



Parents For Choice In Education (PCE) Statement:

WHAT THE ALBERTA CURRICULUM RE-WRITE MUST ENTAIL

Completed by Stuart Wachowicz, PCE Board Director, in consultation with the PCE Board of Directors

1. K-12 Curriculum must be “backward designed” establishing the learning objectives or outcomes for grade 12 and then developing outcomes for preceding grades ending up with the grade K-1 entry level.

This will ensure a smooth and rational articulation of knowledge and skills that meshes well with post secondary entry requirements.

2. The creation of a standing committee composed of representatives of business and industry, post secondary department chairs of primary disciplines and representatives of parent organizations like Parents for Choice in Education be created to identify desired grade 12 outcomes, which will be conveyed to the government.

Industry and post-secondary have already noticed that graduates are not arriving as prepared as they were only a decade ago. This needs to be corrected! Those that receive grade 12 graduates in post-secondary and those that hire graduates are in the best position to determine what knowledge and skills must be acquired by students finishing grade 12.

3. Curriculum must be written to clearly delineate what knowledge and skills the students should learn in each grade level. Curriculum **must not** prescribe or suggest a method of instruction. The methods of instruction for a given class in a given subject must be the choice of the professional teacher in the classroom, whether it is direct instruction or some other pedagogy. Resources to be used need to be chosen by the school and teacher to best meet the needs of the students involved.

Print resources are recommended by many medical and learning experts, thus there should be no mandate for resources to be primarily electronic.

4. Curriculum must be supplemented with quality large scale assessment at intervals during the students' progress through school.

A restoration of the Provincial Achievement Tests at grades 3, 6 9 and Diploma exams at grade 12, valued at 50% of the final grade of the students' final mark are essential to maintain equity for students across the province.

There is no other objective means of accountability and quality control, which can inform parents that their children are receiving full value for their educational tax dollar.

5. Reporting of student achievement must be clear, understandable and reflect the achievement, or lack thereof. Parents want and deserve understandable reports. Hence, PCE demands that report cards return to reporting percentage or letter grades for elementary students, and percentages for students from grades 7 through 12.

In addition, the class average needs to be included in the report for each subject area so there is a foundation upon which the parent can compare their child's outcome to the class on the whole. This must replace computer generated comments which are hard to interpret and deny the parent more exact understanding of the achievement of their child.

6. Human Sexuality Education: Parents must be advised prior to the start of any human sexuality education or session provided on topics related to gender studies and sexual education and must be given meaningful opportunity to opt into the program through written consent. Principals must exempt students who have not provided prior parental consent.

Parents must be given meaningful prior notice if outside instructors are to be providing instruction or sessions on anti-bullying or gender related issues.

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