

Supporting Alberta's education sector

Reducing red tape means less regulatory burden for schools and administrators – and more opportunities to provide world-class education to Alberta students.

Recent changes focus on reducing administrative burden, speeding up approval processes, supporting digital transformation and improving the education system.

Child care

The Alberta government provides a subsidy for eligible families, with children up to Grade 6, to reduce child care costs. Recent digital improvements mean parents can now access the child care subsidy application online using their phones, computers and other devices. This online application is easy to use and makes it faster for families to apply for the subsidy. It also allows government staff to focus on delivering services to Albertans instead of processing paperwork.

In addition, the new *Early Learning Child Care Act* allows established child care operators to have initial licenses issued for up to three years instead of one, and allows multiple child care programs to be included under a single license. Together, these changes reduce the time spent by operators on administration, allowing them to spend more time on children in care.



New education funding model

Important updates to Alberta's Kindergarten to Grade 12 education funding model replace outdated requirements, allowing government to better respond to current needs and priorities. Updates include:

- Directing more dollars to each school authority.
- Consolidating the number of grants provided to school authorities which eliminates associated application and reporting requirements, and streamlines operations.
- Standardizing administrative and governance spending to maximize dollars for classrooms.
- Allowing more flexibility in how school authorities spend provincial dollars based on their school and community needs.

These changes allow for more predictability in funding to allow school authorities to better plan for each school year, while providing them with greater flexibility in how they spend provincial dollars according to their community needs.

The new digital-based provincial Kindergarten to Grade 12 student record system also replaced the legacy paper-based system, making it easier for teachers and administrators to access student records and other related information.



Post-secondary program approvals

The government streamlined the post-secondary program approval process, giving institutions greater flexibility to develop innovative new programming that is responsive to changing labour market needs.

This new process eliminates unnecessary application requirements, enables post-secondary institutions to undertake independent reviews of proposals for new degree programs, and improves turnaround time for program approvals.

In total, Alberta's government has reduced the information required for new program proposals by 70% and shortened approval times to 20 working days for new certificates or diplomas and 40 working days for new degree programs. Previously, these would take anywhere from one or two months to a year.

Student loan agreements

Every year, over 100,000 students apply for Alberta student loans. Of these, 40,000 are new applicants who must accept the terms and conditions of their loan agreements.

Alberta students can now conveniently accept the terms and conditions of their loan agreements through the new electronic loan process, saving time otherwise spent going to Canada Post to validate, sign and mail paper loan agreements for processing.

Let's keep going

Alberta's government will continue working to remove regulatory burdens that hinder progress in the education sector. Visit [Alberta.ca/CutRedTape](https://alberta.ca/CutRedTape) to learn more about our ongoing success in reducing red tape and to provide your ideas on where there should be less red tape.

