**Parents for Choice in Education's Candidate questions 2023**

1. Do you agree that all education laws, school board policies and best practices in Alberta should comply with the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/udhr.pdf), the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1976/03/19760323%2006-17%20AM/Ch_IV_04.pdf), the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/pch/documents/services/download-order-charter-bill/canadian-charter-rights-freedoms-eng.pdf), and the [Family Law Act](https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/sa-2003-c-f-4.5/latest/) when it comes to the right of parents to direct, and be fully informed about, all aspects of their children’s education?
2. Do you support [subsidiarity](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/subsidiarity) - the idea that distant levels of government should not make decisions that are best understood and resolved at the local level?
3. Do you agree [parents should be permitted to choose](https://www.parentchoice.ca/school_settings_pce) the location, type and style of education (i.e. home-based, language, interest, faith-based, etc.) that best suits their child, free of bureaucratic, union or government coercion?
4. Do you agree that the Alberta government should [provide equitable funding](https://www.parentchoice.ca/funding_pce) to all education settings, whether public, Catholic, francophone, independent, faith-based, charter, alternative and supervised home education?
5. Do you agree that the [Alberta curriculum should leave room](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/parentchoice/pages/104/attachments/original/1497985214/Inspiring-Education-The-Undermining-of-Parental-Choice-1.pdf?1497985214) for chosen educational interests - such as history, faith, the arts, sport, language, or STEM for example - and refrain from prescribing excessive content which unduly crowds out local thematic interests?
6. Do you agree that [curriculum development](https://www.parentchoice.ca/curriculum_development_pce) must be transparent and focused on clearly defined and foundational basic skill and knowledge outcomes in core subject areas?
7. Do you agree with providing a system of high-quality standardized testing based on specific scholastic skills and knowledge outcomes, created by independent testing organizations? Examples might include the [Canadian Test for Basic Skills](https://store.nelson.com/about-us/) or international tests such as the [PISA](https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa/).
8. When it comes to [communicating student progress](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/parentchoice/pages/103/attachments/original/1497985564/Testing-is-Important-Heres-why.pdf?1497985564) for Grades 7-12, would you agree that an objective and clear reporting system of percentages and class averages (as opposed to descriptive terms only) is important?
9. Do you agree that any school board policy that forces teachers to keep secrets from parents is unacceptable, and if elected would you move to repeal any such policies? For example, the NDP government in 2017 forced boards to pass a policy regarding certain student clubs that said “[notification, if any](https://education.alberta.ca/media/3704447/bill-24-web_legreqs.pdf), respecting a voluntary student organization [...] is limited to the fact of the establishment of the organization or the holding of the activity.”
10. Currently, provincial legislation requires that parents be provided notice when a program of study includes subject-matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion or human sexuality ([Education Act - Section 58.1](https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/e00p3.pdf)). Do you agree that this notice and opt-out opportunity should continue to be provided?
11. Do you agree that a [parent’s legislated right](https://www.parentchoice.ca/laws_policies_parental_rights) to be informed of and allowed to opt out of material primarily and explicitly of a sexual or religious nature should be construed by the Board to extend to the use of sexual or religious instructional resources and online portals used across subject areas, such as the Prism toolkit?
12. Do you agree that every school board should establish a procedure for vetting and obtaining parental consent when it comes to [individual external facilitators accessing students](https://www.parentchoice.ca/health_sexual_education_alberta) during both instructional and non-instructional time?
13. Should we be offering gender transition services to children, and if so, is it acceptable to offer these services [without their parents’ consent](https://assets.nationbuilder.com/parentchoice/pages/70/attachments/original/1675194850/2023_Jan_19_WS_Alberta%E2%80%99s_gender_clinic_is_out_of_hand.pdf?1675194850)?