



Wild Rose School Division

4912-43 Street, Rocky Mountain House, AB T4T 1P4
Ph: 1-800-771-0537 | (403) 845-3376 | Fax: (403) 845-4287
www.wrsd.ca | [Facebook.com/WRSD.ca](https://www.facebook.com/WRSD.ca) | [@WildRoseSchools](https://twitter.com/WildRoseSchools)

March 29, 2022

Honourable Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Education
228 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Honourable Adriana LaGrange,

The Board of Trustees of Wild Rose School Division has continued concerns regarding the draft K-6 curriculum. With the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning and teacher wellbeing we recommend that the implementation of all subjects and grade levels of the draft K-6 Curriculum be delayed until the fall of 2023.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on students of all ages. Delaying curriculum implementation is a prudent measure to support our students the opportunity to start to recover from the learning disruption and mental health impacts of three disjointed school years. The missing prerequisite knowledge, gaps in conceptual understanding and lack of foundational skills in many of our learners caused by prolonged absence and disruption needs to be addressed as the primary focus of our educators. With the pressure of implementation of a new curriculum our teachers will have to try to understand, digest and implement a curriculum without sufficient time to prepare and resource a new sequence of learning outcomes rather than focusing on the individual needs of learners. Students will not be ready to bridge into a new curriculum until they are settled, confident and caught up. We appreciated the March 10, 2022 announcement clarifying the grade levels of implementation, but without final drafts it is very difficult to prepare teachers adequately, especially when their first priority is their students. The timelines are simply too short.

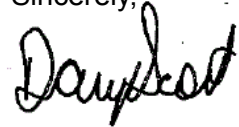
Effective curriculum implementation takes significant time for collaboration, conversation and resourcing. With a few short months and a significant shortage of substitute teachers, it is unreasonable to expect Wild Rose School Division, or any division, to be ready in September. Our educators have been fantastic over the past three years, supporting our students and communities to the best of their ability under the most difficult of circumstances. To add a curriculum implementation to their workload this spring is unthinkable and would likely lead to burnout and increased sick leave, further exacerbating the substitute teacher shortage. We want

to support the mental wellbeing of our teachers and students as a top priority. Delaying the curriculum implementation would be best for everyone.

We fully support the development of a new K-12 curriculum, acknowledging that the current curriculum needs to be updated and changed. The development process of the current K-6 draft has been fraught with issues. Without a scope and sequence process and early, meaningful consultation with boards, parents and teachers the draft was incomplete, inaccurate and not yet ready for piloting. This rush to not let the draft evolve through proper feedback and iteration, undermined public, teacher and board confidence in the process. Confidence in the government is not served well by pushing ahead with the March 10, 2022 announcement. Just because some sections of the curriculum are not as bad as others doesn't mean they are "good enough" for our students: they deserve the best. The product is not yet ready for our learners. We support the move to delay the implementation of Science, Social Studies, Fine Arts and French to further improve the drafts. However, the English Language Arts, Mathematics, Physical Education and Wellness curricula also need a more robust drafting and feedback process. A full, year long pilot with more widely supported drafts is essential to a successful implementation.

Wild Rose School Division believes postponing implementation of the new curriculum until the fall of 2023 is necessary to address the significant gaps in student learning and to give our teachers the time needed to properly prepare for implementation of the new curriculum.

Sincerely,



Daryl Scott
Board Chair
Wild Rose School Division

cc: Andre Tremblay; Deputy Minister, Education
President of ASBA
President of PSBAA
ASBA Board Chairs

