

# Alberta's Independent Schools...

Offer parents choices that **best suit their child.**

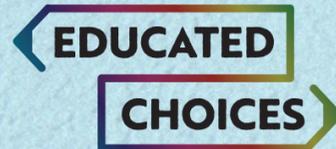


Serve students and families from across a wide range of **economic, cultural and religious backgrounds.**

Comply with **ALL** Alberta Education learning standards.



Receive **half the funding** per student as public schools do. A significant portion of the independent school funding comes from fundraising and tuition.



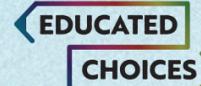
**Parents want the best for their children, and that includes choosing a school that best fits their values and beliefs.**

[educatedchoices.ca](http://educatedchoices.ca)

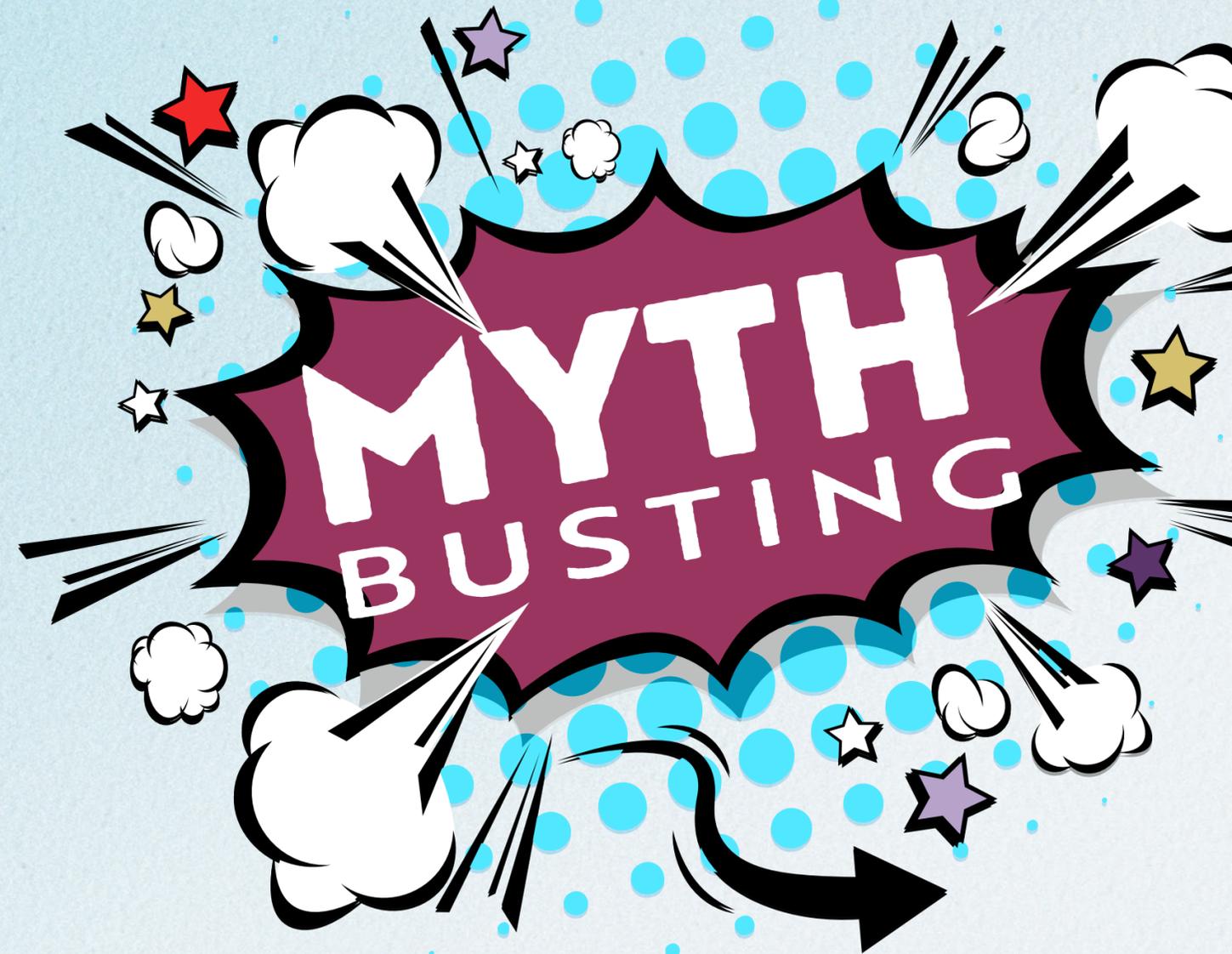


## ABOUT AISCA

AISCA was established in 1958 to promote and empower Alberta independent schools. We strive to support and encourage high standards of education in the independent schools and Early Childhood Services programs in Alberta.



[educatedchoices.ca](http://educatedchoices.ca)



**Get the facts about Alberta's Independent Schools**

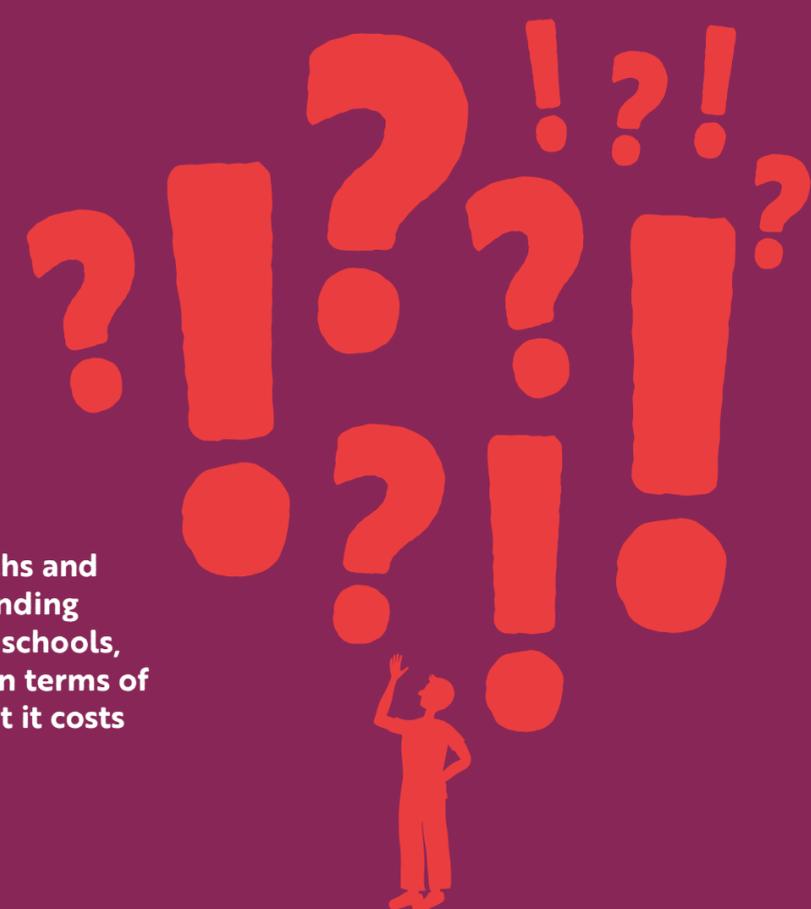
# JUST THE FACTS

There exist a lot of myths and misconceptions surrounding Alberta's independent schools, about what they offer in terms of programming, and what it costs Alberta taxpayers.

## HERE ARE THE FACTS

- Independent schools have **existed since before Alberta became a province** in 1905, and are located throughout the province.
- Today, there are over **363** independent schools in Alberta providing a great learning environment for over **53,000** students each year.
- Independent schools that receive public funding are required to operate as **not-for-profit companies or societies**.<sup>1</sup>

- Alberta Education requires audits, annual reports and three-year plans; **verification of all teaching credentials**; and on-site monitoring for all independent schools.<sup>2</sup>
- Alberta's independent schools are dedicated to providing a **well-rounded education** that prepares students not only for academic success, but also for life as **responsible and engaged citizens**.<sup>3</sup>
- Independent schools create **greater choice for Alberta families**.<sup>1</sup>



# INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS...

## ... SAVE TAXPAYERS MONEY

- Independent schools cost taxpayers **significantly less to educate a child**.<sup>4</sup>
- Independent schools have certified teachers delivering the Alberta curriculum to students **at half the cost to taxpayers**.<sup>5</sup>
- Independent schools **receive zero tax dollars** to cover capital costs.<sup>6</sup>
- A significant portion of independent school funding comes from **fundraising and tuitions**.<sup>7</sup>
- Saying independent schools are a burden to taxpayers is not true. **In fact, it's the opposite**.<sup>4</sup>



Independent schools have certified teachers delivering the Alberta curriculum to students at half the cost to taxpayers.

## ... CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY

- Studies show that students in independent schools often perform well academically and **develop strong social-emotional skills**.<sup>9</sup>
- Sense of Community: Independent schools prioritize building strong partnerships with parents. This fosters a **sense of community** that benefits both students and families.<sup>10</sup>
- Parents consider factors beyond test scores, such as a safe environment, cultural fit, and extracurricular activities, when choosing a school.<sup>9</sup>
- Parents report **higher levels of satisfaction with independent schools**.<sup>8</sup>

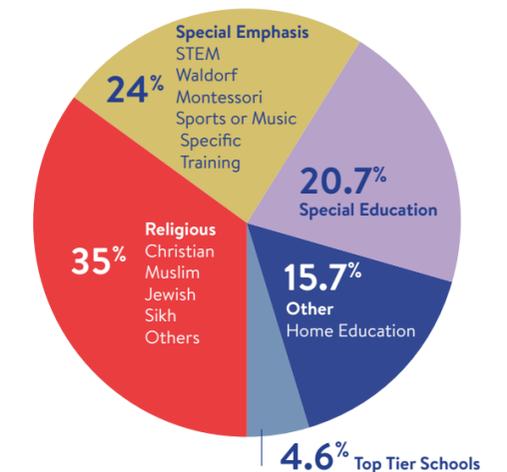


## ... SERVE KIDS FROM AVERAGE MIDDLE CLASS ALBERTA FAMILIES

- Parents of independent school students come from **all walks of life and financial means**. It is an investment from parents to ensure the right education for their child.<sup>8</sup>
- Having a choice of schooling empowers parents to find the **best fit for their child**, and many parents make **financial sacrifices** such as changing jobs or getting loans.<sup>1</sup>
- Current research shows that the **families in over 80% of independent schools have a household income that is slightly below the average household income in Alberta**.<sup>9</sup>
- Some independent schools provide assistance to families through scholarships and financial aid programs.<sup>10</sup>
- Tuition plus government funding plus fundraising and partnerships make independent schools work.<sup>7</sup>

## ... HAVE A HUGE DIVERSITY AMONG THEIR STUDENT POPULATION

- Alberta has over 363 independent schools, catering to specific values and educational focuses, and reflecting the **province's diverse population**.<sup>2</sup>
- Religious or non-religious independent schools cater to families seeking an education that aligns with their **core values and beliefs**.<sup>1</sup>
- Some independent schools focus on **specific teaching methodologies**, which may resonate with parents who want a particular approach to their child's education.<sup>8</sup>
- Independent schools often strive for **academic excellence**, attracting parents who prioritize a rigorous learning environment.<sup>8</sup>
- Certain independent schools specialize in areas like arts, sciences, sports, or vocational training, catering to students with specific interests and talents.<sup>8</sup>



## TAKE A DEEPER DIVE

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 Scan the QR code or visit [aisca.ab.ca/deeper-dive](https://aisca.ab.ca/deeper-dive) for all the latest data, facts, figures, articles and more relating to Alberta's independent schools.