

GROWING PRESSURES

UNDERSTANDING AGGRESSION in Alberta Schools



“ Aggressive behaviour disrupts the learning environment for all students and is often leaving both teachers and students feeling unprotected. ”

THE ALARMING REALITY

Today

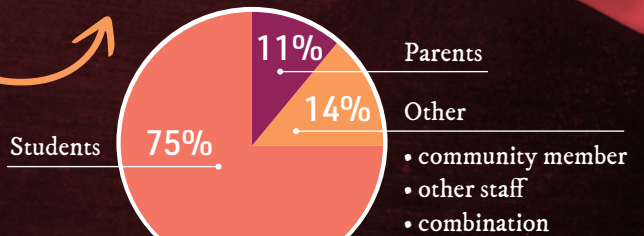


Teachers and school leaders report experiencing in-person aggression (violence and bullying) in our Alberta schools.

violence
bullying
harassment
hostility

Aggression

Main Aggressors



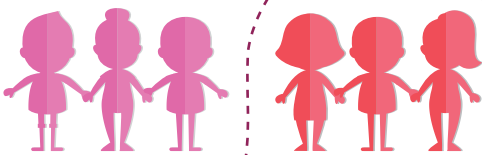
“ I am repeatedly hit, yelled at, and threatened by students. When asked for support from the school district, they did nothing to improve the situation. ”



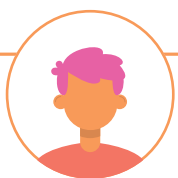
THE REASONS FOR THE GROWTH OF AGGRESSION IN ALBERTA SCHOOLS

Growing Division

Societal divisions and culture wars



“ Social media, intolerance and smartphone use has escalated, and socialization has suffered. Students don't know how to navigate conflict anymore. ”



Pandemic

Loss of social-emotional skills

Declining Empathy

Declines in empathy and compassion

Social Media

Increased use of social media and its harmful effects

“ Without proper training and support, managing aggression in schools feels like an uphill battle. ”



CULTURE WARS IN ALBERTA SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

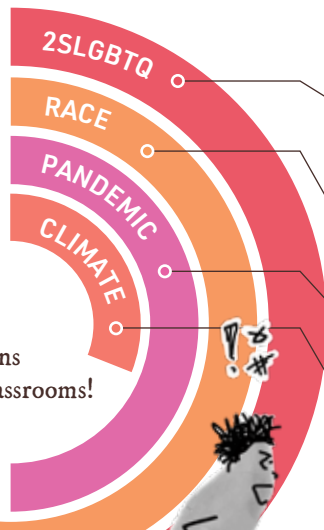
What are Alberta's teachers hearing?

75%

teachers report

hearing demeaning or hateful remarks this year among students.

THE IMPACT . Hostile interactions between students, even outside of classrooms!



69% Identity. Teachers have heard negative comments about sexual orientation and gender identity from parents and students.

62% Race. Teachers have noted racially prejudiced remarks from parents and students.

50% Pandemic. Teachers report persistent tensions on COVID-19 policies like masks or vaccines.

31% Climate. Teachers observe negative views on climate change science.

“ Our district has issued a moratorium on anything related to sexual orientation and gender identity. We are walking on crushed glass to avoid angering the bullies. ”

SOLUTIONS RECOMMENDED BY ALBERTA TEACHERS

Prioritize Staff Safety and Well-Being

Develop strategies to protect the physical and mental health of staff, ensuring a safe working environment for all.

Enhance Training and Supports

Implement comprehensive training programs for all staff on nonviolent crisis intervention and dealing with aggressive behaviour.

Create Programs for Behaviourally Challenged Students

Create specialized programs and initiatives to accommodate students with severe behavioural issues, ensuring they receive an appropriate education without compromising the safety and learning of others.

Address the Systemic Issues

Tackle systemic challenges like underfunding, understaffing and bureaucratic burdens to create a more supportive educational environment for all.

Support the Reporting of Aggressive Behaviour

Create an atmosphere where staff feel supported and encouraged to report incidents of student and/or parent aggression. Instead of facing scrutiny over these reports, they should be met with understanding from senior and system leadership.

Establish Consistent and Fair Discipline

Establish clear, consistent disciplinary protocols that are fairly executed across all student populations.

Improve Parental Accountability

Hold parents accountable for their aggressive actions and improve administrative processes to support teachers and school leaders more effectively.

*PULSE RAPID RESEARCH STUDY

December 1 to December 12, 2023. Highly Representative Random Stratified and Snowball Sample of 2,148 Alberta Teachers and School Leaders
Margin of Error +/- 2.0% (19 times out of 20)



Scan QR code for the full report.

For more information about this research study, please contact:
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The Alberta Teachers' Association