

Curriculum:

Curriculum experts, educators, parents, and many of the current school boards have pointed out the flaws in the draft k-6 curriculum.

1. Do you agree with calls to scrap the draft curriculum and start over to develop a curriculum that is accurate in capturing Alberta's colonial history, diverse present, and modernized to reflect the world we live in?

I absolutely do NOT support this draft and would instead like to revisit the 2018 version that was essentially ready to go. The 2018 draft was properly crafted with teacher and other expert input and the decision to create a new draft was nothing more than a political stunt. Curriculum that reflects and represents everyone without shying away from our difficult past is vital to our growth as a society.

Funding:

Alberta continues to be a growing province, with more students entering the system. While we're told funding is tight for public education, Alberta continues to subsidize private education with millions in public dollars.

2. Do you believe the current education funding formula is sufficient for your district? If not, how will you work to convince the province to provide sustainable and adequate funding?

No it is not. Public money belongs in Public Schools. End of story.

Privatization including P3s:

AUPE members know very well that privatization regularly fails to find "efficiencies" and any cost savings are often off the backs of workers who become de-unionized, with lower pay and benefits.

They also work on the front lines of service delivery and see the problems caused by high-turnover low wage private providers, and the bureaucratic burden caused by having to deal with a third party instead of an in-house provider.

3. Will you oppose privatization of school services and infrastructure, including Public-Private-Partnerships aka P3s? Will you support bringing previously privatized services in-house?

P3's are not the big savings that this government would have us believe. It is well documented that although there MAY be short term advantages to private partnership, their long term consequences create more expense.

Schools as Employers:

As our economies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, good jobs are an important factor. Public sector workers spend in their communities, and many households impacted by private sector recessions have been able to keep the bills paid thanks to a stable public sector job.

4. Will you support your employees and your community by ensuring the school board employs staff with living wages, full-time hours where desired, job security, and collective bargaining rights?

Yes!

5. Will you oppose attempts from the provincial government to legislate against school staff including cuts to the Local Authorities Pension Plan, or restrictions on their right to strike?

Yes!

COVID Safety:

With the negligent provincial response to now three preventable waves of COVID-19, school boards have been put in an awkward position of needing to take measure to protect their students and staff throughout the pandemic. Many are introducing measures of their own, but not all have.

6. Do you support measures such as mask mandates, and vaccine mandates for staff to limit and reduce the spread of Covid-19 in your schools?

I absolutely support all measures necessary to keep our students, teachers, and staff safe. This includes those mentioned above and working for better ventilation and contact tracing. We also need to work to address the mental health toll on students and teachers- they have constantly been treated as an afterthought and we need to prioritize their mental health, academic, and social needs as the pandemic progresses and hopefully, comes to an end.