

CHOICE IN EDUCATION ACT, 2020: WHAT IS CHANGING?

	Current: Education Act	Proposed in the Choice in Education Act that will amend the current Education Act
Universal Declaration – Parent Rights	The preamble and section 32 under the <i>Education Act</i> refers to parents as the primary decision-makers for their children and that parents have the prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.	Adds a statement from the <i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i> (section 26.3) to the preamble of the <i>Education Act</i> that states, “Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.”
Choice in Education	The variety of choice is not specifically referenced together.	Adds a statement to the preamble of the <i>Education Act</i> : <i>WHEREAS the Government of Alberta recognizes: public schools, separate schools, francophone schools, private schools, charter schools, early childhood services programs, the provision of alternative programs, and home education programs as being valued and integral in providing choice in education to students and parents.</i>
Private Schools	The <i>Education Act</i> has a private school section. The section does not specifically address the importance of private schools within Alberta’s education system.	Amends the Private Schools section (section 29) of the <i>Education Act</i> to recognize private schools as integral in providing education to students within Alberta’s education system. Recognition of private schools 28.1 Private schools are recognized as being important in providing parents and students with choice in education, and a person responsible for the operation of a private school shall ensure students enrolled in the private school are provided with an education program consistent with the requirements set out in the Act and the regulations.
Charter Schools – Vocation-focused Charter Schools	The <i>Education Act</i> and regulations allow for the establishment of vocation-focused charter schools as long as they meet the charter schools application criteria.	Amends the Charter Schools section (section 25) of the <i>Education Act</i> to specifically reference the ability to establish vocational charter schools.
Charter Schools – Application Process	The <i>Education Act</i> currently has a requirement for the applicant to	Amends the Charter Schools section (section 24.2) of the <i>Education Act</i> to

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	<p>approach the board of the school division in which the school is to be established to request an alternative program before a charter school application could be considered.</p>	<p>allow a person to apply directly to the Minister to begin the process to establish a new charter school.</p> <p>The Minister will then be required to notify the board of the applicable school divisions and any other charter schools located within the area of the proposed charter school program and discuss the potential for the establishment of an alternative program before a charter school application could be considered.</p>
Home Education Programs	<p>The <i>Education Act</i> and <i>Home Education Regulation</i> only address supervised and funded home education programs. There is not currently an option for parents to provide an unsupervised and unfunded education program to students.</p>	<p>Amends the Home Education Programs section of the <i>Education Act</i> (section 20) to allow for an unsupervised, notification-only, non-funded home education program.</p> <p>Annual notification of the intent to homeschool will be required as well as submission (not approval) of a home education plan/program that demonstrates sufficient opportunity to achieve, to an acceptable level, appropriate learning outcomes.</p>
Technical/Administrative Amendment – Application of Board Procedures Regulation to Charter Schools	<p>During the transition to the <i>Education Act</i>, it was identified that the <i>Board Procedures Regulation</i> with specific rules on board meetings, policies and procedures, by-law requirements and quorum were unintentionally made to apply to charter school operators.</p> <p>Other sections of the <i>Education Act</i> pertaining to open meetings, inspection of documents, ability for the Minister to request information, the designation of secretary treasurer, and board accountability requirements still apply to charter school operators. In addition charter schools must follow the rules outlined in the <i>Charter School Regulation</i>.</p>	<p>Amends the <i>Education Act</i> to exclude charter school operators from being subject to the <i>Board Procedures Regulation</i> as they are societies or companies registered under Part 9 of the <i>Companies Act</i>.</p>
Technical/Administrative Amendment – Joint Use Planning Agreements	<p>There are no joint use and planning requirements between boards and municipalities, except for Calgary under the <i>City of Calgary Charter, 2018 Regulation</i>, and Edmonton under the</p>	<p>Amends the <i>Education Act</i> to exempt charter school operators from the application of new joint use and planning agreement requirements between school boards and</p>

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	<i>City of Edmonton Charter, 2018 Regulation.</i>	municipalities.
Technical/Administrative Amendment – Audit Committee	An audit committee requires one non-trustee from the business community and one non-trustee from the adult learning community.	Amends the <i>Education Act</i> to simplify the requirement of an audit committee to two members who are not trustees.
Technical/Administrative Amendment – Residence	The <i>Education Act</i> does not currently state that a person can have only one address that is deemed to be their place of residence.	Amends the <i>Education Act</i> to clarify that a person can only have one address that is deemed to be their place of residence.
Technical/Administrative Amendment – Early Childhood Services	Section 21(2) currently states that a board may provide an early childhood services program to a student who, as of September 1, is younger than 7 years of age. It does not include a “person”.	Amends the Early Childhood Services Programs section of the <i>Education Act</i> (section 21(2)) to clarify that a board or, with the approval of the Minister, <u>a person</u> , may provide an early childhood services program to a student younger than 7 years of age.