



## Key Communiqué

### News for School Councils

#### Issue | Oct. 24, 2018

One of the most significant ways parents and community members can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students is through school councils. By connecting students, schools and communities, school councils help nurture and inspire our students to achieve their full potential.

#### Contact |

Calgary Board of Education  
Communication and Engagement  
Services  
1221 – 8 Street SW  
Calgary, AB T2R 0L4

e | [schoolcouncils@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:schoolcouncils@cbe.ab.ca)  
t | 403-817-7986

**Feel free to contact us with any suggestions or comments.**

#### Quick links |

[School councils](#)

[COSC Meetings](#)

[CBE School Council Handbook](#)

[Top news stories](#)

[Board of Trustees](#)

[CBE system messages \(RSS Feed\)](#)

[Alberta Education School Council Resource Manual](#)

### COSC Oct. 3 meeting materials posted online

The Oct. 3 Council of School Councils (COSC) meeting was attended by approximately 109 school council representatives. The focus was on system updates and sharing ideas. The meeting and feedback was very positive.

The [presentation](#), [survey results](#) and [Q&As](#) from the meeting have been posted on the [CBE school council web page](#). Please feel free to share these with members of your school council and school community.

The next COSC meeting will take place on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018. Please mark this date on your calendars. We look forward to seeing you then.

### CBE Students Achieve Record Results on Provincial Achievement Results

A news conference was held on Oct. 18 to release the results of the 2017-18 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) and Diploma Exam results.

Calgary Board of Education students achieved high standards on the 2017-18 Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams once again.

“These are outstanding results,” said David Stevenson, chief superintendent of schools. “We have seen notable improvements across the CBE, including the highest results on record in many subject areas and grade levels.”

Trina Hurdman, Board of Trustees Chair remarks included, “Thank you to our students, teachers, families and everyone in the community who supports student learning.”

Please see the CBE News Centre [web page](#) for more details.

## What you Need to Know About Cannabis

Cannabis was legalized and regulated across Canada on Oct. 17, 2018.

This change in legislation does not change our expectations for staff and students.

- Students arrive - and remain - fit and ready to learn.
- Employees arrive - and remain - fit and ready to perform work.

We currently have administrative regulations in place that govern [student conduct](#), [employee conduct](#) and a [smoke-free environment](#). These regulations also cover our volunteers.

We have updated these regulations to reflect the change in legislation.

Student cannabis use at school is unacceptable as per the [student code of conduct](#). This includes students 18 years of age and older.

If a student is required to use a prescribed medication including medical marijuana during school hours, the parents, student and school must follow the steps outlined in [AR 6002, Student Health Services](#).

Volunteers must comply with CBE policies, regulations and any school rules, so must also follow the employee code of conduct when volunteering with the CBE. Additionally, all facilities and property owned and operated by the CBE are [smoke-free environments](#).

For more information see our News Centre [web page](#).

## Nov. 13 Open House for NW and North Central French Immersion Programs Engagement

As we continue the third phase of this engagement, we have developed a proposed plan for a long-term strategy for northwest and north central French Immersion Programs. The proposed plan will be posted to our Community Engagement [web page](#) by end of day Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018.

We invite you to share your feedback on the proposed plan by completing an online survey and/or by attending an open house on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018. [Registration](#) for the open house is now open. A link to the online survey will be available in November.

## Curriculum Development Update

In June 2016, [Alberta Education](#) began work on developing new provincial curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 12.

[Current curriculum drafts](#) for Kindergarten – Grade 4 in six subject areas: Language Arts (English and French), Mathematics, Social Studies, Sciences, Arts and Wellness education are available on the Alberta Education website along with a [summary overview](#).

The [curriculum timeline](#) tool provides an interactive look at the journey of curriculum development to date and how various stakeholders have been involved in this work.

The latest draft curriculum is posted at [new.learnalberta.ca](#).

## Transportation Update

Yellow school bus Registration confirmation emails went out to parents Oct. 16. If parents have pre-registered but no longer expect their child will use yellow school bus service for the 2018-19 school year, they can cancel transportation registration with no financial penalty by using [MyCBE/PowerSchool](#) on or before Oct. 31, 2018.

Families at CBE schools may be eligible for a rebate of Calgary Transit passes for the 2018-19 school year. These families can receive a rebate up to \$54.90 for each monthly pass. Emails to eligible families will be sent in the next week or so. Parents can submit photos of their expired passes for the rebate, starting in November. This rebate only applies to monthly passes – no rebate is provided for individual fares or tickets.

## Fees Update

Notices to families with outstanding fees will be sent Nov. 1. Parents are asked to please check their [MyCBE/PowerSchool](#) account to confirm and make arrangements for fee payments. Parents can also pay by point of sale (POS), cash or cheque at the school. For school fee inquiries please contact your child's school directly.

## Nominate a Teacher

On World Teachers' Day, Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced the launch of the 2019 Prime Minister's Awards (PMA) for **Teaching Excellence, Excellence in STEM and Excellence in Early Childhood Education**.

Teachers support, inspire, celebrate and care for each student in their class. They give children and youth the tools and opportunities necessary to succeed in learning and be part of their school community.

For information on how you can nominate an exceptional teacher, please visit [Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence](#).

Nominations will be accepted until Jan. 14, 2019.

## Health & Wellness in School

A number of questions were submitted at the Oct. 3 COSC meeting regarding mental health services for students.

The CBE wants all students to be successful in school and we recognize that positive mental health plays a critical role in making that happen. Mental health is only one aspect of a student's overall wellbeing. As a school system we focus on the following four areas as part of a [Comprehensive School Health](#) approach:

- Healthy eating
- Healthy relationships
- Physical activity
- Positive mental health

The work of the CBE around mental health support is aligned with the work of Alberta Education. Alberta Education collaborated with school authorities, community partners and cross-ministry partners who shared their expertise in the development of a resource entitled [Working Together To Support Mental Health in Alberta Schools](#).

Supporting student mental health and well-being takes a village: students, families, Alberta Health Services, community supports and school staff all play a role. See the [Roles Supporting Student Mental Health](#) document for more information.

## Snow Days

In severe weather conditions, people often ask why we don't close our schools. We know students come to school regardless of the weather, for numerous reasons.

Many families do not have the option of making alternative arrangements for their children, particularly on short notice. In addition, some families simply do not have the ability to receive messages about school closures.

Therefore, it is exceedingly rare for our schools to close. The only exception in recent memory was during the flood of 2013, when the CBE closed its schools after following the direction of the Calgary Emergency Management Agency.

Because students do arrive, we need to ensure that schools are open to provide welcoming, caring, safe and warm learning environments.

Please see the CBE [Reminder of Winter Weather](#) web page for more information.

## ASCA Awards of Recognition

Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) is proud to present awards of recognition in support of school council efforts in Alberta.

Nominations are now open for four different awards:

- School Council Award of Merit
- School Council Parent of Distinction Award
- Excellence in Learning Partnerships Award
- District School Council Engagement Award

Details and nomination forms can be found on the ASCA website [2019 School Council Awards of Recognition](#). Nomination deadline is Feb. 28, 2019.

## ASCA Membership

School councils in Alberta benefit from the advocacy and supports that ASCA provides. The value of an ASCA membership can be found on the ASCA [website](#).

If your school council does not have an Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) 2018-19 membership, please fill out [this form](#). ASCA memberships are paid for by the Board of Trustees and need to be renewed, by the school council, each school year (July 1 – June 30).

## Bullying Awareness Week

Everyone has a role to play in promoting healthy relationships and creating positive social environments that prevent bullying in our schools, communities and workplaces.

Nov. 18-24, events will be happening in Alberta and the world that promote awareness about. Keep your eyes open for ways that you can be involved.

For information on Bullying Prevention at the CBE please visit our [webpage](#).

## Update Your School Council Information

When you have established your school council for **2018-19** please send the updated School Council contact information to [schoolcouncils@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:schoolcouncils@cbe.ab.ca).

Please include the following information for your Chair, Co-Chair/Vice Chair and Key Communicator.

- First and last name
- School council title/role
- Name of school
- Email address
- Phone number (only to be used if we need to change meeting dates or locations on short notice)

Even if your school council executive is not changing for the 2018-19 school year, we would appreciate a confirmation of the contact information. Thank you.

## Dates for 2018-19 COSC meetings

Please mark your calendar with the following dates for COSC meetings for the rest of the 2018-19 school year.

- Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018
- Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019
- Thursday, Apr. 11, 2019

All COSC meetings will be at the Education Centre, 1221 – 8 Street SW.

Invitations will be sent out prior to each meeting and will include the topics for that evening.

Updated details and information will be posted on the [CBE website](#) as they are made available.

## CBE School Council Handbook

The CBE School Council Handbook was updated in the spring and is available online [here](#). Other helpful resources for school councils are also available on our [school council page](#)

If you have trouble seeing this publication please [click here](#).