

Setting the Direction for Special Education in Alberta

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Project Overview

- Context for Setting the Direction
- Project Scope
- Timeline
- Opportunities for Albertans
- Next Steps

Context for Setting the Direction

- Severe disabilities profile funding review invited an opportunity for greater examination of special education
- Stakeholders have provided Alberta Education with anecdotal information on special education issues.
- Catalyst for change

Project Mandate

Includes:

- Re-visioning special education in Alberta
- Issues, policy and accountability related to special education (1- 12)
- All school authorities

Project Scope

Goals:

- Develop special education framework
- Ensure broad-based consultation with Albertans
- Implementation by September 2010

Project Timeline

Project Timelines Overview	2008												2009							
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
Research	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█										
Initial Consultation								█	█	█										
Analysis and Option Generation											█	█	█	█	█					
Consultation														█	█					
Policy Drafting															█	█				
Final Consultation																	█			
Recommendations																		█	█	
Preparation for Implementation																				
Implementation																				
Stakeholder Working Group							█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
Steering Committee							█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	

Opportunities for public participation

- Phase I Issues identification
 Provide input into vision and principles

- Phase II Affirmation of vision and principles
 Provide input into possibilities and outcomes to support
 vision and principles

- Phase III Presentation of framework that includes policy,
 accountability measures and funding distribution model
 Opportunity for response

Phase I – Consultation Method

- Questionnaire (online and hard copy)
 - 1644 completed (some group submissions)
 - 54% teachers or school administrators
 - 26% parents
- Stakeholder public consultation
 - 18 sessions conducted in 10 Alberta communities
 - 1088 total participants
- Connection with Speak Out (Student engagement)
 - 300 students responded to quick poll question
 - 25 + students participated in discussion forums

Phase I – What we learned

- We cannot satisfy all participants
- Provision of a Group Consultation Toolkit was powerful
- Extending our message is difficult
- Participants felt valued and heard
- We set high expectations for Phase 2

Vision, Mission, Principles

One inclusive education
system for all students

Where we go from here

- Affirm vision and principles
- Phase 2 consultation (February/March 2009)
- Draft Special Education Framework including policy, accountability measures and funding mechanism
- Minister's Forum (June 8-9, 2009)
- Implementation plan
- Full implementation September 2010

Phase 2 – Consultation Method

- Questionnaire (online and hard copy)
- Stakeholder public consultation
 - 18 sessions conducted in 10 Alberta communities
- Connection with students through Speak Out

Keeping Albertans informed

Project updates communicated in a number of ways

- Community newspaper advertising
- Website
- Newsletter articles
- Stakeholder publications
- E-mail distributions
- MLA updates
- Conversations with Steering Committee and Stakeholder Working Group members



Questions????

Contact Information

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