



NEWS RELEASE

Fraser Institute ranks Alberta high schools, elementary schools in annual Report Cards

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For Immediate Release

CALGARY—The Fraser Institute today released its annual rankings of Alberta high schools and elementary schools, allowing parents to compare the academic performance of schools across the province.

“The Report Cards offer parents information they can’t easily get anywhere else, about how their child’s school performs and how it compares to other schools in Alberta,” said Angela MacLeod, a senior policy analyst at the Fraser Institute.

This year, the *Report Card on Alberta’s Elementary Schools* ranks 852 public, Catholic, independent and charter schools based on eight academic indicators derived from provincewide test results.

Contrary to common misconceptions, the data suggest every school can improve regardless of type, location and student characteristics.

For example, Balwin School, a public school in Edmonton, is the fastest-improving elementary school in the province (rising from a score of zero out of 10 in 2014 to 4.5 in 2018) despite a 42.2 per cent English-as-a-second-language (ESL) population and 25.5 per cent of students with special needs.

This year’s *Report Card on Alberta’s Secondary Schools* ranks 262 public, independent, Catholic and charter schools based on nine academic indicators generated from Grade 12 provincewide testing, grade-to-grade transition and graduation rates.

Again, all schools are capable of improvement no matter the situation.

For example, Forest Lawn High School, a public school in Calgary, rose from 3.3 out of 10 in 2014 to 3.7 in 2018. Not a huge leap, but improvement nonetheless, despite a 25.5 per cent ESL population and 22.3 per cent of students with special needs (the highest special needs percentage among improving high schools).

“We often hear excuses in Alberta that schools can’t improve academic performance because of the communities and students they serve, but the evidence suggests otherwise,” MacLeod said.

For the complete results on all ranked schools and to compare the performance of different schools, visit www.compareschoolrankings.org.

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