular content within and across the Alberta programs of study
- provide unique experiential learning opportunities that give students and educators greater insight into the world, their community and themselves
- build connections amongst staff, students and educators worldwide, thereby creating a foundation for future collaboration
- benefit from the leadership of culturally diverse staff.

It is recommended that Alberta school authorities:

- include international education initiatives in three-year plans and report on them in annual education plans
- develop international education programs that meet the needs of Alberta's students and educators and align with the *School Act* and the *Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12*
- link international education programs to the Alberta programs of study and to professional development plans
- build community support for international initiatives by involving and drawing on the expertise and capacity of parents and community members
- prepare staff, students, educators, parents and community members so that international education programs provide positive and rich learning experiences for all involved
- encourage educators to utilize international examples and consider international perspectives in all areas of curriculum delivery
- encourage learning that arises from participation in international education programs to be shared throughout the school authority and the province
- commit to hiring staff that reflect the diversity of their classrooms, schools and communities.

These principles should guide the internationalization efforts of Alberta school authorities. Chapters 4 to 17 provide more detailed information on planning and implementing international education programs and initiatives.

