

From: EDC Deputy Minister <EducationDeputyMinister@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: January 30, 2019 3:02 PM
Cc: Sean Wells <Sean.Wells@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: Update on Professional Practice Standards and Leadership Certification

To: Superintendents of Public, Separate, Francophone and Charter School Boards

Dear Superintendents:

On September 1, 2019, Alberta's new and updated professional practice standards will come into effect, and school principals and superintendents will require new certifications to work in their positions. In the coming months, Alberta Education and education stakeholder organizations will have several initiatives underway to support the implementation of the standards and certification.

As noted in my August 24, 2018 email, there are several pathways to certification for teachers currently in leadership roles across the province. This includes an option for those in principal and chief superintendent roles during the 2018/19 school year to receive grandfathered certificates recognizing the currency of their expertise in the education system. It also includes an in-service training option available to all teachers currently in leadership roles identified in the new leadership standards.

The Alberta Teachers' Association, College of Alberta School Superintendents and Association of Independent Schools & Colleges in Alberta have jointly developed this in-service training program, and registration for these sessions is now available online at <https://abedleadershipcert.ca/register>. Many leaders across the province are already registered, and additional opportunities for training will be added throughout the 2019 calendar year.

I encourage you and the leadership teams in your jurisdiction to register for sessions so you can all benefit from these targeted training opportunities. The training sessions will be offered through a variety of options, including sessions set to coincide with teachers' conventions.

For both grandfathered and in-service training recipients, Alberta Education will work with school authorities to identify eligible leaders within their jurisdiction. The province's Teacher Workforce Information System (TWINS) online registry is being upgraded to allow superintendents to upload a list of teachers in eligible leadership roles in the 2018/19 school year. Information uploaded through this list will be compared against the school authority employment submission to ensure accuracy.

We expect these system upgrades to be ready for piloting with a small selection of school authorities in late February 2019, with all others to follow in March 2019. Further communication about how to provide the list of leaders will be sent directly from the Office of the Registrar, including instructions for superintendents and other resources to ensure the data collected is accurate.

To apply for and receive leadership certification, all eligible leaders will require a [TWINS self-service account](#). The application process for leadership certification is being finalized and will be communicated with school authorities once ready. In preparation, eligible leaders should register for their TWINS account and ensure their contact information is up to date. Having a TWINS account will reduce the number of steps required to receive leadership certification later on.

[The Alberta Education website](#) has also been updated to include information and resources on these initiatives, including a chart detailing the paths to certification for leaders in different positions, as well as a how-to guide on registering for a TWINS account. As the Alberta Education website content moves to Alberta.ca these resources will continue to be accessible.

If you have any immediate inquiries, please contact the Leadership Excellence Branch at 780-644-6963 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or Sean Wells, Director, Leadership Excellence, at sean.wells@gov.ab.ca.

Sincerely,

Curtis Clarke, PhD
Deputy Minister of Education

Executive Directors:

- Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)
- Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA)
- Association of Independent Schools & Colleges in Alberta (AISCA)
- College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS)
- The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools (TAAPCS)