



Frequently Asked Questions

Sign-up



<https://abteach.cc/zo27e0>

Q: How do Beginning Teacher Network (BTN) sessions work?

A: When you join a BTN session, you will participate in a professional development workshop focused on topics relevant to beginning teachers. Sessions include opportunities to:

- talk with ATA executive staff officers who are experienced teachers and school leaders;
- share ideas and experiences with other beginning teachers who are participating in the workshop; and
- ask questions and receive advice (even if the topic is not related to the workshop focus).

Q: What is the benefit of joining a BTN cohort group?

A: Cohort groups receive half a day of release time, four times per school year, to attend BTN sessions during the school day (rather than during afterschool hours). Cohort group members enjoy an enhanced BTN experience, as they can build professional connections with ATA executive staff officers and benefit from a sustained learning experience with their cohort group colleagues.

Q: I am a member of one of the cohort groups. Where do I send the invoice for substitute costs issued by my division?

A: By email, PD@ata.ab.ca, attn.: Terra Kaliszuk

By mail:

The Alberta Teachers' Association
Attn.: Terra Kaliszuk
11010 142 Street NW
Edmonton AB T5N 2R1



The Alberta Teachers' Association

Q: Where can I find the schedule for my cohort group?

A: The schedule for cohort groups is shared with participants by email once their application has been accepted. The email includes iCalendar files (.ics file extension) which can be imported into most popular electronic calendar apps such as Google, Outlook and Apple, among others.

The email is sent from PD@ata.ab.ca. Please check your spam/junk folders and, if applicable, allowlist PD@ata.ab.ca to ensure you receive our correspondence. Feel free to contact us if you have not received this confirmation email and would like an update on the status of your application.

Q: Where can I find the schedule for afterschool BTN sessions?

A: For open sessions, dates, Zoom links and other relevant information is listed on our Sched page at: <https://atapd202526.sched.com/>. You can also find information about other Association professional development opportunities on this page. After signing up for a Sched.com account, you can also register for individual sessions to receive reminders and export listings to your own electronic calendar.

Q: Do I need a Zoom account to participate in BTN sessions?

A: A Zoom account is not required, but signing up for a free Zoom account is recommended. You do not need a premium Zoom account to attend BTN sessions.

We kindly request that cohort session participants list their first and last name on Zoom. This enables the BTN team to keep a record of your attendance, ensuring that substitute costs can be processed without delay.

For afterschool sessions, we also suggest listing your name to facilitate networking opportunities.

Q: Can you share other BTN participants' contact details with me?

A: Association staff cannot share other participants' contact details without their expressed written consent.

Q: I see that space is limited to 25 participants for each cohort. What happens if more teachers want to sign up?

A: Registrations for cohort groups are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, assuming eligibility criteria are met. A waitlist is maintained in case a vacancy arises.

Q: Will I be assigned a mentor when I join a BTN cohort group?

A: Although cohort group members will not be assigned a formal mentor in the BTN program, they will benefit from ongoing conversations and learning opportunities with ATA executive staff officers over the course of the school year. Formal mentorship programming may be available through your ATA local or school division. For more information about formal mentorship program opportunities, talk to your school leader, school division, or ATA school representative.

Q: Can I include BTN in my Professional Growth Plan?

A: Yes, and you should! A confirmation of your attendance may be issued at the end of the school year. If needed, please contact PD@ata.ab.ca to request one.

