

## YEAR 2002/03 SATISFACTION WITH EDUCATION IN ALBERTA PARENT SURVEY

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling from R.A Malatest & Associates Ltd. on behalf of Alberta Learning. The survey we are conducting annually gathers opinions on the education system in Alberta. The study will be used to provide information with respect to satisfaction with Alberta's learning system, and to identify possible areas for improvement or further investigation.

**May I speak to the parent or guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (INSERT STUDENT NAME).**

1. Yes, speaking (**Proceed**)
2. Yes, I'll get him/her
3. No, not available (**Schedule call back**)

**(Repeat to parent if necessary).** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling from R.A Malatest & Associates Ltd. on behalf of Alberta Learning. The survey we are conducting annually gathers opinions on the education system in Alberta. The study will be used to provide information with respect to satisfaction with Alberta's learning system, and to identify possible areas for improvement or further investigation.

**\*\*\*If more information is requested by person who answers telephone read section below.\*\*\***

The information being collected is for research purposes only and will only be reported on an aggregate basis. All personal data gathered in this study, such as individual responses, will be kept strictly confidential. Only the aggregate research findings and report will be released.

**PAT RESPONSE (If unsure of what Alberta Learning is): Alberta Learning is the Alberta government department that oversees Alberta's learning system. The department is responsible for basis learning, including Kindergarten to Grade 12, and post-secondary, apprenticeship, and adult learning.**

- A. Gender (**DO NOT ASK**)
  - 1 Male
  - 2 Female
- B. Are there any children in this household who are attending elementary, junior or senior high school in Alberta?
  - 1 Yes
  - 2 No (**Thank and Terminate**)
- C. Are you the parent or guardian of these children?
  - 1 Yes
  - 2 No (**Ask to speak to person – arrange callback if necessary**)

*We would like to talk to you about your opinions on the education your child is receiving.*

D1. Do you have any children in...(READ LIST, Multiple responses)

Yes   No

1      2      Kindergarten/ECS

1      2      Grades 1 to 6

1      2      Grades 7 to 9

1      2      Grades 10 to 12

D2. How many children do you have in (RECALL FROM QD1)

1      Kindergarten/ECS \_\_\_\_\_

2      Grades 1 to 6 \_\_\_\_\_

3      Grades 7 to 9 \_\_\_\_\_

4      Grades 10 to 12 \_\_\_\_\_

**IF MORE THAN ONE “YES” IN D1 AND/OR D2 1,2,3 OR 4>1, GO TO D3  
ALL OTHERS, GO TO E**

D3. Out of these children you have attending school, please select the one with the most recent birthday. What grade is this child in?

1      Kindergarten/ECS

2      Grades 1 to 6

3      Grades 7 to 9

4      Grades 10 to 12

E. Is this child in ... (READ LIST)

1      A public school

2      A Roman Catholic separate school

3      A Protestant separate school

4      Other (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

(e.g., home study / Charter school / Francophone school)

F. Is this child a ... (READ LIST)

1      Male

2      Female

1. Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of education that your child is receiving in his/her school? Are you ... **(READ LIST)**
  - 1 Very satisfied
  - 2 Satisfied
  - 3 Dissatisfied
  - 4 Very dissatisfied
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
  
2. How satisfied are you with the responsiveness of the education system to your needs and expectations? Are you... **(READ LIST)**
  - 1 Very satisfied
  - 2 Satisfied
  - 3 Dissatisfied
  - 4 Very dissatisfied
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
  
- 3a. Thinking about what is being taught in your **child's school**, would you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree that students are learning what they need to know?
  - 1 Strongly agree
  - 2 Agree
  - 3 Disagree
  - 4 Strongly disagree
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
  
- 3b. Would you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree that the curriculum focuses on what students need to learn in each of the following areas... **(ROTATE) (READ LIST)**
  - a. Reading
    - 1 Strongly agree
    - 2 Agree
    - 3 Disagree
    - 4 Strongly disagree
    - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
  - b. Writing
  - c. Mathematics
  - d. Technology skills
  - e. Science
  - f. Social studies

4. Overall, do you feel the learning expectations placed on students are ..  
**(ROTATE) (READ LIST)**
- 1 Too high
  - 2 About right
  - 3 Too low
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
5. Thinking about your child's teachers, would you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements. *My child's teachers...*  
**(ROTATE) (READ LIST)**
- a. Use teaching methods that help *my* child learn
    - 1 Strongly agree
    - 2 Agree
    - 3 Disagree
    - 4 Strongly disagree
    - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
  - b. Clearly communicate to my child what he/she is expected to learn
  - c. Help students achieve learning expectations
  - d. Help students achieve high standards
6. Would you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree that your child's school provides a **safe** environment?
- 1 Strongly agree
  - 2 Agree
  - 3 Disagree
  - 4 Strongly disagree
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
7. Would you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree that your child's school provides a **caring** environment?
- 1 Strongly agree
  - 2 Agree
  - 3 Disagree
  - 4 Strongly disagree
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable

8. The next few questions are about **information you receive** from your child's school or other sources on various education issues. Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with **(ROTATE) (READ LIST)**
- a. The **access you have to information** about your child's educational progress and achievements
    - 1 Very satisfied
    - 2 Satisfied
    - 3 Dissatisfied
    - 4 Very dissatisfied
    - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
  - b. The **access you have to information** about how money is spent in your child's school
  - c. The **access you have to information** about how money is spent by your local school board
  - d. The **access you have to information** about how money is spent by the provincial government on elementary, junior and senior high schools
9. Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the actual **information you receive** from your child's school or other sources about ... **(ROTATE) (READ LIST)**
- a. Your child's educational progress and achievement
    - 1 Very satisfied
    - 2 Satisfied
    - 3 Dissatisfied
    - 4 Very dissatisfied
    - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
  - b. How money is spent in your child's school
  - c. How money is spent by your local school board
  - d. How money is spent by the provincial government on elementary, junior and senior high schools

- 10a. Thinking about how you get information about Alberta's elementary, junior and senior high schools, which one source of information have you found to be the MOST USEFUL? **(Pat response: mass media, friends, or other sources)**  
**(Do not read. Check one response only)**

- |                              |                           |               |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Television                | 2 Radio                   | 3 Newspaper   |
| 4 School Newsletter          | 5 Teachers                | 6 My children |
| 7 Government Publications    | 8 Other parents           | 9 The School  |
| 10 School Board              | 11 Internet               | 12 Relatives  |
| 13 Friends                   | 14 Other (Specify): _____ |               |
| 99 Don't Know/Not Applicable |                           |               |

- b. Do you have a second useful source? **(Use check list, one response only)**
- c. Finally, do you have a third useful source? **(Use check list, one response only)**
11. Would you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree that you get the information you need to access programs and services that meet your child's learning needs?
- 1 Strongly agree
  - 2 Agree
  - 3 Disagree
  - 4 Strongly disagree
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
12. Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied that you are receiving value for money that is spent in your child's school?
- 1 Very satisfied
  - 2 Satisfied
  - 3 Dissatisfied
  - 4 Very dissatisfied
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
13. To what extent have you been involved in the decision making process with any schools in your community? *Would you say...* **(READ LIST)**
- 1 A lot
  - 2 Some
  - 3 Very little
  - 4 Not at all
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable

- 14a. Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied **with the opportunity to be involved** in decisions at schools in your community?
- 1 Very satisfied
  - 2 Satisfied
  - 3 Dissatisfied
  - 4 Very dissatisfied
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
- 14b. Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied **with your actual involvement** in decisions at schools in your community?
- 1 Very satisfied
  - 2 Satisfied
  - 3 Dissatisfied
  - 4 Very dissatisfied
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
15. Are you familiar with the school council in your child's school?
- 1 Yes
  - 2 No
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
- IF YES, PROCEED. IF NO, GO TO 16**
- 15b. Does the school council influence decisions made at your child's school?
- 1 Yes
  - 2 No
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
- 15c. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree that the school council in your child's school is fulfilling their advisory role? **(READ LIST)**
- 1 Strongly agree
  - 2 Agree
  - 3 Disagree
  - 4 Strongly Disagree
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable

- 15d. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree that the school council has been an effective way of being involved in your child's school?  
**(READ LIST)**
- 1 Strongly agree
  - 2 Agree
  - 3 Disagree
  - 4 Strongly Disagree
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
- 15e. Are you a member of a school council?
- 1 Yes
  - 2 No
16. In your opinion, how much is school helping your child improve his or her computer skills? *Would you say...* **(READ LIST)**
- 1 Very little
  - 2 Some
  - 3 A lot
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
17. How satisfied are you with your child's access to computers in school? Are you...  
**(READ LIST)**
- 1 Very satisfied
  - 2 Satisfied
  - 3 Dissatisfied
  - 4 Very dissatisfied
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable

*Now I would like you to think about **recent high school graduates** in Alberta.*

18. Would you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree that **high school graduates** in Alberta are prepared to enter post-secondary education and training?
- 1 Strongly agree
  - 2 Agree
  - 3 Disagree
  - 4 Strongly disagree
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable

19. How satisfied are you that high school graduates in Alberta are well prepared for citizenship?
- 1 Very satisfied
  - 2 Satisfied
  - 3 Dissatisfied
  - 4 Very dissatisfied
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable
20. Would you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement. All learners in Alberta (including adult learners) have access to the education and training they want throughout their lifetime?
- 1 Strongly agree
  - 2 Agree
  - 3 Disagree
  - 4 Strongly disagree
  - 9 Don't Know/Not Applicable

**We've reached the end of the survey. On behalf of Alberta Learning, I'd like to thank you very much for your time and cooperation.**

1. Note geographic location division (**UP LOAD FROM DATA FILE**)
- |                |                   |                  |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Edmonton    | 5. Jasper         | 9. Medicine Hat  |
| 2. Calgary     | 6. Fort McMurray  | 10. Red Deer     |
| 3. Banff       | 7. Grande Prairie | 11. Lloydminster |
| 4. Lake Louise | 8. Lethbridge     |                  |
12. Rural North (St. Paul, Westlock, Barrhead, Morinville, Slave Lake, Vegreville, Lac La Biche)
13. Rural Central (Rocky Mountain House, Sundre, Innisfail, Stettler, Lacombe, Wetaskiwin, Drumheller, Wainwright)
14. Rural South (Brooks, Claresholm, Fort MacLeod, Cardston, Taber, High River)