

Policy 15

Division Reference
202. Education

Constituency
Lacombe-Ponoka

Proposed Wording

.5 Primary and Secondary

The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should ...

Modify the existing bullet by adding the boldfaced text

- a) ensure equitable per-student funding in accordance with school choice – public, separate, charter, home, or private, and
- b) implement an education ‘voucher system’ that will provide for equal per-student funding regardless of their school choice, free from caveats or conditions.**

Rationale

Most UCP members want to have a choice with respect to student funding, allowing parents to choose schools that adopt curriculums that provide their children with the most economically and socially valuable knowledge and skill sets prior to entering the workforce or post-secondary education. Alberta Education no longer provides curricula that give students adequate English/French literacy, mathematical literacy, scientific literacy or historical literacy. Alberta students are no longer literate in democratic civics nor in human, civil and economic rights and responsibilities. The public school system is not currently able to provide this knowledge and students are entering adulthood unemployable and increasingly radicalized by extremist ideologies. Alberta taxpayers are paying for good education and where Alberta public schools are unable to provide, parents must be empowered to take student funding to educational institutions who can provide this education. Recent emphasis on ‘critical thinking’ has neglected the knowledge foundation which makes ‘critical thinking’ possible and parents must be empowered to seek out the knowledge based education that will enable their children to ‘think critically’ as adults. Cost implications - none; no increase in per-student funding is required, it will simply allow extant funding to follow the student to the provider of choice.