

# FAQ on Professional Practice Standards for the Teaching Profession in Alberta

## [General FAQs](#)

### 1. What is a professional practice standard?

- A professional practice standard identifies the competency requirements for members of a profession.

### 2. Is the standard for Alberta teachers new?

- No. In 1997, Alberta became the first jurisdiction in Canada to implement a professional practice standard for all Alberta teachers, the *Teaching Quality Standard* (TQS).
- The TQS is the basis for certification of all Alberta teachers, and is now being revised for the first time in 20 years.
- For the first time in Alberta, the new *Teaching Quality Standard* identifies a competency focused on the need for all teachers to apply foundational knowledge about First Nations, Métis and Inuit for the benefit of all students.

### 3. Are standards new for principals and superintendents in Alberta?

- Yes. Effective September 2019, the *Leadership Quality Standard* (LQS) will apply to principals and school jurisdiction leaders, and the *Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard* (SLQS), will apply to superintendents and chief deputy superintendents.

### 4. When will the professional practice standards take effect?

- Though the Minister signed the standards in February 2018, they will not take effect until September 1, 2019.
- The 19-month preparation window between signing the standards and their take effect date reflects Alberta Education's commitment to supporting school authorities, teachers, principals, school jurisdiction leaders and superintendents in adjusting to the new standards.
- Alberta Education will be working with school authorities and stakeholder groups to support education professionals as they prepare to meet the new standards.

## 5. How are these standards documents related?

- All three standards align with and build upon one another, to ensure a common set of expectations in supporting quality teaching and optimum learning for all Alberta students.
  - the TQS outlines the professional expectations for teachers who work directly with students;
  - the LQS outlines the professional practices that principals and school jurisdiction leaders must demonstrate to create the conditions under which teachers can do their very best work;
  - the SLQS outlines the professional practices that superintendents must demonstrate to create the conditions under which school leaders and teachers can do their very best work.

## TEACHER FAQs

### 1. I am currently a practicing teacher. Does a revised *Teaching Quality Standard* mean I have to re-certify in 2019?

- No. Already certificated teachers are not required to re-certify when the revised *Teaching Quality Standard* takes effect.

### 2. My workload is already extensive. What will the new standards mean for teacher workload?

- Teachers are already held to a standard, the current *Teaching Quality Standard*, and already engage in professional learning to improve their practice.
- The period of time between now and September, 2019 will enable teachers to increase their awareness of the professional standard, and to engage in planning and professional development related to the revised *Teaching Quality Standard*, as needed.

### 3. How is the revised *Teaching Quality Standard* (TQS) different from the current TQS?

- The revised *Teaching Quality Standard* is characterized by a more concise, more user-friendly format. As well, there are specific competencies built in to address current needs and contexts related to our education system.
- These include competencies on First Nations, Métis and Inuit education; a new expectation for all teachers to continuously enhance pedagogy in literacy and numeracy; and a competency on creating inclusive learning environments.

#### 4. Where can I go to get resources to help me meet the revised *Teaching Quality Standard*?

- Alberta’s professional learning providers, including the Alberta Teachers’ Association, are collaborating to offer learning supports.
- The Ministry of Education has contributed \$5.4M to the *Joint Commitment to Action* on Indigenous Education. The professional learning providers that are signatories to this commitment are already engaged in developing professional learning for educators, which will be accessible from now to September 2019 and beyond.  
<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=42963B5914BB5-9E75-2518-1A536E4645E07607>
- The Ministry of Education has already released lesson plans to support learning for all students about First Nations, Métis and Inuit.  
<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=48828137F5959-9E1B-1261-4ECC9AE507483E67>  
<http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/fnmilp/index.html>
- Alberta Education has developed a variety of related tools and resources to support teachers in building inclusive learning environments. These are available on our website ([education.alberta.ca/inclusive-education/what-is-inclusion/](http://education.alberta.ca/inclusive-education/what-is-inclusion/)). Many of these tools and resources are designed to support classroom teachers, such as:
  - Inclusive Education Library
  - Inclusive Education video series and discussion guides
  - Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Schools
  - Mental health information
  - Instructional Supports
  - Diverse Learning Needs
  - Early Childhood Education
  - English as a Second Language Learners (K-6, 7-9, 10-12)

#### 5. I don’t teach in a public, separate or francophone school authority. Does the revised *Teaching Quality Standard* apply to me?

- Yes. The *Teaching Quality Standard* applies to all teachers who hold an Alberta teaching certificate, including those teaching in private, charter, or First Nations operated schools.

### PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL JURISDICTION LEADER FAQs

#### 1. Is the standard for Alberta principals and school jurisdiction leaders new?

- Yes. Effective September 1, 2019, the *Leadership Quality Standard* will apply to principals and school jurisdiction leaders.

- In 2009, the *Principal Quality Practice Guideline* was published by Alberta Education, having been developed in consultation with education stakeholders. The guideline has been used extensively across the province and helped to inform the development of the Ministry-authorized *Leadership Quality Standard*.

## **2. To whom does the *Leadership Quality Standard* apply?**

- The *Leadership Quality Standard* applies to all principals and school jurisdiction leaders.
- “Principal” means, for the purposes of this standard, principal as defined in the *School Act*, assistant principal, associate principal or vice principal.
- “School jurisdiction leader” means a central office staff member, other than the superintendent or chief deputy superintendent, required by their leadership position to hold an Alberta teaching certificate.

## **3. Where can I go to get resources to help me meet the *Leadership Quality Standard*?**

- Alberta’s professional learning providers, including the Alberta Teachers’ Association, are collaborating to offer learning supports.
- The Ministry of Education has contributed \$5.4M to the *Joint Commitment to Action* on Indigenous Education. The professional learning providers that are signatories to this commitment are currently developing professional learning supports for educators and these will be accessible through September 2019 and beyond.  
<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=42963B5914BB5-9E75-2518-1A536E4645E07607>

## **4. How is the new *Leadership Quality Standard* related to certification?**

- Just as the *Teaching Quality Standard* is the basis for certification of all teachers in Alberta, so the new *Leadership Quality Standard* will form the basis of a new leadership certification program for principals and school jurisdiction leaders.

## **5. Will all new leaders be required to have the new leadership certification?**

- Only principals will be **required** to hold a leadership certificate.
- Teachers in other leadership positions identified under the *Leadership Quality Standard* (assistant, associate or vice principals, and school jurisdiction leaders), or teachers aspiring to leadership roles, will be able to complete the certification requirements leading to the leadership certificate.

## 6. What does leadership certification entail? What if I am already a principal?

- Education stakeholders are working collaboratively with Alberta Education to develop the leadership development program that will support our next generation of leaders and lead to leadership certification. For individuals who complete the program, the Ministry will receive a recommendation from the program provider, through the office of the Registrar, and certification will be issued.
- Individuals already in principal roles during the 2018-2019 school year will be recognized for their currency of experience and granted certification without having to complete the new program requirements.

## 7. Can a school authority hire a principal without leadership certification?

- Yes. Newly hired principals (including those from out of province) would, however, be required to complete their leadership certification within a reasonable period of time.

## SUPERINTENDENT FAQs

### 1. Is the professional practice standard for Alberta superintendents new?

- Yes. Effective September 2019, the *Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard* will apply to superintendents and chief deputy superintendents.
- “Superintendent” means a superintendent appointed by a board pursuant to the *School Act*.
- “Chief deputy superintendent” means the teacher, if any, who is appointed by a board to be the superintendent’s chief deputy.

### 2. Where can I go to get resources to help me meet the *Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard*?

- Alberta’s professional learning providers, including the College of Alberta School Superintendents, are collaborating to offer learning supports.
- The Ministry of Education has contributed \$5.4M to the *Joint Commitment to Action on Indigenous Education*. The professional learning providers that are signatories to this commitment are currently developing professional learning supports for educators and these will be accessible through September 2019 and beyond.  
<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=42963B5914BB5-9E75-2518-1A536E4645E07607>

**3. How is the new *Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard* related to certification?**

- Just as the *Teaching Quality Standard* is the basis for certification of all teachers in Alberta, so the new *Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard* will form the basis of a new leadership certification program for superintendents.
- Education stakeholders are working collaboratively with Alberta Education to develop the leadership development program that will support our next generation of superintendents and lead to superintendent leadership certification.

**4. Will all new superintendents be required to have the new leadership certification?**

- Yes. All superintendents will be **required** to hold a superintendent leadership certificate.
- Chief deputy superintendents and other teachers aspiring to superintendent roles will be able to complete the certification requirements leading to the superintendent leadership certificate.

**5. I am currently a superintendent. Will I need to participate in the new leadership development program to receive superintendent certification?**

- Superintendents who held the role during the 2018-2019 school year will be recognized for their currency of experience and granted certification without having to complete the new program requirements.

**6. Will I need to be certificated as a superintendent before I get a superintendent position?**

- No. Newly hired superintendents (including those from out of province) would be required to complete their leadership certification within a reasonable period of time.
- However, only those who meet the requirements of the *Superintendent of Schools Regulation* can be appointed as school superintendents in Alberta.