



ALBERTA

Education
and Childcare

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary Bow*

October 28, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The past few weeks have been very challenging for Alberta parents and students, and I want to begin by thanking you for your patience and unwavering support for your children during this difficult time. As a parent myself, I understand the concerns and frustrations parents are feeling about upended routines and missed classroom time. I want to assure you my department is working closely with our school boards to put plans in place to support student success throughout the rest of the year.

Student success, achievement and well-being remain our highest priorities.

With students set to return to class on Wednesday, October 29, I want to provide a few updates on what you can expect in the days and weeks to come.

Alberta's government launched several temporary programs to support parents and children during the labour action. The Parent Payment Program will remain open for applications until November 14, with the first payments set to go out on October 31. You can apply for payments on our website: parentpayment.alberta.ca. Other programs launched during the labour action will wind down with children returning to school.

Our government recently outlined additional steps we will be taking over the next two years to address some of the deeper issues in education. We will appoint a Class Size and Complexity Task Force to implement solutions recommended by our Aggression and Complexity in Schools Action Team. The task force will use data collected from school boards to better support student needs and address classroom complexity. We will also expand access to student assessments, so that problems can be identified and addressed early. I will personally be heading up the creation of a Teacher Advisory Council to ensure our government is able to hear directly from teachers when we make decisions or develop new policy.

As we turn the page and move forward, we are determined to stay focused on the things that matter most to Alberta parents and students. We know more schools are urgently needed.

.../2

Through our Schools Now Program, we are investing \$8.6 billion to build or renovate 130 schools by 2030. We also know more classroom resources are needed, which is why we have committed to hiring 3,000 new teachers and 1,500 educational assistants over the next three years.

I look forward to working with teachers and our education partners to build a bright future for Alberta students. I am confident that as we move forward with our plans to improve the education system, you will see the difference. Thank you again for standing by your children and working with us to build a better, brighter future for Alberta students.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Nicolaides". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Demetrios" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nicolaides".

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education and Childcare