

## Alberta Learns

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- Alberta's publicly funded post-secondary system, Campus Alberta, ensures that Albertans can participate in quality and innovative learning opportunities – where and when they need them – to enhance their social, cultural and economic well-being.
- Eight out of 10 working age Albertans have finished high school, and one out of two have a post-secondary education.
- On international tests among 57 countries, 15-year old Albertans scored the highest marks in reading in 2000, tied with Hong Kong for the first in mathematics in 2003, and achieved the second highest in science in 2006.
- Nationally, Alberta's 13-year old students achieved the highest marks in science, came second in mathematics and performed slightly above Canadian average in reading.
- 91 per cent of adult learners are satisfied with the overall quality of their education or training experience.
- 88 per cent of employers are satisfied or very satisfied with the quality and work skills of Alberta's post-secondary graduates.

### **KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12**

- Alberta provides support to school boards across the province to educate over 590,000 students in Kindergarten to Grade 12.
- When it comes to selecting a school, parents and students can choose from a wide range of options. They can select from public schools, Catholic schools, Francophone schools, private schools, and charter schools. They can also access a number of unique and innovative programs - including home education, online/virtual schools, outreach programs and alternative programs.

- Alberta Education develops programs of study for English Language Arts, Français, French Language Arts for Immersion students and Language Arts programs for students in bilingual programs such as Chinese, German, Spanish and Ukrainian. Program of study also support the learning of Aboriginal languages such as Cree and Blackfoot.
- At the heart of the curriculum are the concepts of citizenship and identity in the Canadian context. Exploring culture and community allows students to examine shared values and their own sense of belonging, beliefs, traditions and languages.
- Alberta's revised Career and Technology Studies (CTS) program is a complementary program designed for secondary school students as a program of choice.
- CTS offers all students important learning opportunities to:
  - refine career-planning skills,
  - develop technology-related skills,
  - enhance employability skills,
  - apply and reinforce learning developed in other subject areas, and
  - prepare for transition into the community, post-secondary education or training and the workplace.
- Alberta curriculum and its resources emphasize literacy and numeracy in the early grades.
  - Students write provincial achievement tests in Grades 3, 6 and 9, and diploma exams in Grade 12.

For more information on education in Alberta, visit [www.education.alberta.ca](http://www.education.alberta.ca)

### **POST-SECONDARY**

- The Alberta government is committed to meeting the needs of learners at different stages in their lives and careers so they can take on the opportunities and challenges in a globally competitive, rapidly changing knowledge-based economy.

# FACT sheet

- Alberta will invest \$2.1 billion in its post-secondary education system in the upcoming year.
- In 2008-09, Alberta post-secondary students had access to over \$482 million in scholarships, bursaries, and federal and provincial loans and grants.
- On a per capita basis, Alberta has one of the most generous scholarship programs in Canada.
- Alberta's four universities have more than 118,000 students. Over 150,000 students attend 13 public colleges, five private (publicly funded) university colleges, two technical institutes and the Banff Centre.
- Alberta offers close to 200 undergraduate degrees, many with specializations, in our publicly-funded institutions.
- Alberta has 10 per cent of Canada's working age population, but employs and trains more than 20 per cent of Canada's apprentices.
- The apprenticeship and industry training system produces a highly skilled, internationally competitive workforce in 59 designated trades and occupations.
- Apprenticeship technical training is offered at 11 public post-secondary institutions across the province.
- There are more than 70,000 registered apprentices in Alberta.
- Employers and employees set training and certification standards and help direct the system through an industry committee network, and the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board.

## TECHNOLOGY

- Alberta is a leader in technology support for teaching and learning.
- Alberta has world-class facilities for applied research and technology commercialization at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, and the National Institute for Nanotechnology to name a few.
- Alberta SuperNet is a high-speed, high-capacity broadband network linking government offices, schools, health-care facilities and libraries, including approximately 4,200 connections in 429 communities.
- Alberta's education system is a leader in the use of technology in teaching and learning. Investment in classroom technologies, a provincial videoconferencing network, and research into best practices for the use of technology, ensure Alberta students are gaining the skills they need to succeed in our global, technology-driven society.
- Youth across Alberta are invited to participate in business plan competitions through the Youth Technopreneurship Program with the potential of winning a cash prize and additional support to help grow their business ideas. The aim of this program is to encourage more young people to take on the challenges and rewards of entrepreneurship.
- In 2006-07, the University of Alberta, University of Calgary and University of Lethbridge filed a total of 150 patents, issued 39 patents, formed four start-up companies and received \$6.5 million in licensing revenues, royalties and option fees.

For more information on advanced education and technology in Alberta, visit

[www.advancededandtech.alberta.ca](http://www.advancededandtech.alberta.ca)