



Calgary Arts Academy

Education Plan

2023-2026

May 31, 2023

The Art of Learning



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Accountability Statement

The Education Plan for Calgary Arts Academy commencing August 20, 2023 was prepared under the direction of the Board/Board of Directors in accordance with the responsibilities under the *Education Act* and the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*. This plan was developed in the context of the provincial government's business and fiscal plans. The Board has used its performance results to develop the plan and is committed to implementing the strategies contained within the plan to improve student learning and results.

The Board reviewed and approved the 2023/2024 Education Plan on May 16, 2023.

Ministry Business Plan Education Budget 2023 Review

Alberta Education has identified its strategic direction in its [Ministry Business Plan Education Budget 2023](#). Calgary Arts Academy has reviewed the Ministry Business Plan and consider it as input when developing this education plan in order to help ensure there is coherence between provincial and local priorities.

Timelines and Communication

This report is posted to www.caaschool.com / Accountability / Education Plan 2021-2024.

The Board approved the Education Plan for 2023 to 2026 on May 20th, 2023.

Zone Director notified on May 31, 2023.

Continuous Improvement

Results from the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) have formed this plan. To view the AERR click: [AERR 2022](#). Calgary Arts Academy's Education Plan is a reflection of its commitment to fulfilling its charter, to provide a collaborative, democratic learning environment, empowering each individual to become self-directed, life-long learners who value community-focused and citizen-based action facilitated through effective communication, collaboration, critical and creative thinking.

Alberta Education's requirements for reporting assesses performance broadly and locally. Calgary Arts Academy's charter school goals and outcomes have integrated the broader outcomes that outline overall priorities at Calgary Arts Academy.

Stakeholder engagement and feedback is essential to the process of continuous improvement and drives our education plan. Allocation of financial resources to support the plan and implementation of researched-based and practice informed strategies follows. Reflecting on data throughout the teaching and learning process supports effective program delivery and student achievement. Measuring, analyzing and reporting results offers valuable opportunities for reflection, re-envisioning, and revising. Communicating with and engaging stakeholders brings us back to planning for improvement. This Education Plan is evidence of continuous improvement and assurance.

Our Education Plan sets out what needs to be done, while our AERR provides the results obtained from implementing this plan. This is a rolling education plan, meaning the 3-year timeframe will 'roll' forward with a new year added for each one completed. This plan will be updated annually and will reflect adjustments in priorities, outcomes, measures and strategies for implementation. This plan aligns our four charter school goals, locally developed outcomes and aligns with the five assurance domains provided by Alberta Education.



Provincial Assurance Domains



Stakeholder Engagement

Calgary Arts Academy Public Charter School Board and staff members are strongly committed to establishing and maintaining open, direct, information and formal communication processes with the school community and with external stakeholders and partners. Evidence-based decision-making is essential to Calgary Arts Academy's assurance model, where data is used to reflect on what has been accomplished, and to help inform strategies and allocation of resources into the future.

- The School Council- Chair attends months meetings with the board chair, superintendent and principal. Chair attends monthly meetings with principal. The Chair is invited to attend monthly Calgary Arts Academy Society board meetings. As such, they represent our stakeholders. Council sponsors community building events and parent directed information sessions
- Monthly Public Board Meetings
- School Based Information Sessions- High school information sessions, CAA Pillar Information Sessions, New Student Orientation Evenings
- Weekly school based communication "What's Happening"
- Monthly School Newsletter "The Art of Learning"
- Social Media
- Weekly Administrative meetings from amongst all campuses to coordinate philosophies, events, PD, operational matters, and cooperation between TAAPCS
- Weekly learning leader meetings with administration to
- student learning, teacher practice, resources, new curriculum implementation etc.
- Weekly campus specific staff meetings
- Student Leadership groups
- University of Calgary and Mount Royal University continue to be partners as we consistently welcome and support cohorts of pre-service teachers
- Transparent communication with our Alberta Education partners
- Yearly Stakeholder Surveys inform our planning: CAA Student, Parent and Staff Surveys, as well as the Accountability Survey



Provincial Assurance Domain: Local Societal Context

Within Alberta, there are now over 20 active public charter schools. Alberta's charter schools are publicly funded schools, with no tuition fees, that provide education in a different or enhanced way to improve student learning. Charter schools hire certificated teachers.

Calgary Arts Academy is a public charter school operating in one elementary campus (K-3) located at 2036 - 20 Avenue S.W., and one middle school campus (4-9) located at 640 - 14 Avenue S.E. in Calgary, Alberta. We have been approved to offer high school and are currently housing our Year 10 -12 students at our Education Campus.

Calgary Arts Academy serves students and parents who value education delivered through Arts Immersion, a unique planning and delivery model that begins with five art forms (music, drama, visual art, dance and literary arts) and infuses core curriculum. In order to accomplish this, Calgary Arts Academy hires teachers who are artists in their own right and, in addition, now has artists who work collaboratively with teachers to plan and deliver the Alberta Curriculum. In addition, Calgary Arts Academy hires short-term contract artists as required.

Calgary Arts Academy Charter Goals

- Students demonstrate superior language and communication skills through Arts Immersion learning
- Students demonstrate superior numeracy skills through Arts Immersion learning
- Teachers focus on the provision of quality Cross Curricular Arts Immersion teaching and learning
- Improved teaching and learning opportunities through enhanced technology

The charter school goals have been addressed and met through the Assurance Domains, Alberta Education Assurance Measures (AEAMs) and local measures as described in this document on the pages that follow.

Key Insights from Results Analysis

We are pleased to report that we continue to provide enhanced learning for our students. We are above the province in three of the four provincial domains: Education Quality, Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments, Access to Support and Services, and Parent Involvement. Finally, the overall Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) are on par with the province, with the standard of excellence being lower than the province.

As many of you are aware, students have not written PATs since 2019. Overall, our students scored on par with the province. Our Year 6 students scored well below the province in math and our Year 9 students scored well above the province in math. The provincial scores in all areas have dropped markedly. This is not a surprise, given the challenges the global pandemic has presented our students and our education system such as school interruptions, student cohorting, home learning, high student and staff absentee rates, and social, emotional, and mental health challenges our students have faced.

We thank the ministry of education for responding to the identified student needs, as indicated in the recent budget announcements, by providing more necessary funding for learning loss, mental health, and more student supports for the complexities our classrooms due to the pandemic.

Calgary Arts Academy has remained solution oriented and nimble to the needs of our students. We know the previous years have been difficult for staff and students. This year, we have increased student support. In addition to last year's support, we have added 1.0 education assistant, 1.4 math interventionists, and an extra day per week for our guidance counsellor. We have also pursued the opportunity to be a part of a larger mental health grant that will afford our students, staff, and families social, emotional, and mental health support by way of the Open Parachute program and the Thrive Camp Days.

We are grateful to be able to return to a near normal school year. Student attendance has continued to be a concern. We know that students who regularly attend school on time are engaged and have greater success with academics, relationships with staff and peers, and social emotional learning.

We are inspired to be able to teach in the way we know our students learn best, which is collaborative, cross-curricular Arts Immersion. I know our staff and students deeply missed the performing opportunities that they had been accustomed to. We are excited to be able to continue our student showcases, as well as other arts and community events!

Provincial Assurance Domain: Student Growth and Achievement

Calgary Arts Academy students demonstrate citizenship, engage intellectually and grow continuously as learners.

Outcomes

- Students demonstrate superior language and communication skills through Arts Immersion learning
- Students demonstrate superior numeracy skills through Arts Immersion learning
- Teachers, parents and students are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship
- Students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school
- Students demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for lifelong learning

Provincial Performance Measures

- Overall percentage of students in Grades 6 and 9 who achieved the Acceptable and Excellence standard on Provincial Achievement Tests
- Percentage of teachers, parents and students who are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship
- Percentage of teachers and parents who agree that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school
- Percentage of teacher and parent satisfaction that students demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for lifelong learning

Local Performance Measures

- Percentage of students and teachers in Years 4 to 9 that report participation in enhanced learning activities as part of the learning contracts in Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science
- Percentage of students and learning facilitators who agree that students have demonstrated growth in critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, communication and design thinking
- Percentage of students who believe they are learning skills and behaviours that will help make them be successful in their future
- Percentage of parents who believe their child has demonstrated an increased understanding of the Circle of Courage

Strategies

- Focus on inclusive learning, differentiation and small group instruction
- Year K-6 focus on new literacy and numeracy progressions in new Alberta Curriculum
- Accessing and supporting provincial resources such as JumpMath for math and appropriate resources for literacy, science
- Engage students and parents regarding the attitudes and behaviours that will make students successful at work when they finish school such as goal setting and reflective practices and our school pillars
- Provide student learning contracts that focus on numeracy and literacy resources for home practice

Alberta Education Assurance Goal: Excellence in Teaching and Leading.

Calgary Arts Academy teachers and leaders make decisions resulting in quality teaching, leading and optimum learning for all.

Outcomes

- Teachers provide quality instruction based on the Teaching Quality Standard
- Teachers focus on the provision of quality cross-curricular Arts Immersion teaching and learning
- Improved teaching and learning opportunities through enhanced technology
- School administrators provide quality leadership and support
- School administrators will continue to provide opportunities for quality professional development

Provincial Performance Measures

- Percentage of parents, teaching facilitators and students satisfied with the overall quality of education
- Percentage of teaching facilitators and students satisfied with teachers' professional development

Local Performance Measures

- Percentage of teachers reporting that planning and facilitating cross curricular Arts Immersion is central to their teaching and learning
- Percentage of students and teachers reporting that students have completed meaningful technological projects related to the core subjects they study
- Percentage of learning facilitators who agree they have the opportunity to participate in discussions and decision making that furthers teaching and learning at CAA

Strategies

- Implementation of the new K-3 Science, K to 6 Language Arts and Literature, and Math curriculum, as well as the K to 6 Physical Education and Wellness curriculums
- Focus on staff professional development to ensure a sound knowledge of the new Alberta curriculum
- Focus on Arts Immersion, cross-curricular examination of curriculum and learning contracts
- Ensure explicit connection of learning to the curriculum
- Revising Report Card format to include more detailed and narrative feedback to promote effective assessment and communication
- Year 4 to 6 students will be assigned to an iPad; All Year 7 to 9 students will have an iPad that they can take home; All Year 10 to 12 students will be assigned a laptop
- PD on technology and the SAMR model to ensure we are using technology in meaningful ways
- Provide weekly staff meetings, weekly professional development and 14 PD days
- Intentional hiring and team structures that support our charter mandate
- Supervision and evaluation process for staff based on Alberta Education's Quality Standards

Provincial Assurance Domain: Learning Supports

Calgary Arts Academy provides a learning environment where local and societal context is recognized, diversity is embraced, a sense of belonging is emphasized and all students are welcomed, cared for, respected and safe.

Outcomes

- Students, families and staff have knowledge and can live according to Circle of Courage values
- Students, families and staff feel that they belong to the school community
- All students participate in Mindfulness (weekly)
- Students, families and staff have the opportunity to develop a deep foundational knowledge of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit experiences

Provincial Performance Measures

- Percentage of students, parents, and teachers who agree that students feel like they belong and are supported to be successful in their learning
- Percentage of students and parents who agree that students are engaged in their learning
- Overall teacher, parent and student agreement that students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others and are treated fairly in school

Local Performance Measures

- Percentage of students, teachers and parents that report students were actively engaged in opportunities to acquire and apply foundational knowledge of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit experiences
- Percentage of students who participate in Mindfulness (daily) and follow the MindUp Curriculum
- Percentage of students and learning facilitators who believe student social, emotional learning has demonstrated growth with the Open Parachute program

Strategies

- Use of the Circle of Courage and Developmental Assets and the fundamental pillars to our school
- Provide 1.0 FTE Student Learning Supports Coordinator
- Provide 4.0 FTE Reading Interventionists and 2.0 FTE Mathematics Interventionists
- Provide 1.0 FTE Guidance Counsellor
- Provide 5.0 FTE Education Assistants
- Provide 7.0 FTE Artists
- Weekly staff development discussions on positive discipline, diversity and relationships
- Professional Development for student social, emotional learning and the implementation of Open Parachute program and Thrive Days for students
- reconciliation: Maintain Downie Wenjack Legacy Schools designation to build cultural understanding and create a path to further reconciliation through professional development and student engagement
- Develop a strong partnership with Mother Earth Children's Charter School for staff and students to continue to develop our relationship with each other and the elder
- Use of varied cultural and racial presentations and community resources
- Continue to recognize Orange Shirt Day, Indigenous Peoples Day and honour the National Truth and Reconciliation Day
- Continue to participate in Pink Shirt Day

Provincial Assurance Domain: Governance

Policy leaders demonstrate stewardship of system resources with an emphasis on student success, generative community engagement, transparency and accountability.

Outcomes

- School Council and parents are engaged with the planning and reporting cycle
- Teachers are engaged to inform the improvement of teaching and learning
- Partnerships result in mutually beneficial projects, decisions and agreement
- Communication with Alberta government is productive and constructive
- Resources are allocated and managed in the interests of ensuring student success

Provincial Performance Measures

- Percentage of teachers, parents and students indicating that their school and schools in their jurisdiction have improved or stayed the same the last three years
- Overall teacher and parent satisfaction with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education
- School authorities submit the budget in the AERR each November

Local Performance Measures

- The percentage of parents involved in initiatives in support of the school
- Number of community and arts organizations and individuals actively involved in support of the academic program
- Number of community arts partnerships that directly benefit our students
- Anecdotal evidence that communication with Alberta government is productive and constructive

Strategies

- Provide opportunity for parent engagement through School Council, meetings and surveys
- Monthly community newsletters, weekly What's Happening emails
- Principal presents student achievement measures to the Board at the AGM each November
- Monthly meetings with Principal and School Council
- Principal presents student achievement measures to the Board at the AGM each November
- Learning Contracts signed by all stake holders ensure communication and ownership of the Program of Studies
- Maintain the position of Community Arts Coordinator to facilitate partnerships with arts organizations that directly benefit our students
- Create and implement a comprehensive and strategic Social Media plan
- The Board approves a budget aligned with priorities with all statutory, regulatory and disclosure requirements

Budget and Facilities

Calgary Arts Academy's [Budget for 2023/2024](#) can be accessed on our website or by contacting the Secretary Treasurer or Superintendent through the school office at (403) 532-3020.

The [2023 Capital Plan](#) and [2021-2028 Capital Plan](#) can also be found on our website or by contacting the Secretary Treasurer or Superintendent through the school office at (403) 532-3020.

Implementation Plan

Moving forward, results from our Annual Education Results Report in the fall will inform the planning cycle in the spring. This will ensure cohesion between results obtained and our future education plans. Engagement strategies provide the valuable input from our stakeholders that is needed.

