

# TEACHER AND EDUCATOR FOCUS GROUPS FOR THE VALIDATION OF ALBERTA'S FUTURE KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12 PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM TERMS OF REFERENCE

## OVERVIEW: VALIDATION PROCESS AND CONTEXT

The validation process for draft provincial programs of study (curriculum), including subject introductions, scope and sequences, and learning outcomes, in English and French, that are developed in collaboration with Curriculum Working Groups and align with [\*The Guiding Framework for the Design and Development of Future Kindergarten to Grade 12 Provincial Curriculum \(Programs of Study\) \(2016\)\*](#) will include opportunities for draft programs of study documents to be reviewed:

- by focus groups of teachers and educators who have in-depth knowledge, experience, and education related to curriculum subject areas;
- by focus groups of stakeholders who have knowledge, experience, and education related to curriculum subject areas;
- by content specialists who have in-depth knowledge and expertise in child development and subject content; and
- through field-testing activities in schools and classrooms from 2019 until 2022.

**The following Terms of Reference apply to all Teacher and Educator Focus Groups.**

## FOCUS GROUP PURPOSE

**Teacher and Educator Focus Groups** will review and confirm draft provincial programs of study and their elements—including subject introductions, scope and sequences, and learning outcomes—based on their in-depth knowledge, experience, and education related to the subject. Information provided by the focus groups will be shared with the Curriculum Working Groups to improve draft provincial programs of study.

## OBJECTIVES

To review and provide feedback on the draft Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K–12) Provincial Curriculum in the six subject areas of Language Arts (English, Français, and French), Mathematics, Social Studies, Sciences, Arts (Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts), and Wellness Education, including subject introductions, scope and sequences, and learning outcomes.

Participants are invited to keep the curriculum deliverables package they receive during the session and will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

- All curriculum deliverables are in draft form. Alberta education will revise the drafts based on input from all of the validation activities and research-based evidence.
- The revised drafts may differ significantly from the validation drafts.
- All aspects of the curriculum deliverables are subject to change.

Draft Timeline	
Activities	Dates
K–12 Subject Introductions and Scope and Sequences	May–June 2017
K–4 Learning Outcomes	May–August 2018
Grades 5–9 Learning Outcomes	February–August 2019
Grades 10–12	December 2020–2022

## FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS AND PROPOSED MEETING DATES

Each working session for the Teacher and Educator Focus Groups is scheduled for two to three days. Membership in a Teacher and Educator Focus Group requires a commitment of **2 to 3 days per school year** (September to June) from 2017 to 2022 for face-to-face meetings to review and provide feedback on draft provincial curriculum in collaboration with Alberta Education. Meetings will be held in Edmonton.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All teacher and educator members of the focus groups will:

- review and provide feedback on draft subject-specific introductions;
- review and provide feedback on draft subject-specific K–12 scope and sequences;
- review and provide feedback on draft learning outcomes for subject programs of study;
- identify gaps and potential implications of draft programs of study;
- attend and participate in all meetings;
- arrive prepared to engage throughout the meetings, including reading preparation materials as required; and
- champion the development work throughout the process.

## TERM OF MEMBERSHIP

The term of membership in Teacher and Educator Focus Groups extends from May 2017 to August 2022. Timelines will vary depending on the subject and grade grouping.

Should a focus group member be unable to fulfill his or her commitment, a replacement will be identified by the Superintendent (or organization).

## CHAIR

The chairs of each group will:

- provide leadership and manage the Teacher and Educator Focus Group activities;
- conduct orientation meetings;
- ensure that roles are clearly defined;
- provide working drafts of the programs of study for review;
- analyze feedback and recommendations to take back to the Curriculum Working Groups to revise and refine draft programs of study; and
- review the programs of study to ensure alignment with [\*The Guiding Framework for the Design and Development of Future Kindergarten to Grade 12 Provincial Curriculum \(Programs of Study\) \(2016\)\*](#).

## MEMBERSHIP

Alberta Education teams will support the focus groups. Focus groups will be comprised of teachers and educators who are not part of the Curriculum Working Groups.

School authority Superintendents and First Nations Directors of Education will be invited to nominate teachers. The Alberta Teachers' Association will be invited to nominate three (3) teachers per subject area. Deans of teacher preparation institutions will also be invited to nominate professors and instructors.

Selected Teacher and Educator Focus Group members will reflect Alberta's geographic and demographic diversity and will be selected for their related expertise. Representation on the Teacher and Educator Focus Groups will be based on the following criteria:

- engagement in work that supports, creates, and/or delivers K–12 programming related to current programs of study that reflects both subject-specific expertise and interdisciplinary learning opportunities;
- a deep understanding of the essence of the subject and the content;
- knowledge and understanding of the subject based on current research;
- an understanding of curriculum theory;
- commitment to curricular innovation;
- graduate work/studies or equivalent; and
- an understanding of [\*The Guiding Framework for the Design and Development of Future Kindergarten to Grade 12 Provincial Curriculum \(Programs of Study\) \(2016\)\*](#) as well as of:
  - inclusive education;
  - early learning;
  - middle years learning;
  - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, experiences, and ways of knowing;
  - Francophone perspectives and cultures;
  - literacy and numeracy; and
  - competencies.

English (E), Francophone (F), and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) representation for the six subject areas (eight courses) will be distributed as follows:

- English Language Arts (30 E + 10 FNMI);
- Français (16 F);
- French Language Arts (16 French Immersion);
- Mathematics (30 E + 8 F/FI + 10 FNMI);
- Social Studies (30 E + 8 F/FI + 10 FNMI);
- Sciences (30 E + 8 F/FI + 10 FNMI);
- Wellness Education (40 E + 8 F/FI + 10 FNMI); and
- Arts Education (50 E + 8 F/FI + 10 FNMI).

**Total Membership = 210 (E) + 48 (F) + 16 (FI) + 60 (FNMI) = 334**

## TEACHER AND EDUCATOR FOCUS GROUPS ENGAGEMENT SCALE

The Stakeholder Engagement Spectrum used by Alberta Education is based on the [International Association for Public Participation \(IAP2\) Model](#).

Focus Groups				
Inform	Confer	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
		✓		

**Involve:** Public concerns and aspirations are considered in content development.

## EXPENSES

Alberta Education will cover travel and subsistence costs for participating members, and reimburse school authorities for substitute teacher costs according to the *Payment Schedule for Curriculum Development and Implementation Supports*.

## COMPLIANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTIONS OF PRIVACY ACT

Alberta Education is a public body subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the “FOIP Act”). Names of the focus group members, expenses paid, and details of the work to be completed by the focus groups may be subject to disclosure under the FOIP Act. Records in the custody and/or control of Alberta Education may be subject to a request for access to information and may be disclosed in accordance with the FOIP Act.

Questions regarding the use or disclosure of personal information collected through participation in the focus group may be directed to the Executive Director, Curriculum Coordination and Implementation Sector, Alberta Education, 8th floor, 44 Capital Boulevard, 10044 - 108 Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 5E6.

**Note:** These Terms of Reference are subject to change.