



# Initial Report of Draft Curriculum Review



## Alberta Teacher, School Leader and Central Office Leader Professional Review of New K–6 Draft Curriculum 2021

Over 3,500 respondents (Alberta teachers, school leaders and central office leaders)  
Highly representative sample of the Alberta elementary teaching population  
Detailed professional review of curriculum (March 29 to April 7, 2021)

### The survey data clearly indicates an overwhelming consensus:

- **91 per cent** are unhappy with the new K–6 draft curriculum.
- **90 per cent** of teachers are uncomfortable moving ahead into the future to teach the new K–6 curriculum.
- **95 per cent** of school leaders and central office leaders are uncomfortable moving ahead into the future to support this new K–6 curriculum in their school and/or school community.

### Key areas of concern for certificated Alberta teachers, school leaders and central office leaders:

- **89 per cent** disagree that the draft curriculum has age-appropriate content that is logically sequenced within each grade and from grade to grade;
- **86 per cent** disagree that the draft curriculum is developmentally appropriate with high academic standards;
- **81 per cent** disagree that the draft curriculum is inclusive of opportunities for all students to reach their personal best; and
- **71 per cent** disagree that the draft curriculum is scientifically rigorous while respecting a variety of beliefs.

The comments that follow are exact quotes and representative of the main themes expressed by 3,500 teacher, school leader and central office respondents.

“ This curriculum is developmentally inappropriate and will cause kids to get frustrated with learning and to develop a bad attitude about school.

The new curriculum is far above the cognitive levels of even the strongest students in each grade level. It appears that experienced teachers have had little to no input in designing this new curriculum, especially in social studies.

The outcomes are not age appropriate, there is far too much Americanization in the curriculum development.

I do not believe this new curriculum is based on research nor does it push our students' learning forward.

The new curriculum is out of date, meaningless and irrelevant.

Even though I am a high school teacher, I am very concerned that this curriculum does not put enough emphasis on teaching students transferable skills that they will need throughout their lifetime. With the emphasis on memorization of information, this will be detrimental to students throughout their schooling, and I believe I will be feeling the negative impact of this curriculum when students end up in my high school classroom.

The removal of some Canadian topics (such as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the systems of Canadian government) from Grade 6 to be replaced with American colonial history, the KKK, very specific religious content from selected religions (relevant to a university undergraduate program's syllabus in Western and Eastern religions) to me is concerning due to the departure from helping the students learn about democratic practices and focusing more on religious and American content.

This new curriculum is heavily focused on Eurocentric ideas and history, which is problematic and challenging in diverse classrooms.

This curriculum does not teach the skills future generations need to tackle an ever-changing society. Rote memorization and antiquated teaching is not supported by sound research.

This curriculum does not reflect the beliefs and values of all people ... Turning our focus on colonialism [and] capitalism instead of focusing on inclusivity, community and diversity.

I cannot in good conscience teach a curriculum (and invest in creating materials and resources) that is flawed at its very core. I would rather quit teaching than expose my students to this curriculum.

I'm a high school teacher but it makes me uncomfortable knowing my elementary colleagues will have to teach this. And [it] also makes me uncomfortable if my own children would someday be taught using this curriculum.

This is such a huge step back for education in Alberta. We're being asked to teach developmentally inappropriate curriculum and it goes against my professional judgment.

A large number of my students are ESL and/or have various learning difficulties. This curriculum seems to forget the age and abilities of the students at their various grade levels. Very disappointing!

I don't see any current educational research in this curriculum, educators were clearly not at the forefront of the development process, the language and some content is inappropriate at best and racist and offensive at worst.

After completing a review of the new K-6 draft curriculum, what are some key words or phrases that you would use to describe your initial reaction?

